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## LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT OFF TO NATIONAL COMPETITION

PIERRE, S.D. –Next week, Gage Gramlick, a senior at Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD, will take the stage at George Washington University in Washington D.C.

Gramlick won first place in South Dakota’s Poetry Out Loud contest, which earned him the opportunity to compete among 53 high school students from across the country at the Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest.

Poetry Out Loud is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. The program is administered by the South Dakota Arts Council at the state level. Poetry Out Loud encourages the study of great poetry by offering educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition to high school students across the country. Poetry Out Loud gives students an opportunity to master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage.

On Tuesday, April 30, 2019 the state champions will compete throughout the day in three semifinal rounds organized by region from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. EDT at Lisner Auditorium at George Washington University, 730 21st Street NW, Washington, DC. The full schedule is available [here](#). The top nine finalists (three from each semi-final round) will advance to the finals competition on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, also at Lisner Auditorium, from 7 to 9:15 p.m. EDT. Poet, author, and 2018 National Book Award recipient Elizabeth Acevedo will return for the fourth year as host of the National Finals, which will also include a performance by Kansas City-based mother/son duo Madisen Ward and the Mama Bear.

These events are free and open to the public; no tickets or reservations are required. Both days of competition will also be available through a live, one-time-only webcast at [arts.gov](http://arts.gov). Schools and organizations that wish to organize a viewing party of some or all of the competition can visit [arts.gov](http://arts.gov) for tips on hosting a viewing party and details on other viewing parties around the country.

An office of the South Dakota Department of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council’s mission is to provide grants and services to artists, arts organizations and schools across the state, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the state of South Dakota. The South Dakota Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the South Dakota State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen.