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Students compete in poetry contest

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ALBANY -- Three Tech Valley High School juniors competed Monday at the regional Poetry Out Loud finals at the State Museum in Albany.

The competing students were Rose Biggerstaff of Bethlehem, Rachel Kerr of East Greenbush, and Leilani Yasutake of Germantown.

While they didn't advance to the state competition, teacher Mary VanHoomissen said the students performed with great skill.

"Their recitations were excellent and I was extremely proud of them. They were poised and skilled performers," said VanHoomissen.

The students recited two poems each from memory as part of the competition, which drew students from throughout the Capital Region.

Biggerstaff read "Alone," by Edgar Allan Poe and "First Poem For You," by Kim Addonizio. Kerr read "The Glove and the Lions," by Leigh Hunt, and "The Bloody Sire," by Robinson Jeffers. Yasutake read "Discrimination," by Kenneth Rexroth, and "Introduction to the Songs of Innocence," by William Blake.

Created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, Poetry Out Loud is a national competition designed to encourage the nation's youth to learn about great poetry.

-- Staff report