



press release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 connects to Third Frontier Network

PBS 45 & 49

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.org

Web Site
www.pbs4549.org

KENT, Ohio — May 16, 2006 — A new partnership between PBS 45 & 49 and eTech Ohio will enable educators and students to access greater volumes of PBS 45 & 49 resources at much higher transfer speeds. Their partnership in what is called the Third Frontier Network enables PBS 45 & 49 and other Ohio public broadcast stations to have access to significantly larger network connections, as well as direct connections to Ohio's K-12 and higher education communities, at a considerably reduced cost.

“PBS 45 & 49 is a proud partner of the Third Frontier Network,” said PBS 45 & 49 President/Chief Executive Officer Trina J. Cutter. “We embrace the opportunity to deliver new services through the network when schools are able to connect to it with similar high-speed bandwidth. These services include video-on-demand, podcasting and an increase in videoconferencing capabilities.”

“eTech Ohio welcomes the public broadcasting community as partners in the Third Frontier Network,” said eTech Ohio Interim Executive Director Jillian Froment. “A direct connection between Ohio's broadcast community and the K-12 and higher education networks will enable new forms of information to flow directly between the stations and educators.” This equitable partnership will ensure uniform, consistent and cost-effective access to data, video and Internet applications by all users, including teachers, students and administrators in the state of Ohio.

Once fully implemented, the Third Frontier Network will replace the station's three DS-3 (45 megabit) connections with an OC-12 (622 megabit) connection. These larger circuits will provide approximately 14 times more bandwidth than the current circuits. Using the Third Frontier Network, PBS 45 & 49 can access all the current eTech resources, plus more high-quality video content through the asynchronous transfer of files.

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 noncommercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit www.pbs4549.org or call 1-800-854-4549.

About Third Frontier Network

The Third Frontier Network (TFN) is the most advanced statewide research network in the nation. After nearly two years of development, nearly 100 institutions of higher education throughout the state will have access to the nation's most advanced statewide education and research network. Additionally, thousands of Ohio's primary and secondary schools will begin connecting to the network this summer. For additional information about the Third Frontier Network, visit www.tfn.oar.net.

About eTech Ohio

eTech Ohio is a national leader in educational technology access and integration. eTech Ohio has made a commitment to serve Ohio citizens through educational initiatives and by putting new technology to use for our affiliates so that Ohio's learners will succeed in the schools of today and the world of tomorrow. For more information about the eTech Ohio Commission, visit www.etech.ohio.gov.

###