FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Date: High School Letterhead? /Logo

School contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

& Poetry Out Loud Coordinator/English Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email and phone # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Photos of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_High School Champion and Finalist available upon request.*

**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_High School Champion**

**to Compete in NH Poetry Out Loud Championship**

**at State House March 21**

X High School announces that (name and town)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(age) grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_will compete in the 2016 New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud Recitation State Finals at the State House’s Representatives Hall in Concord on March 21 at 6 p.m. Virginia Prescott, host of New Hampshire Public Radio’s “Word of Mouth,” will be master of ceremonies.

(Name of student) is one of twelve finalists moving forward from the state’s four semi-final competitions who will recite poems that they have selected from those compiled by the National Endowment of the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. The champion will represent New Hampshire May 2-4 at the national competition held at the Lisner Auditorium, George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where a total of $50,000 in awards and scholarships will be presented.

Close to 10,000 high school students participated in New Hampshire’s Poetry Out Loud program this year. High school champions advanced to regional semi-final competitions and four students who placed in top positions at each semi-final are invited to compete at the state finals.

Each state champion receives $200 and an all-expenses-paid trip with an adult chaperone to Washington, D.C. to compete for the national championship. Each state champion’s high school receives a $500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The first runner-up in each state receives $100, with $200 for his or her school library.

New Hampshire’s Poetry Out Loud Championship is open to the public and there is no charge for admission.

The National Endowment for the Arts and the national Poetry Foundation provide funds to state arts agencies to implement Poetry Out Loud in partnership with the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. Other state partners include the Putnam Foundation, a donor-advised fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation; New Hampshire Public Radio; the New Hampshire Writers Project; Poetry Society of New Hampshire; the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire; Granite State Ambassadors; the New Hampshire Institute of Art; New England College; Southern New Hampshire University; Jean’s Playhouse; CavanKerry Press; Hobblebush Press; the Frost Place in Franconia and Opus Advisors.

New England College and the New Hampshire Institute of Art are offering scholarships to select students, should they choose to enroll at those institutions. For more details, please contact the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.

To learn more about 2016 New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud or to find out how your school can be involved during the 2017 academic year, go to [nh.gov/nharts](http://www.nh.gov/nharts) and click on the Poetry Out Loud button. For additional information, contact Catherine O’Brian, N.H. State Council on the Arts at 603-271-0795, catherine.r.obrian@dcr.nh.gov.

The Division of the Arts is a publicly funded agency within the New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources. It began in 1965 with legislation designed “to insure that the role of the arts in the life of our communities will continue to grow and play an ever more significant part in the welfare and educational experience of our citizens.” Funding comes from state appropriations, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Conservation License Plate fund. Learn more at [nh.gov/nharts](http://www.nh.gov/nharts).