



PBS 45 & 49

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press release

Akron Newsmaker of the Year Nominees Announced

KENT, Ohio — Monday, January 3, 2005 — Seven community leaders have been nominated for the 2004 Akron Newsmaker of the Year by the panelists of PBS 45 & 49's **NewsNight Akron**. The winner will be announced during the show's Friday, Jan. 7 broadcast, which begins at 9 p.m. The award recognizes the Summit County individual whose work has had the most positive effect on the area over the past year.

Nominees are:

- **Alex Arshinkoff**, Summit County Republican Party chair — for his role in campaigning for President Bush's re-election.
- **Connie Humble**, executive director of Summit County Children Services Board — for her leadership abilities as the new head of the embattled agency.
- **Robert Keegan**, chairman and chief executive officer, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company — for his astute management in reducing debt at Akron's most renowned corporation.
- **Donald Plusquellic**, mayor of Akron — for his new leadership responsibilities as the 62nd president of the United States Conference of Mayors.
- **Luis Proenza**, president of The University of Akron — for his visionary leadership in positioning the university for the future.
- **Bryan Williams, John Schmidt and the staff of the Summit County Board of Elections** — for their professionalism during this year's presidential election.
- **James Williams**, Summit County Court of Common Pleas judge who is retiring — for his legacy of judicial excellence.

For six seasons, PBS 45 & 49 has produced **NewsNight Akron**, a weekly show that reviews and analyzes Akron-area news. Hosted by Vincent Duffy, program director at WKSU/89.7 FM, the panelists include Ed Esposito, news director at WAKR/WONE/WQMX; Jody Miller, senior associate editor of the *West Side Leader*; and Larry States, news anchor at WAKR/WONE/WQMX.

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.