



September, 2014

Dear Teacher or Principal,

Thank you for your positive response to *Poetry Out Loud*. We are very excited about this program and hope to make it a great success.

Along with this letter, please find the official Teacher Toolkit of *Poetry Out Loud* materials, including anthologies of poems, audio CDs of poetry recitations by acclaimed actors and writers, posters, a *Learning Recitation* DVD with companion guide and a *Teachers Guide* to assist you in implementing this program in your school. Please feel free to continue browsing the updated national Poetry Out Loud Web site <http://www.poetryoutloud.org> or our OAC website <http://www.oac.state.oh.us/events/PoetryOutLoud/Default.asp>.

What is particularly exciting now is that there are many ways that you, your colleagues, and your students may participate in *Poetry Out Loud*. Schools from all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have committed their participation, and we are honored to count yours among them. The *Poetry Out Loud* activities tie in closely with the state of Ohio English/Language Arts Standards, and we also hope to bring excitement and life to those standards through this program.

We look forward to working with you over the next few months in a number of ways including:

- Teacher workshops during Fall, 2014 in Columbus.
- Student workshop for school champions in February at the Ohioana Library in the State Library of Ohio, 274 East First Avenue, in Columbus to help them prepare for the state contest.
- State Contest on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at the Lincoln Theatre in Columbus. More information will follow as we get closer to the events.

Finally, please take the time to fill out the enclosed Registration Form, making sure to let us know how many students and classrooms will be participating at your school. We've also enclosed an information sheet addressing some commonly asked questions. Please feel free to contact me with your questions or ideas.

Sincerely,

Chiquita Mullins Lee  
Arts Learning Program Coordinator