



JUNEAU ARTS & HUMANITIES COUNCIL

350 Whittier, Juneau AK 99801 • 907 586-ARTS (2787) • 907 586 2148 (fax) •

nancy@jahc.org

P R E S S R E L E A S E

8/21/09

Release immediately

Poetry Out Loud!

Alaskan high school students invited to compete in poetry recitation contest.

The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation present *Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest*, in partnership with the Alaska State Council on the Arts and Juneau Arts & Humanities Council.

Poetry Out Loud encourages high school students to learn great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. Starting in December schools and students participate in classroom, school, and regional contests. Finalists advance to a state competition in Juneau on Tuesday, **February 23, 2010**. The state champion will then travel to the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington DC on April 25-27, 2010. The National winner receives a \$20,000 college scholarship.

Caitlyn Woolsey of Sitka High School won the Alaska State Poetry Out Loud Championship on March 16, 2009 and represented Alaska in the National Finals last April.

Poetry Out Loud seeks to foster the next generation of literary readers across the nation by capitalizing on trends in poetry-recitation and performance. The program builds on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form by inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken work, and theatre in the English classroom. Through *Poetry Out Loud*, students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage.

General information on Poetry Out Loud is available from Poetry Out Loud at www.poetryoutloud.org, or call JAHC at 586-ARTS (2787) for more information about the Alaska program.

The deadline for schools to register their students for this opportunity is **October 22, 2009**. **Regional Finalists will be selected no later than January 22, 2010**. **Statewide final will be February 23, 2010**.