

YOUNG POETS OFFERED SPECIAL PROGRAM

Volusia County residents between the ages of 14 and 20 can enroll in a free Young Poets Mentoring Program that will link them to established poets and result in publication. The program is directed by Volusia County Poet Laureate Dr. David B. Axelrod and starts this August.

Young poets and their mentors will set a schedule to exchange emails and possibly to meet personally to help write, revise and assemble a group of poems. The results will include performance opportunities and publication in an anthology. Twelve or twenty individual young poets may have a first book published.

Funding for the project is provided by the Walmart, the Root Family, Daytona Kia, Daytona Toyota and numerous other groups and individuals. In addition to free lessons, both the young poets and mentors will have a small budget to cover the costs of supplies and/or transportation.

Dr. Axelrod will donate copies of his own book, *All Vows: New & Selected Poems* (Nirala, 2016) together with a *Student and Teacher Guide*. The books will be given to each mentor and student as well as copies to teachers and students in schools Dr. Axelrod visits.

Established poets who would enjoy mentoring are also welcome to join the program. Those interested in joining the Mentoring Program can view details at www.volusiapoetlaureate.com, email axelrod@volusiapoetlaureate.com or phone/text Dr. Axelrod at 386-337-4567.