



March 19, 2009

Piscataway student wins state poetry competition

Staff Report

A Piscataway High School student has won the fourth annual New Jersey Poetry Out Loud State Finals.

Ijeoma Egekeze, a senior, earned the right to compete next month in a National Poetry Out Loud Finals in Washington, D.C.

The contest consists of students reciting and performing great works of classic and contemporary poetry.

Egekeze received \$200 and an all-expense paid trip to the national competition next month to face champions from the 49 other states and the District of Columbia. Piscataway High School received \$500. The prizes were awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation and Southwest Airlines.

The competition began in the fall with classroom and school competitions, followed by three regional competitions. Egekeze was one of two semifinalists to emerge from the Central Division.

Poetry Out Loud seeks to foster the next generation of literary readers by capitalizing on the latest trends. The program builds on oral art forms such as rap, spoken word and theater.

The event was presented by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, in partnership with several other organizations. Jason Stewart of Willingboro High School in Willingboro was the runner-up.

NJN filmed the contest, and a Webcast can be viewed online at www.JerseyArts.com now through April 9. The contest also will be aired on NJN2 at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. daily during the week of April 6.