



December 8, 2009

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join *POETRY FOR THE MIND'S JOY*, a national poetry initiative launched in October 2009 by United States Poet Laureate Kay Ryan and the Library of Congress in conjunction with the Community College Humanities Association (CCHA). The initiative highlights the poetry generated on community college campuses as well as the vital role played by community colleges in nurturing lives and minds.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE!

*** Organize a poetry initiative on your campus! Find a faculty colleague or appoint yourself to serve as the contact person for your campus. Inform faculty members and students about the poetry initiative. Encourage faculty members to assign poetry in their courses and encourage students to write poetry.

*** Announce the poetry contest! Form a small committee. Select one winning poem to submit from your campus. Each winning poem submitted to the CCHA will be considered by the CCHA-Library of Congress for inclusion in the online anthology accessible from their websites.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING POEM: Before or on
Thursday, February 25, 2010.

Guidelines:

Each college campus contact may submit ONE poem.

The student must be currently enrolled at the college.

The poem and title must be typed and fit on one page using 12-point font.

A cover page must include:

Name, address, telephone number and e-mail address for author.

Community college, address, telephone number, e-mail for the faculty contact information.

A statement affirming consent to the authorization statement.

Poems must be e-mailed before or on **Thursday, February 25, 2010** to

berry@essex.edu (Poetry Initiative of Kay Ryan – Community College Humanities Association).

Poems will not be returned and they become the physical property of the Community College Humanities Association (CCHA) and the Library of Congress (LC). Submission constitutes an authorization for the CCHA and LC to publish the poems and the submitter's name and personally-identifying information, electronically and in print. Publication is not guaranteed.

*** Plan a one-hour poetry celebration on **April 1, 2010** to watch the Kay Ryan poetry videoconference via streaming video and schedule student poetry readings discussions that day. Invite the entire college community.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact David A. Berry, executive director, CCHA, at berry@essex.edu or by telephone at 973-877-3577 or Patricia Gray, Poetry and Literature Center, Library of Congress, at poetry@loc.gov or by telephone at 202-707-5394.

Sincerely,

David

David A. Berry
Community College Humanities Association

Patricia

Patricia Gray
Library of Congress