

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: **March 20, 2017**

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Champlain Valley Union High School's Emily Friedrichsen Wins Vermont Poetry Out Loud State Championship Emily Klar of Lake Region Union High School is Runner Up

Montpelier – Emily Friedrichsen, a freshman at Champlain Valley Union High School, took top honors at the Poetry Out Loud State Finals, held at Vermont PBS on March 16. Friedrichsen was one of ten finalists representing schools from across the state.

Friedrichsen secured the championship through flawless recitation of three poems, including “Very Large Moth,” by Craig Arnold and “The Tables Turned,” by William Wordsworth. Despite the bright lights and cameras, Emily performed with poise and just the right level of dramatic flair. Emily Klar, Lake Region Union High School, was the runner up. The finals competition will be aired on [Vermont PBS](#) Wednesday, April 5.

Friedrichsen will now advance to the [2017 National Finals](#), to be held April 25 and 26, 2017 at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She will receive \$200 in addition to an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., for herself and a chaperone. Champlain Valley Union High School will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. Klar will receive \$100, plus \$200 toward poetry books for Lake Region Union High School.

Students from 53 high schools – champions from every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands – will compete for a total of \$50,000 in scholarship awards and school stipends at the National Finals. The National Champion will receive a \$20,000 college scholarship.

This year, more than 5,500 Vermont students participated in classroom contests, with winners proceeding to school competitions. “The Poetry Out Loud program not only connects students to poets and poetry, it helps students develop transferable skills like communication and analysis that prepare them for college, career, and life,” said Troy Hickman, Vermont Arts Council education programs manager.

The Poetry Out Loud program was created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, and is administered statewide by the Vermont Arts Council. Now celebrating its twelfth year in Vermont, Poetry Out Loud has inspired hundreds of thousands of American high school students to discover and know by heart classic and contemporary poetry.

MEDIA NOTE: Emily Friedrichsen is available for both taped and live interviews and recitations. Please contact Kira Bacon, communications manager, 802.828.5422, kbacon@vermontartscouncil.org to make arrangements. Attached please find photos of Emily Friedrichsen and Emily Klar (mandatory photo credit: Peter Arthur Weyrauch). More information about the 2017 Vermont Poetry Out Loud Competition is available on the [Vermont Arts Council website](#).

The Vermont Arts Council envisions a state where everyone has access to the arts and creativity in their life, education, and community. Through its programs and services, the Council strives to increase public awareness of the positive role artists and arts organizations play in communities and to maximize opportunities for everyone to experience the arts. Since 1965, the Council has been the state's primary provider of funding, advocacy, and information for the arts in Vermont. www.vermontartscouncil.org.
