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Contact: Roxanne Stanulis, Communications Coordinator, 302-577-8283

\*\*High resolution photos available\*\*

## **Hannah Glavin Represents Delaware in National Finals of Poetry Out Loud**



Photo: Hannah Glavin

Hannah Glavin, a sophomore from Wilmington Christian School, won Delaware's *Poetry Out Loud* state competition on March 10, 2011, held at the Smyrna Opera House. Reciting "I Think I Should Have Loved You Presently," by Edna St. Vincent, "A Psalm of Life," by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and "A Noiseless Patient Spider," by Walt Whitman, she received the top scores from the judges for her ability to convey the meaning of her selected poems. The second place winner was Alexandria Smith from Seaford High School, and the third place winner was Ian Paintsil from Red Lion Christian Academy.



Photo from left to right: Hannah Glavin, Ian Paintsil, and Alexandria Smith

Hannah's English teacher, Elle Straley, required the entire school to participate in the Poetry Out Loud program at the school level. Hannah is grateful for the experience, commenting "I've learned how to express my thoughts through the spoken word better from having to understand the meaning behind poems. People should look more deeply into poems—you can discover so much more about a poem and the author if you keep reading it and take the time to

understand it. This experience has been a lot of fun, it's like acting out a role in a play, but you are the actor portraying the poem.”

For her winning presentation, Hannah receives \$200 and an all-expenses paid trip with a chaperone to Washington, DC to compete for the national championship on April 27-29, 2011. Wilmington Christian School receives a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The second place finalist, Alexandria Smith, will receive \$100, with \$200 for Seaford High School's library. At the National Finals, The Poetry Foundation will be awarding up to \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends, with a \$20,000 college scholarship awarded to the Poetry Out Loud National Champion.

The state Poetry Out Loud competition, sponsored by the Delaware Division of the Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, is part of a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition.