# Program Description

This program is designed to bring together Distinguished North Carolina Poets and student poets from eastern, middle, and western regions of North Carolina. Student poets will be selected from middle school, high school, college, and adults not currently in school. Student poets work on a dozen pages of their own poetry.

Distinguished Poets will mentor selected student poets in writing and revising a dozen pages of poetry and mentor them in the craft of oral presentation.

At the end of the period, each regional group of student poets will present at least one reading at a designated site open to the public. Additional public readings may be scheduled in the home town of the student poet. **Goal of the Series**

The North Carolina Poetry Society’s mission is to foster the reading, writing, and enjoyment of poetry across the state. The GDCP Series supports this mission by:

1. Increasing poetry outreach across the state
2. Involving students new to the NCPS
3. Providing expert guidance to promising student poets
4. Increasing the skills of student & adult poets
5. Developing new venues for student poets and experienced poets to read together
6. Providing opportunities for student poets to read at local venues

**Who May apply to be mentored by a Distinguished Poet?** Any middle school, high school, or college student or adult not currently in school.

**How and where to apply?** An application is available by clicking on the Student Application form at:

[**http://www.ncpoetrysociety.org/gcdps**](http://www.ncpoetrysociety.org/gcdps)

**Where are the readings?** At libraries, bookstores, universities, and other venues across the state. Each student will have the opportunity to read with their Distinguished Poet at a venue close to their home.

**GCDPS List of Counties by Region**

**Western Counties:** Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Cleveland, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey.

**Central Counties:** Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Cumberland, Davidson, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Johnston, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, Orange, Person, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Scotland, Stanley, Union, Vance, Wake, and Warren.

**Eastern Counties:** Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Pitts, Sampson, Tyrell, Washington, Wayne, and Wilson.

**Past Distinguished Poets for the western region:** Richard Chess, Joseph Bathanti, Mary Adams, Catherine Carter, Cathy Smith Bowers, Keith Flynn, Brent Martin, Pat Riviere-Seel, Ricardo Nazario y Colon, and Ken Chamlee

**Past Distinguished Poets for the central region:** Lynn Veach Sadler, Ann Deagon, Becky Gibson, Anthony Abbott, Anjail Ahmad, A. Van Jordan, Wayne Johns, Ruth Moose, Beth Copeland, Dasan Ahanu, and Grace Ocasio

**Past Distinguished Poets for the eastern region:** Lavonne Adams, Michael White, John Hoppenthaler, Lenard D. Moore, Jim Clark, Shelby Stephenson, Erik Weil, Amber Thomas, and Anna Lena Phillips Bell

**Current Distinguished Poets:** Ken Chamlee (western), Maria Rouphail (central), and Melinda Thomsen (eastern)

Annually, an anthology of poems composed by the year’s Distinguished Poets and emerging poets is published. This collection is entitled *Witness: Appalachia to Hatteras*, available to the poets and the public*.*

**GCDPS – List of Regional Contacts**

# East Region Chair: Kelly Jones

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Tabor City, NC 28463

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**Central Region Chair: Sherry Siddall**

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Chapel Hill, NC 27517

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 (919) 423-0033

**West Region Chair: Caleb Beissert**

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Asheville, NC 28803

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(704) 975-3636

**Guidelines & Student Application Form**

# For full information about the Gilbert-Chappell Distinguished Poet Series, see the website:

[**http://www.ncpoetrysociety.org/gcdps**](http://www.ncpoetrysociety.org/gcdps)

**Questions? Contact David Radavich, State Director, GCDPS, at** **daradavich@eiu.edu** **or (704) 532-7134**

**The North Carolina Poetry Society**

The North Carolina Poetry Society is an all-volunteer organization of about 550 members whose primary purpose is to promote poetry through the State of North Carolina and beyond. For more information about the NCPS and all the other poetry programs it sponsors, see:

[**www.ncpoetrysociety.org**](http://www.ncpoetrysociety.org)

 It is difficult

 To get news from poems

 Yet men die miserably every day

 For lack

 Of what is found there.

 --William Carlos Williams

The North Carolina

Poetry Society

*Presents*

**The Gilbert-Chappell**

**Distinguished Poet Series**

