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Poetry Alive!, Inc.

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Founded: 1984 in Asheville, NC.

Senior Staff Members: *Carney Gray:* BA from the University of Minnesota, MFA from The Ohio State University. He has performed and conducted workshops since 2001. Taught at both the high school and college levels. *Michelle Schwantes:* BA From Hamline University, MBA from the University of Minnesota. With Poetry Alive! since 2008. Producer, Director, Actor at theatres all over the nation.

In-school Performances and Workshops: Since 1984, Poetry Alive! has produced educational performances for student audiences throughout the US and beyond. Poetry Alive! couples poem performance of curriculum-based literature with short workshops for both students and faculty. A two-person "team" conducts both the performances and the workshops. Student audiences range from kindergarten through the university level. Program material is age-leveled to provide a meaningful experience for each audience. Poetry Alive! has performed for a combined audience of over 7,000,000 in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Argentina, the Bahamas, Canada, China, Guam, Japan, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saipan, South Korea and Venezuela.

Conference Key Note and Workshops: Poetry Alive! has been active in providing keynote addresses, special performances, and instructional workshops for a multitude of national, regional, state and local organizations (and affiliates) such as the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the International Reading Association (IRA), Teachers Applying Whole Language (TAWL), the American Library Association (ALA) and the National Middle School Association (NMSA) plus numerous Literacy conferences, Arts-in-Education conferences, cultural diversity workshops, library events, arts festivals, etc.

Institutes: Since 1990, Poetry Alive! has conducted the week-long Poetry Alive! Institute. The intensive program is approved for Masters, CEU and Teacher Certification credit. Graduates are trained in the poem performance method and teaching/creative writing strategies enabling them to return to their school districts to conduct in-service programs locally. Participants have come from all over the US and from several foreign countries.

In-service Sessions: Since 1986, Poetry Alive! has provided comprehensive on-site training for school districts, reading associations, creative writing programs, etc. as part of our on-going staff development program. These day-long sessions are designed to provide hands-on classroom activities and to introduce teachers to a methodology which energizes the language arts curriculum.

The Asheville Poetry Festival: Poetry Alive! promoted a 3-day poetry festival each summer from 1994-1997. This one-of-a-kind event couples continual readings by nationally-known poets with writing, performing, and teaching workshops. Five Pulitzer Prize winning poets, plus 3 National Book Award winners have participated in the festival along with prominent local and regional writers and teachers.

Resource Materials: Poetry Alive! has published 4 books and 2 audio cd/tapes for teachers at all grade levels. These are designed to introduce the performance method into individual classrooms.