

PRESS RELEASE FOR POETRY OUT LOUD

On Friday evening, January 20, 2012, Jesse Remington High School, held its premiere student poetry recitation competition in Candia, N. H. Poetry Out Loud, a nationwide program of the National Endowment of the Arts in partnership with the Poetry Foundation, encourages youth to learn about the beauty and power of language through memorization and performance of great poems. The program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage.

Eight students at Jesse Remington High School each performed two poems chosen from a master list approved by the National Poetry Out Loud program before a panel of four judges and one scorekeeper at the recent competition held at Candia Congregational Church in Candia, N. H. Rachel and Hannah Burke, Luke Jensen, Ethan Fultz, Cameron Tessier, Angelina MacDonald, Emily Goldthwaite, and Josselyn Jackman all participated in two rounds of competition. Adjudicating at this event were three performance judges: Jeff Wilcott of Derry, N.H, a school board member who serves at Jesse Remington High School, Mike Nagel of Dover, N.H., Associate Director of Advancement Communications at Phillips Exeter Academy, and Elaine Gatchell of Epping, N.H., Director of the Leddy Center for the Performing Arts. Sonja Nagel of Dover, N.H., Literacy Coach at East Kingston Elementary School, and Dick Nagel, C.P.A., of Auburn, N.H., served as Accuracy Judge and Scorekeeper, respectively.

Now in its seventh year, New Hampshire's Poetry Out Loud program is managed by the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts with the support of the New Hampshire Writers Project. Other partners include the Poetry Society of New Hampshire, the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire and the Frost Place.

Poetry Out Loud competitors memorize and recite poems from hundreds identified by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation that represent the breadth of great poetry. Participants are judged on the quality of their presentation, accuracy in reciting the poem and its difficulty.

In New Hampshire, classroom champions compete to represent their high school at regional competitions; those winners participate in March's state championship, which will be held at Representatives Hall at the State House in Concord. Each state's champion then travels to Washington, D.C. for the national finals, where more than \$50,000 in college scholarships and prizes are awarded to the top finishers.

Angelina MacDonald of Manchester, N.H. won Friday night's competition and will represent Jesse Remington High School at the Poetry Out Loud regional event to be held at Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, N.H. on March 15, 2012. Hannah Burke of Barrington, N.H. was named Alternate Champion for Jesse Remington.

Jesse Remington High School is a multi-denominational Christian high school where students pursue studies in diverse art and artisan projects as well as academics. Poetry is just one project among many diverse offerings at the school that cover several disciplines.