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4,500 Michigan Students Participate in Poetry Contest

30 school champions to be invited to participate in state championship on March 6 in Lansing

(LANSING)-----More than 4,500 students from 30 Michigan high schools are participating in the state's fifth annual Poetry Out Loud state poetry recitation competition. English and language arts teachers at each participating high school have incorporated poetry into their classrooms using curriculum materials and audio CDs of poetry recitations. Each school will select a student to participate in a statewide championship competition, to be held in Lansing on March 6, 2010. Awards will be presented to the best students reciting previously published works. The winning student will also represent the state of Michigan in a national competition. A list of schools and teachers participating in Michigan's *Poetry Out Loud* is attached.

"The Michigan Humanities Council is pleased to see the continued growth and success of *Poetry Out Loud*, reaching thousands of high school students across the state," stated Jan Fedewa, executive director of the Michigan Humanities Council.

Poetry Out Loud seeks to foster the next generation of literary readers through poetry recitation and performance. The program builds on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form. Last year in Michigan, 97% of student participants who evaluated the program stated they developed their own individual interpretation of poems; 97% stated they understood and could explain different poetic elements; 87% stated they could see a connection between poetry and everyday culture. Since the 2005-2006 school year, more than 8,500 students have participated in Michigan's *Poetry Out Loud*; last year, 32 schools and an estimated 2,725 students participated.

By February 5, 2010, teachers will select one student from their school to send to the state championship. The state competition is scheduled for March 6, 2010, at the Michigan Library and Historical Center. The winner will be named Michigan's *Poetry Out Loud* representative for the national competition. The national competition will be held in Washington, DC, from April 25-27, 2010. State finalists will also be invited to participate in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, May 13-15, 2010 in Kalamazoo.

(more)

The state winner will receive \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to the national competition. The winner's school will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The runner-up in the Michigan competition will receive \$100, along with \$200 for their school library. Scholarships and school stipends totaling \$50,000 will be awarded at the National Finals, with a \$20,000 college scholarship for the *Poetry Out Loud* National Champion.

Last year, junior Daniel Bellomy of Detroit Cass Technical High School won the state title and advanced to the national competition in Washington, DC. Previous state winners were Charles White of Forest Hills Central (Grand Rapids) High School in 2007-2008, Sarah Harris of Holt High School in 2006-2007, and Travis Walter of Holt High School in 2005-2006.

"This has become one of my favorite events of the year," said John Bracey, executive director of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. "Watching and listening to these students compete is truly inspiring."

"The level of talent is extraordinary and shows the role of quality arts education programs in our schools," said Kim Dabbs, executive director of Michigan Youth Arts Association. "We applaud the students and educators for their achievements."

Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the Michigan Humanities Council, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, the Michigan Youth Arts Association, and the Library of Michigan

About the Michigan Humanities Council

The Michigan Humanities Council, founded in 1974, is a non-profit organization funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Each year, the Council reaches tens of thousands of Michigan citizens by supporting humanities and cultural programming in hundreds of Michigan communities.

LIST OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

A list of participating schools, and the lead teacher at each school, is provided on the next page.

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Michigan's Poetry Out Loud 2009-2010

Participating Schools

#	School	First Name	Teacher Last Name	Address	City	County	Lead Email	Lead Phone	Teachers	Classes	Students
1	Alba Public School	Judy	Zimpfer	5935 Elm St.	Alba	Antrim	judy.momzee@gmail.com	231.584.2000 x125	1	3	40
2	Ellsworth Community School	Sonja	Mack	9467 Park St.	Ellsworth	Antrim	sonjagmack@gmail.com	231.588.2544	2	4	75
3	Grace Christian School	Leslie	Beukelman	325 N. M-40	Watervliet	Berrien	lbeukelman@comcast.net	269.463.5545	1	5	60
4	Boyne Falls Public School	Jeff	Garver	P.O. Box 356	Boyne Falls	Charlevoix	jgarver@boynefalls.org	231.549.2211 x116	2	3	7
5	Petoskey High School	Glen	Young	1500 Hill St.	Petoskey	Emmet	young.gd.t@northmen.org	231.348.2135	7	25	600
6	Atherton High School	Susan	Garza	3354 S. Genesee Rd.	Burton	Genesee	sgarza@athertonschools.org	810.591.9184	2	12	205
7	Carman-Ainsworth High School	Amanda	Sauvie	1300 N. Linden Rd.	Flint	Genesee	asauvie@carman.k12.mi.us	810.591.5477	8	15	300
8	Madison Academy	Dawn	Corbray	6170 Torrey Rd.	Flint	Genesee	dcorbray@madison-academy.org	810.655.2949	1	2	60
9	Houghton High School	Julie	Antilla	1603 Gundlach Rd.	Houghton	Houghton	jantilla@houghton.k12.mi.us	906.482.0450	4	5	60
10	Jeffers High School	Cindy	Ruotsi	43084 Goodell St.	Painesdale	Houghton	ruotsic@adams.k12.mi.us	906.482.0580	1	3	58
11	Holt High School	Nick	Mourning	5885 W. Holt Rd.	Holt	Ingham	nmournin@hpsk12.net	517.699.6434	3	4	90
12	Portage Central High School	Cheryl	Braford	8135 S. Westnedge Ave.	Portage	Kalamazoo	cbraford@portageps.org	269.323.5218	4	14	350
13	Portage Northern High School	Nancy	Nott	1000 Idaho Ave.	Portage	Kalamazoo	nnott@portageps.org	269.323.5737	2	5	116
14	Forest Hills Central High School	Sarah	Scobell	5901 Hall St. SE	Grand Rapids	Kent	sscobell@fhps.us	616.493.8700	6	18	200
15	Leelanau School	Norm	Wheeler	One Old Homestead Rd.	Glen Arbor	Leelanau	nwheeler@leelanau.org	231.334.5890	2	5	50
16	Mackinac Island Public School	Lance	Greenlee	340 Lakeshore Dr.	Mackinac Island	Mackinac	lgreenlee@eupisd.com	906.847.3376 x16	1	5	39
17	North Muskegon High School	Toni	Seyferth	1600 Mills Ave.	North Muskegon	Muskegon	seyferth@nmks.k12.mi.us	231.719.4132	2	2	60
18	Wylie E. Groves High School	John	Rutherford	20500 W. 13 Mile Rd.	Beverly Hills	Oakland	jr08bps@birmingham.k12.mi.us	248.203.3580	1	3	90
19	Franklin Road Christian School	Teresa	Swaffield	40800 W. 13 Mile Rd.	Novi	Oakland	tswaffield@brightmoorcc.org	248.668.7076	1	4	10
20	Detroit Catholic Central High School	Kevin	Griffin	27225 Wixom Rd.	Novi	Oakland	kgriffin@catholiccentral.net	248.596.3810	10	7	25
21	University High School Academy	Davena	Jackson	24815 Lahser Rd.	Southfield	Oakland	jacksondy@southfield.k12.mi.us	248.746.4370	2	8	169
22	Bradford Academy High School	Melissa	Hedgcock	24218 Garner St.	Southfield	Oakland	mhedgcock@bradfordacademy.com	248.351.0000 x240	4	18	456
23	Wolverine Alternative Education	John	Robison	1120 Commerce Dr.	Vassar	Tuscola	jrobison@vassar.k12.mi.us	989.823.3040	4	20	290
24	Saline High School	Carolyn	Kreple	1300 Campus Pkwy.	Saline	Washtenaw	kreple@saline.k12.mi.us	734.429.8000 x235	9	33	660
25	Ypsilanti High School	Karen	Siegel	2095 Packard Rd.	Ypsilanti	Washtenaw	knappsiegel@gmail.com	734.714.1000	2	2	60
26	Aisha Shule / W.E.B. DuBois Preparatory Academy	Heather	McCowan	20119 Wisconsin	Detroit	Wayne	hnmccowan@me.com	313.345.6050 x22	3	7	75
27	Cass Technical High School	Marilyn	McCormick	2501 Second Ave.	Detroit	Wayne	mmccass103@aol.com	313.263.2000	4	8	240
28	Weston Preparatory Academy	Amanda	Wey	22930 Chippewa St.	Detroit	Wayne	awey@westonacademy.com	313.887.6038	3	9	20
29	Grosse Pointe South High School	Harry	Campion	11 Grosse Pointe Blvd.	Grosse Pointe Farms	Wayne	harry.campion@gpschools.org	313.432.5281	7	12	30
30	Roosevelt High School	Warren	Baker	540 Eureka	Wyandotte	Wayne	bakerw@wy.k12.mi.us	734.759.5161	9	36	
STATEWIDE TOTALS									108	297	4495