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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PERFORM AT POETRY CONTEST

PIERRE, S.D. – Eight South Dakota high school students from across the state will share their talents and the work of great poets while competing for the state title at the Poetry Out Loud recitation contest Monday, March 13, in Sioux Falls.

Poetry Out Loud, a national arts education program, starts in the classroom and encourages the study of poetry by offering educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition to high schools across the country. South Dakota’s program is administered by the South Dakota Arts Council with help from Arts South Dakota and South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

The state finalists were selected from a preliminary, video round. The finalists selected include: Jennifer Sundermeyer, Flandreau High School; Marie McLaughlin, Greater Sioux Falls Homeschool Association; Shaina Determan, Hanson High School; Elizabeth Ocegueda, Harrisburg High School; Gabriel Pulliam-Sanchez, Little Wound High School; Maddie Lukomski, Sioux Falls Lincoln High School; Jane Walsh, Sioux Falls Washington High School; and Mikayla Kludt, Watertown High School.

Three students will also share their original poetry as part of a separate competition held in conjunction with Poetry Out Loud. Rosie Little Whiteman, Little Wound High School; Libby Murphy, Sioux Falls Lincoln, and Ethan Tasa, Sisseton High School, are being recognized for their poetry.

The contest will begin at 1 p.m., CDT, March 13, in the auditorium at Edison Middle School, 2101 S. West Ave., Sioux Falls. It is free to attend and open to the public. A live-stream of the event can be viewed at <http://www.sdpb.org/poetryoutloud/> and at www.artscouncil.sd.gov.

Poetry Out Loud was created in partnership by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation with the collaboration of state arts agencies. It is intended to foster the next generation of literary readers by building on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form. Through Poetry Out Loud, students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage.

The South Dakota Arts Council, an office of the South Dakota Department of Tourism, is a state agency serving South Dakotans and their communities through the arts with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of South Dakota.

The South Dakota Department of Tourism is comprised of the Office of Tourism and the South Dakota Arts Council. The department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen.