



press release

Contact: Diane Steinert
steinert@wneo.pbs.org
330-677-4549

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 Production Gives Local Perspective *Kids First: Grading the Graduates* Airs Thursday, June 23 at 8 p.m.

Northeastern
Educational Television of
Ohio, Inc.

**1750 Campus
Center Drive**

P. O. Box 5191

Kent, Ohio

44240-5191

Phone
330.677.4549

Fax
330.678.0688

E-mail
questions@wneo.pbs.org

Web Site
www.pbs4549.org

KENT, Ohio — June 15, 2005 — PBS 45 & 49 presents **Kids First: Grading the Graduates**, a new production that features discussion with local and regional experts on the status of education at the high school level. The one-hour program airs Thursday, June 23 at 8 p.m. and precedes **Declining by Degrees: Higher Education at Risk**, a thought-provoking documentary special that will air nationally on PBS.

Current statistics are frightening — up to one-third of our high school students nationally fail to graduate, and if a student is poor, black or Hispanic the odds are even worse. In Ohio in the fall of 2002, only 45 percent of high school graduates enrolled in the state's colleges and universities, and 40 percent of those required remediation, particularly in English and math. The next year, 25,000 students dropped out of school.

Some of the issues addressed in this special include:

- Are our students adequately prepared?
- Do they graduate with the skills necessary for "life" after graduation, whether it involves more schooling, work, community college or vocational training?
- What role do stakeholders in the educational process, including parents, teachers, school administrators and the community at large, play in preparing and educating our students?
- What is a successful high school and how do we ensure that all of our students receive the opportunities needed for a successful future?

Moderator Jody Miller, editor of *Bath Country Journal* and a panelist on PBS 45 & 49's **NewsNight Akron**, moderates the discussion that focuses on our local communities. She is joined by Donna Loomis, former teacher, principal and assistant superintendent of Akron Public Schools; Stanley Silverman, dean of Summit College, professor at The University of Akron and a Revere Local Schools Board of Education member; Edwin Holland, superintendent of Cuyahoga Falls City Schools; and Colleen Grady, a member of the Ohio State Board of Education.

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of non-commercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

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