



# CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE IN LOUISIANA

1340 Poydras Street, Suite 1710 | New Orleans, LA 70124 | @FranceLouisiana

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Council of French Societies Presents Annual Oratory Contest**

*Contest highlights achievements by high-school students and teachers of French in New Orleans*

**The Council of French Societies will present its annual French oratory competition of Greater New Orleans high school students on November 12, 2016 at Ecole Bilingue (821 General Pershing Street).**

The contest is designed to reward students who seek to achieve excellence in the study of French (immersion or non-immersion). Participants are asked to prepare a piece of poetry, essay or other French material to recite without notes for up to two minutes, followed by a short interview in French. Performances are judged by a panel of native French speakers.

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Family of Jerry Andry, Bruno & Bruno, LLP and a French Senatorial Legislative Grant, cash prizes of up to \$200 are awarded to the top three students in each of five divisions, as well as a single prize for the best first year student.

“Teachers of French in our area are the lifeblood of keeping the language and culture of France alive,” **says contest chair Alexandra Stafford**. For this reason, the Council of French Societies is also recognizing the teachers of winning students for their commitment with monetary awards.

Although winners will be announced on the day of the event, prizes will be awarded at a reception on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm at the Degas House (2306 Esplanade Ave.)

Consul General of France in Louisiana, Grégor Trumel, will present the certificates and checks to winning students and teachers.

“The Consulate General is thrilled to be a part of the French Oratory contest again this year,” **says Consul General Grégor Trumel**, “Thanks to a true collaboration with France and fueled by the commitment of its French teachers, Louisiana is a national leader in immersion education.



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This is a great occasion to recognize the hard work of these instructors, students and our great partner, the Council of French Societies."

## **About the Council of French Societies**

The Council of French Societies of Greater New Orleans, Inc. (CFSNO) was founded by Dr. Homer Dupuy. It is an umbrella organization that comprises local non-profits promoting all things French: Alliance Française de La Nouvelle Orleans, Causeries du Lundi, French American Chamber of Commerce, French Heritage Society, l'Union Française among others.

CFSNO is proud to present the oratory contest, an exciting competition begun back in the 1980s as a function of the Bastille Day celebration. Despite increasing participation before Hurricane Katrina, the project was abandoned until 2010, when it was reinstated by CFSNO with the help of local partners. In 2015, 90 students from across New Orleans competed at Ecole Bilingue in the French Oratory Contest.

## **About the Consulate General of France in Louisiana**

The Consulate General of France in Louisiana was founded in 1803, following the sale of the Louisiana territory to the United States by Napoleon Bonaparte. It is the oldest French consulate in the United States. The Consulate's principal missions include: consular assistance to the French community in Louisiana; support of French language educational programs; development of French cultural initiatives; facilitation of economic exchange between France and Louisiana. The Consul General of France in Louisiana, Mr. Grégor Trumel, is the Consulate's chief of mission.