



## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

February 29, 2008

For more information, contact Linda Ehreth, North Dakota Council on the Arts, (701) 328-7593

## NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE POETRY OUT LOUD STATE FINALS

The North Dakota Council on the Arts is pleased to announce that the first place winner of the North Dakota State *Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest* is Devany Schulz of Shanley High School in Fargo, ND. The second place winner is Beatrice Hill of West Fargo High School in Fargo, ND. Third place was awarded to Kathryn Dorfschmidt of Century High School in Bismarck, ND. Rachel Geinert of Edgeley Public School, and Stephanie Dutenhafer of Newburg United, also placed in the top five. The competition was presented in partnership with The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Poetry Foundation. The state finals competition took place on Tuesday, February 26, at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck, ND. Devany Schulz will advance to the National Finals in Washington, DC on April 27-29, 2008, where a total of \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends, with at least a \$20,000 college scholarship for the *Poetry Out Loud* National Champion, will be awarded.

*Poetry Out Loud* is a national arts education program that encourages the mastery of great poetry by offering educational materials and a dynamic competition to high schools across the country. *Poetry Out Loud* uses a pyramid structure. Beginning at the classroom level, winners advance to the school-wide competition, then to the state capital competition, and ultimately to the National Finals in Washington, DC.

At the state competition, Devany recited the poems *The Luggage*, *Mrs. Caldera's House of Things* and *Dover Beach*. Beatrice Hill recited the poems *Still I Rise*, *It was not death, for I stood up*, and *Domestic Violence*. Kathryn recited the poems *Unknown Girl in the Maternity Ward*, *Annabel Lee*, and *First Poem for You*. Rachel recited *The Spider and the Fly*, *Flood: Years of Solitude* and *Casey at the Bat*; and Stephanie recited *Fever 103°*, *To the Ladies* and *Lunar Baedeker*. All the contestants recited works they selected from an anthology of more than 400 classic and contemporary poems. The NEA and Poetry Foundation created a standards-based teacher's guide, a comprehensive website, and a CD featuring poetry recitations by well-known actors and writers such as Anthony Hopkins, Alyssa Milano, N. Scott Momaday, and Rita Dove.

State Poet Laureate, Larry Woiwode, presented the awards to the participants. As first place winner, Devany received a plaque, certificate, engraved bookmark, \$200 plus an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC, and her school will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. As second place winner, Beatrice Hill received a certificate, an engraved bookmark, \$100, plus \$200 for her school library. As third place winner, Kathryn Dorfschmidt

received a certificate, an engraved bookmark and a \$50 gift certificate. All participating contestants and teachers received a Poetry Out Loud T-shirt.

During the lunch break a Coffee House and Open Mic were available to the public. Students from participating schools, visiting students, adults, and teachers alike took part in the activities.

The North Dakota state competition judges included: Shadd Piehl, Associate Poet Laureate; Bill Thomas, Director of Radio, Prairie Public; Cheryl Kulas, Executive Director, North Dakota Indian Affairs; and Jan Webb, Executive Director, North Dakota Council on the Arts. Larry Woiwode was the event Emcee, and live entertainment through the event was provided by Trio Apollo of Bismarck, and the Rolla High School Concert Choir under the direction of Sheila Zinke.

For further information on *Poetry Out Loud*, visit [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org), or contact Linda Ehreth at (701) 328-7593 or via email at [lehreth@nd.gov](mailto:lehreth@nd.gov).

### **About the Poetry Foundation**

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine, has embarked on an ambitious plan to bring the best poetry before the largest possible audience. In the coming year, the Foundation will launch a major new poetry website and sponsor an unprecedented study to understand poetry's place in American culture. Founded in Chicago by Harriet Monroe in 1912, Poetry is the oldest monthly devoted to verse in the English-speaking world. Harriet Monroe's "Open Door" policy, set forth in Volume I of the magazine, remains the most succinct statement of Poetry's mission: to print the best poetry written today, in whatever style, genre, or approach.

### **About the National Endowment for the Arts**

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts – both new and established – bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

###

*The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.*