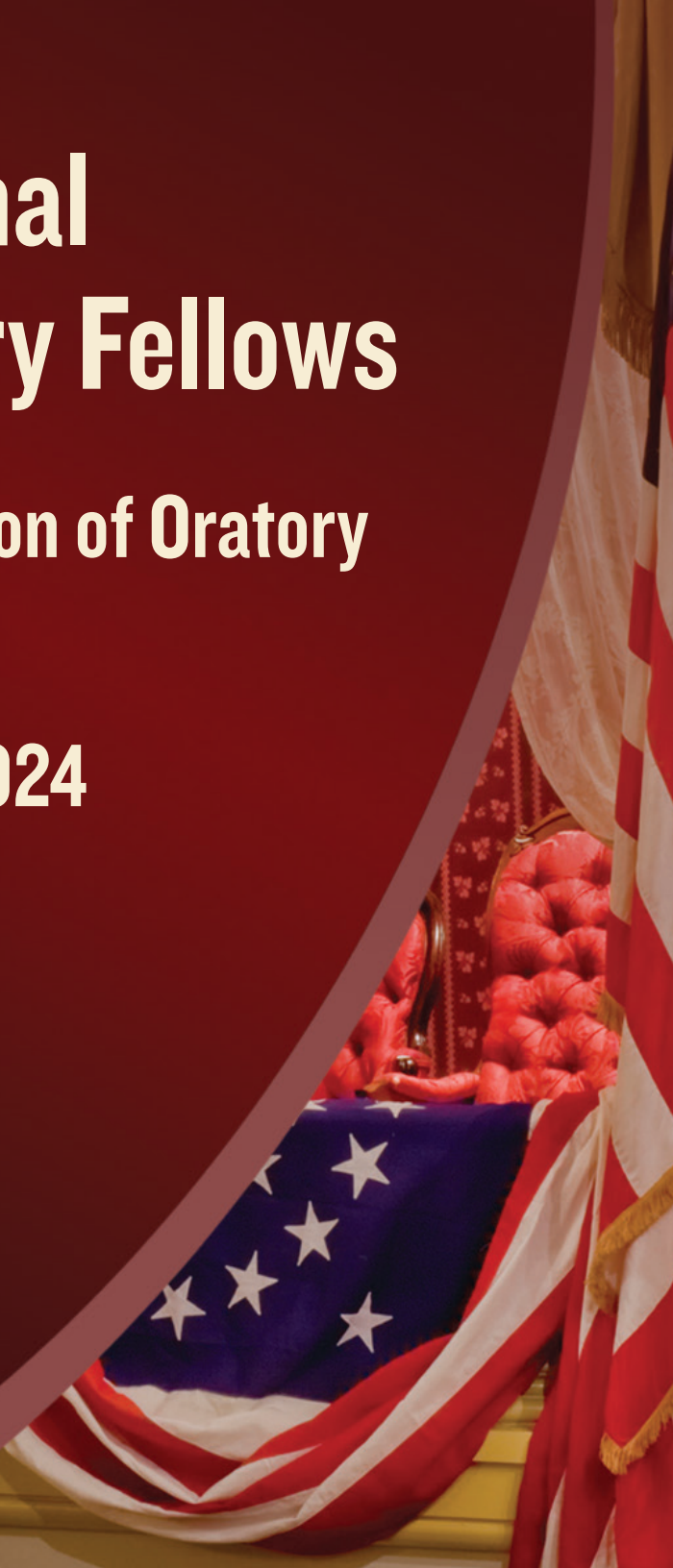


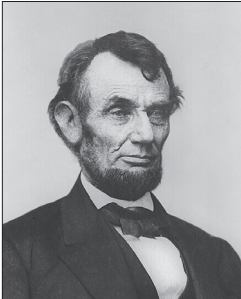
National Oratory Fellows

Celebration of Oratory

May 6, 2024



Welcome to Ford's Theatre



Abraham Lincoln photo courtesy of the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site.

Abraham Lincoln was renowned for his dynamic, powerful, and engaging oratory. Much of Abraham Lincoln's power came from his ability to communicate his ideas to the people of the United States. By using meaningful images and ideas, Lincoln moved the people who heard him. Ford's Theatre education programs offer learners of all ages the opportunity to engage actively with this aspect of Lincoln's leadership by developing their own public-speaking and performance skills.

Our programs begin with a study of basic public speaking skills, Ford's Theatre Podium Points. The Podium Points are the verbal and physical skills that are the foundation for good public speaking. Verbal skills include: pace, emphasis, diction, tone and volume. Physical skills include: Presence, posture, eye contact and gesture. Listen and watch tonight for the students' use of the Podium Points as they share their speeches on stage!

Another element of our oratory programs is the process for offering and receiving feedback to orators on their Podium Points. This process is called Warm and Cool Feedback. Orators learn to offer positive feedback (warm) to each other in addition to offering feedback about skills to work on and improve (cool). Orators practice thanking their peers for offering feedback. Orators learn that speech writing and performance are a process, and that rewriting, rehearsal and practice are an essential part of improving one's skills!



Photo of 2018 NOF Student Speakers and Teachers by Ford's Theatre Staff.

Program Schedule

Masters of Ceremony

Melissa Medina | **What Performance Means to Me**, Original Speech

Bradley Bartnik | **Eulogy of the Dog**, George G. Vest.

Asher Kieschnick | **What to the Slave is the Fourth of July**, Frederick Douglass

Azzie Eckhardt | **Why America Isn't Great**, Original Speech

National Oratory Fellow | **Original Speech**

Eleanor Papé | **Reducing Student Disruption**, Original Speech

Keagan Fitzpatrick | **Mental Health Poem**, Kaitlyn Lancaster

Crystal Westall | **Behind the Mask**, Original Speech

Favour Nnamdi | **Suicide: Addressing Issue and Finding a Fix**

National Oratory Fellow | **Original Speech**

Adriana Loub | **Single Moms**, Original Speech

Saloni Verma | **Be Fearless**, Priyanka Chopra

Coral Couling | **My Body, My Choice**, Original Speech

Ayaan Tahir | **Stanford Commencement Speech**, Steve Jobs

National Oratory Fellow | **Original Speech**

Thomas Porter-Zuckerman | **Yup, I Built a Nuclear Fusion Reactor**, Taylor Wilson

Poem Morrow | **Our Future and AI**, Original Speech

Connor Moxon | **Cosmic Sea**, Carl Sagan

National Oratory Fellow | **Original Speech**

Clark Rude | **Caring for the Earth- Reasons for Hope**, Jane Goodall

Olukayode Jacob Malomo | **Global Warming and Our Future**, Original Speech

Brooke Shambaugh | **U.N. Climate Action Summit**, Greta Thunburg

Master of Ceremony

Student Delegate Bios



Bradley Bartnik

Bradley Bartnik is an eighth-grade student at Cleveland Hill Middle School, just outside of Buffalo, New York. He is an active member of his school's Youth and Government Club, Future Cities Club, and recently was in the high school musical, *The Sound of Music*. Bradley is looking forward to meeting other students from across the United States who also are passionate about public speaking and oratory.



Coral Couling

Coral Couling is an eighth-grade student at Hilltop School in Ilwaco, WA. Coral is the ASB President, a setter for the volleyball team, on Knowledge Bowl and is active in our school's Theater Program. Coral enjoys reading, baking and surfing. Coral is looking forward to meeting new people, exploring DC, and speaking on the historic Ford Stage.



Azzie Eckhardt

Azzie Eckhardt is an eighth-grade student at Hilltop Middle School. Azzie is a demi-girl. She is a YouTuber who will document her Washington DC trip and post it to YouTube. They are a competitive video gamer playing games such as Mario Kart 8, Minecraft, Half-Life, Portal, Legend of Zelda, Five Nights at Freddy's, and Final Fantasy. Azzie is looking forward to speaking in front of everyone at the Theater.



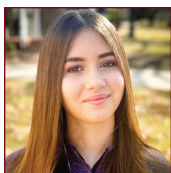
Keagan Fitzpatrick

Keagan Fitzpatrick is an eighth grader at Harrisburg North Middle School in Sioux Falls, SD. Keagan has many interests mainly volleyball and show choir. Beyond those interests, Keagan has a desire to explore the world and immerse herself in different cultures. She is most excited about the prospect of connecting with peers from around the country, sharing experiences, and creating new friendships through this festival.



Asher Kieschnick

Asher Kieschnick is a seventh-grader at Unami Middle School. Asher likes to play sports, video games, and loves reading. His birthday is on April Fool's Day. He performed in the Philadelphia Nutcracker as a soldier this winter. Asher is looking forward to giving his speech at Ford's Theater and doing fun group oratory activities.



Adriana Loub

Adriana Loub is a dedicated seventh-grader at The Independent School in Wichita, KS, who thrives in both academics and extracurriculars. A versatile athlete, she showcases her skills on the volleyball and bowling teams and in track and field. She is an active member of the National Junior Honors Society, choir and she consistently earns recognition for her academic achievements, earning a place on the Honor Roll or High Honor Roll year after year. In 2023, her talent in writing shone brightly as she won the VFV's Patriot's Pen essay

Student Delegate Bios (cont.)

contest, going on to clinch third place in the district level. Adriana is a shining example of academic excellence, athletic prowess, and community engagement, inspiring those around her to reach for their highest potential.



**Olukayode Jacob
Malomo**

Jacob Malomo Olukayode is an eighth-grade student at Benjamin Tasker Middle School in Bowie, Maryland. He lives with his parents, an older brother and sister and a hound mix, named Finley. Jacob's favorite thing about school is spending time with his friends although he hates the work. Given his active participation in after school oratory, National Junior Honor Society, BTMS' undefeated baseball team and on the Clinton Jets basketball team, Jacob is a role model for others. He enjoys online video gaming. Jacob's advice to orators is, "It is most important to pick a topic that matters to you when writing an issues-based speech." He would like to thank Ms. Armstrong for her

support and dedicates his performance this evening to his family.



Melissa Medina

Melissa Medina is a fourth grader at James Monroe Elementary School in Edison, New Jersey and is a huge fan of the performing arts! She found her passion for performing when enrolled in her first NYC Tada class at the age of 4! She has since been in *The Aristocats*, *Cat in the Hat*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *The Lion King*, and will soon play Dory in *Finding Nemo*! Melissa credits some of these incredible experiences to James Monroe Elementary because they provided a lot of wonderful and fun experiences. Melissa is looking forward to experiencing Washington D.C. and furthering her performing skill base!



Poem Morrow

Poem Morrow is a seventh-grade student at The Independent School in Wichita, Kansas. She enjoys competing in volleyball and scholar's bowl. Her two favorite classes are English and Art. Because of her love of history, she is looking forward to seeing the museums and important sites in D.C. She is especially excited to see Ford's Theater and recite her speech there. She believes that any chance to practice public speaking is amazing, and she can't wait for the retreat!



Connor Moxon

Connor Moxon is an eighth grader at Cal Young Middle School in Eugene, Oregon. He is 13 years old and is excited to be part of the National Oratory Fellows program. It's a great opportunity to learn about the theater's history and improve his public speaking skills. Connor is the leader of his Lego robotics team. He also loves flying remote-controlled airplanes and drones. Being on the swim team is a lot of fun and he pushes himself to do his best in the pool. Connor likes to listen to audiobooks and play video games with friends. He looks forward to meeting new people, learning new things, and

seeing how storytelling can make a difference in D.C. He thinks it's going to be a great experience!

Student Delegate Bios (cont.)



Favour Naamdi

A third year orator, Favour Naamdi, is an eighth-grade student at Benjamin Tasker Middle School. Favour had a lot of anxiety about public speaking but oratory has helped him tremendously. Favour says, "As I gained my voice, I also gained self-confidence as a public speaker. He is 'stuck in the middle' between an older brother and younger sister. He enjoys basketball, football, soccer and video games. His favorite subject is math. He is active in PBIS, National Junior Honor Society and the Leo Club. He likes 'fast cars' and may pursue a career as a Formula 1 Race Car Driver. His advice to future orators is, "Keep trying and never give up because with persistence, all things are possible." Favour dedicates his speech to his closest friends, parents, and Ms. Armstrong.



Eleanor Papé

Eleanor Papé is in the sixth-grade at Cal Young Middle school. Eleanor enjoys reading. She also likes to play soccer, lacrosse, and is currently on a competitive dance team. In her free time, Eleanor likes to draw, and play piano. Eleanor is looking forward to visiting the Lincoln memorial on this trip.



Thomas Porter-Zuckerman

Thomas Porter-Zuckerman is a fifth-grade student at Sandwich Central School. Thomas has three big dogs and two cats. He rock climbs and loves LEGO. He also plays the piano. Thomas is looking forward to the pizza party and meeting people from other parts of the country, going on a plane, and seeing Washington, D.C. at the retreat.



Clark Rude

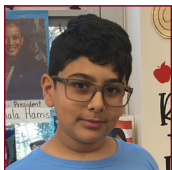
Clark Rude is an eighth-grade student at Cleveland Hill Middle School, just outside of Buffalo, New York. He is an active member of his school's Youth and Government and Future Cities Club and was recently in the high school musical, *The Sound of Music*. Clark is looking forward to seeing *Little Shops of Horrors* at Ford's Theater; it will be his first time seeing a professional musical, live and in person.



Brooke Shambaugh

Brooke Shambaugh is a fifth-grade student at Sandwich Central School. Brooke likes reading. She has a pet cat named Peanut. She also loves pizza. Brooke is looking forward to the pizza party, hearing other speeches, and seeing Washington, D.C. at the retreat.

Student Delegate Bios (cont.)



Ayaan Tahir

Ayaan Tahir is a fifth-grade student at James Monroe Elementary School in Edison, New Jersey. Ayaan's favorite subjects are math and science. He is the President of the Student Council and enjoys working with the teachers and students. Ayaan's passion is writing code. He is currently working on developing a messenger app complete with notifications! Ayaan just returned from a trip to Saudi Arabia and Dubai where he visited the Burj Khalifa. He is looking forward to visiting Washington, D.C. and seeing the Ford's Theatre in real life.



Saloni Verma

Saloni Verma is a seventh-grade student at Unami Middle School. Saloni really loves to sing and has been taking lessons for many years. She can read, write, speak, and sing in Hindi fluently. She also wants to go deep sea diving when she is older. Saloni is looking forward to, the retreat, getting to know all the other students and doing fun oratory exercises!



Crystal Westall

Crystal Westall is an eighth grader at Harrisburg North Middle School in Sioux Falls, SD. Crystal has developed a love for piano, but also enjoys the challenges of wrestling, running, and volleyball. She also designates significant time researching mental health driven by her desire to assist those in need. Crystal is fascinated with history, making the opportunity to visit Ford's Theatre a dream come true.

National Oratory Fellow Bios

Clarice Armstrong is in her eighth year of teaching in Prince George's County Public Schools and currently teaches sixth grade Reading/English Language Arts. A graduate of Hampton University, Ms. Armstrong received her B.A. in English and her Masters in Teaching. Under the professional mentorship of Mrs. Joyce Erb-Appleman, Ms. Armstrong leads the Benjamin Tasker Middle School's After-School Oratory Program. Outside the classroom, Ms. Armstrong enjoys exercising, thrifting, and spending time with her son, Kai.

Lauren Baxter is in her twelfth year as a seventh-grade communication arts teacher at Cocalico Middle School in Denver, Pennsylvania. Ms. Baxter prides her classroom on being a space where her students feel comfortable to share who they are and what they believe in. She continually reminds her students that it only takes a small group of thoughtful and committed citizens to change the world and encourages them to do so with their words.

Emma Dassori teaches Performing Arts, World Cultures, and is the Librarian at Sandwich Central School, a small, rural, K-6 elementary school in Center Sandwich, NH. Before moving to the Lakes

National Oratory Fellow Bios (cont.)

Region of New Hampshire, Emma was Assistant Professor of Drama and Performing Arts at Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, MA; she has also taught at Boston University and Tufts. Emma received a B.A. from Barnard College, Columbia University, where she majored in theatre. She got her M.A. and Ph.D. in Drama at Tufts University.

Joyce Erb-Appleman's educational journey began after a 10-year career as a social worker. She started in Ohio as an elementary teacher and ended in Prince George's county, Maryland as an Instructional Leader. Most recently, she was honored by Ford's Theater during their Annual Gala. She was named the Ford's Theatre/BP America Teacher Leader of the Year in 2015. As a University of Maryland (UMD) Site Liaison and mentor for 14 years she has inspired students to become confident, competent teachers. Other awards include the Phi Delta Kappa/UMD Mentor of the Year, Outstanding Teacher Leader in Gifted Education, and the Agnes Myers Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Washington Post. She holds a M.S. in Reading from Coppin State University and Trinity of Washington DC, a B.S. from The Ohio State University and Walsh University. "My heart is never far from the arts," and after 13 years as a Ford's Theatre National Oratory Teaching Fellow, she will continue volunteering and in an emeritus role.

Monty L. Graber is an eighth grade American History teacher and coach at Chisholm Middle School in Newton, Kansas. This is his twentieth year of teaching. He attended Bethel College in N. Newton, KS and Wichita State University for his graduate degree in Education and Building Leadership certificate. History and History Education are a passion that are seen in and outside of the classroom and in his Social Studies Methods courses he teaches in the spring to future Social Studies educators at McPherson College in McPherson, KS. He strives to make his classroom a place where people can wonder, explore, and work towards a better understanding of their world and their past.

Georgette Hackman is a social studies teacher and middle level department chair at Cocalico Middle School in Denver, Pennsylvania. She has been a Ford's Theatre Oratory Fellow since 2012 and was the Teacher-in-Residence in 2015. Georgette also serves as the Director of Graduate Programs for Founding Forward in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Georgette is the president of the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies, and has served on the Board of Directors of both the Middle States Council for the Social Studies and the National Council for the Social Studies. She gratefully attributes her work with Ford's Theatre with helping her to build her educational leadership capacity.

Betty Haynes is an eighth-grade middle school social studies teacher at Cleveland Hill School District in Cheektowaga, NY, just outside the city of Buffalo. This is Betty's 22nd year. She is an advisor to the school's Youth and Government club, directs the school musical, and is an Associate Director for the Academy of Human Rights of Buffalo. The Ford's Theater Oratory Program is a perfect fit for the intersection of her work. She wishes to extend gratitude to all those who make Ford's Theater Oratory program possible and the Fellows who give support and inspiration.

Vanessa Holloway is a middle school social studies and English language arts At-Risk teacher at Raytown Success Academy in Raytown, Missouri. This is her 16th year of teaching. Vanessa is passionate about preparing students to become positive productive citizens and believes critical thinking skills and communication skills are essential. She obtained her M.A. in Teaching from University of Central Missouri in 2009. Outside of the classroom, Vanessa loves to travel, and owns her own travel business.

Tamra Jo Huffman is a twenty-four year veteran American History teacher from the Harrisburg School District, South Dakota. She earned her Master of Arts in American History Curriculum and

National Oratory Fellow Bios (cont.)

Instruction from Dakota Wesleyan University (2014) and undergraduate degrees from South Dakota State University (1995). She has taught both high school and middle school social studies. She has been awarded the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year from her district and the 2021 National History Teacher of the Year for South Dakota through Gilder Lehrman. Ms. Huffman has served on various school improvement committees, team leader, and as a cooperating teacher for future educators. She has spent every other summer taking students on history trips to the east coast. In her spare time she enjoys performing on local stages in her community and throughout the state of South Dakota. She lives in Sioux Falls with her daughter Isabelle and dog Zora.

Kelly Jacobsen is a 34 year Veteran Teacher. She has been Nationally Board Certified since 2006. Kelly has had an array of teaching experiences, from a year as a Fulbright Teacher on the Isle of Mull in Scotland to a two-year assignment in Guam. Kelly currently teaches grades 6-8 for the Ocean Beach School District. She serves on her state's Social Studies Cadre and is on the Board of her local Heritage Museum. In her spare time, she likes walking, reading, and traveling.

Brandon Lasher is a 6th grade Language Arts, Social Studies and Film Studies teacher at Cal Young Middle School in Eugene, Oregon. This is his 16th year of teaching. He has been involved with Ford's Theatre in the past with the Civil War Washington Summer Teacher Institute. He is excited to now be part of this wonderful opportunity with the Ford's Theatre National Oratory Fellows program. In his spare time, Brandon is an international Man of Mystery.

Noelle Mauri is a fifth-grade teacher at South Jordan Elementary, a suburb of Salt Lake City, Utah. Noelle has a passion for the curriculum she teaches, and has done several teacher seminars and programs across the country focusing on American history. She is in her 15th year of teaching and thrilled to be a part of the Ford's Theater National Oratory program. She is a mother of four children and enjoys the relationships she has with her students, school community and her fellow educators. Noelle holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and special education from Brigham Young University- Hawaii and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instructional Design from Western Governors University.

Dave McIntire is starting his eleventh year as a Ford's National Oratory Fellow. In his 19th year in the classroom, he teaches at the Pembroke Hill School in Kansas City, Missouri. Dave is a two-time state history Teacher Of The Year (Gilder-Lehrman Institute and Kansas Council for the Social Studies), Ford's Theatre/BP Lincoln Teacher Leader, Ford's Theatre Teacher-In Residence, and Vice-President of the Kansas Council on History Education. Dave presents nationally on the integration of art and oratory in the history classroom having partnered with Ford's Theatre, The Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, The Smithsonian American Art Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Wichita Art Museum, and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. He is passionate about developing place-based and play-based curriculum that drives both student engagement and learning.

Jay Menzie is in his 14th year as a 7th grade social studies teacher at Cleveland Hill Middle School in Cheektowaga, NY. He recently received a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Jay has worked to design and implement a fully virtual, immersive exploration experience for students based on the Anne Frank Secret Annex. He has presented this project at the state, national, and international level. Much of Jay's instruction revolves around Holocaust education where he emphasizes the power of words and taking action against injustice. Jay is honored to be with the Ford's Theatre National Oratory Fellowship program!

National Oratory Fellow Bios (cont.)

Monica Neal teaches middle school gifted support in the Central Bucks School District in Pennsylvania. She began her teaching career in 1995. Monica holds a bachelor's degree in Africana Studies, a master's degree in The Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education at Rutgers University in NJ. Monica has been interested in the ways that culture and ethnography impact US Education. She is a firm believer in culturally responsive teaching and learning. Recently, Monica completed a supervisor's certificate program for educational leadership. Monica's teaching career in diverse and varied learning environments, has taken her to Japan, the NEH Summer Institute, and now the Ford's Theatre NOF program. Monica is a proud mom of two, a wife, daughter, sister, an avid reader, traveler, a foodie, a yogi, and an optimist.

Daniel Parks is a Gifted and Talented instructor at Meadowthorpe Elementary in Lexington, Kentucky and in his 19th year of teaching. Daniel earned his B.A. in Elementary Education from Transylvania University and his M.A. in Teaching with an endorsement in Gifted Education from Georgetown College. He currently serves as the Program Manager for the Gifted and Talented Accelerated Program at Meadowthorpe Elementary, teacher mentor, and is his school's Unity-Belonging and Student Efficacy lead. He participated in Ford's Theatre's Set in Stone and is honored to have the opportunity to work with the National Oratory Fellows program.

Molly Reida is a sixth- and seventh-grade English language arts teacher at The Independent School in Wichita, KS. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and middle school language arts. Molly is a graduate of Wichita State University. Having taught in public and private school, she has been in education for 10 years now. Molly has been a Ford's Oratory Fellow since 2021 and finds value in the program's collaborative teaching professional development as she seeks to bring the most effective methods of oratory skills into the classroom.

Ben Rivers is in their sixteenth year of teaching at The Independent School in Wichita, KS. Currently they teach general music, oratory, and leadership in the Lower School. Previously they have directed the annual Lower School musical, taught Middle School choir, music appreciation, improv acting, and general theatre classes. In addition to holding a BA in Music from Southwestern College, Ben has completed all levels of Kodály certification through Wichita State University followed by several summers at the Kodály Institute of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Kecskemét, Hungary and was a NEH Fellow in 2016. In 2016 Ben became a National Oratory Fellow. Outside of teaching Ben is active in music and LGBTQ+ Christian ministries, and is an avid observer of ball and kiki scenes.

Lisa Romeo is a Kindergarten teacher at James Monroe Elementary School in Edison, New Jersey. This is her 36th year of teaching. She attended Molloy College in Long Island, where she earned a B.S in Psychology with a dual certification in Elementary and Special Education. Lisa is a lover of all things theater, from Broadway to community. She co-directs the annual musical at her K-5 school. In addition, she is a reviewer for NJACT-New Jersey Association of Community Theater, and was named Reviewer of the Year in 2023! Although she has taught all elementary grades K through 5, she feels that our youngest citizens are the key to our nation's future. It has been amazing to see and hear the growth of our youngest orators! "Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."

Kelly Rowland is in her fifteenth year of teaching and her 4th year at Accel Schools in Ohio. She has been a National Oratory Fellow since 2016. Kelly holds a Master of Arts in History from Bowling Green State University and her Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from the University of Toledo. Kelly has participated in several professional development opportunities including: Civil

National Oratory Fellow Bios (cont.)

War Washington, Seat of War and Peace, Set-in-Stone, and most recently, the Truman Presidential Teacher's Conference. Kelly enjoys traveling with her husband, photography, and spending time with her two dogs: Bumble and Boo.

Jason Rude is a seventh- and eighth-grade social studies teacher at New Hampton Middle School in New Hampton, Iowa. This is his 14th year of teaching. He has been involved with Ford's Theatre in the past as a collaborator with the Remembering Lincoln project and with the Civil War Washington summer teacher institute.

Jennifer Stockdell is a 6th grade social studies teacher at Bridger Middle School in Independence, MO. This is her 19th year of teaching middle school. Jennifer began collaborating with Ford's Theatre in 2009 with the Civil War Washington program and continued as a Fellow in the National Oratory Program in 2010. She was Ford's first Teacher-in-Residence in 2013. She has served as a Mentor Teacher for the University of Missouri Teaching Fellowship Program, a member of the National Humanities Center Teacher Advisory Council, and has worked with the Truman Presidential Library to draft document-based lessons. She is passionate about helping her students find their unique imprint on the world. Jennifer lives in Kansas City with her husband, six-year-old daughter, and five-month-old son.

After 15 years in the business world, **Jeff Weary** began teaching social studies and history full-time in 2005 for the Independence School District in Independence, Missouri. Jeff earned his B.A. in Government with minors in Sociology and History from the University of Texas at Austin. As a latecomer to teaching, Jeff returned to college to achieve teaching certification and a Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of Central Missouri. He enjoys integrating technology into his classroom to pique students' interest and learning. Jeff and his wife have grown the family to include five children, one son-in-law, one grandson, and two dogs. His hobbies include family stuff, "homesteading", homebrewing, as well as road and mountain bike riding.

Thank You

Teaching Artists..... Ashley D. Buster-Ogunwuy, Chelsea Mayo,
Mary Myers, Kirsten Noetzel, Victoria Reinsel

A special thank you to our production crew for your support. Thank you also to the school communities and parents who have made this program possible.

National Oratory Fellows Full Roster

Clarice Armstrong	Dave McIntire
Lauren Baxter	Jay Menzie
Michael Buchanon	Joseph Moneymaker
Stacey Callaway	Alexandra Navarro
Joe Cernak	Monica Neal
Lindsey Charron	Amber Obert
Giani Clarkson	Daniel Parks
Marie Connolly	Angelo Parodi
Emma Dassori	Molly Reida
Allison Decker	Karen Richey
Joyce Erb-Appleman	Ben Rivers
Caitlin Goodwin	Lisa Romeo
Monty Graber	Jim Rossi
Georgette Hackman	Kelly Rowland
Vanessa Halloway	Jason Rude
Elizabeth Haynes	Jennifer Stockdell
Tamra Huffman	Callen Taylor
Kelly Jacobsen	Jeff Weary
Casey Kaufman	Darion Williams
Brandon Lasher	Melissa Woodward
Noelle Mauri	

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