



press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eric Mansfield Is New Host of NewsNight Akron

KENT, Ohio — May 4, 2007 — PBS 45 & 49 announces the appointment of Eric Mansfield as the new host of the station's weekly news program, **NewsNight Akron**. Mansfield reports news from the Akron-Canton area for WKYC-TV3, Gannett Broadcasting's NBC affiliate in Cleveland. On **NewsNight Akron**, he replaces Vincent Duffy, who hosted the show for nine seasons and has accepted a new job at the National Public Radio affiliate in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Mansfield, an Akron native, has worked for WKYC since May 1994. His awards include an Emmy in 2000 for Outstanding Service Reporting and one in 1994 for Outstanding Live Reporting. In 2002, Eric was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Anchor. He has also received honors from the Cleveland Press Club, the Ohio Associated Press and the Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

"In the past, I was a panelist on **NewsNight Akron**, so I'm looking forward to being back on the show regularly," Mansfield said. "It won't be easy to follow in Vince's footsteps, but I think that we will be able to keep the energy going and talk about the issues that are important to Akron."

A recently retired major in the Ohio National Guard, Mansfield spent 14 months on active duty in 2003-04 in Iraq and Kuwait. He and his wife, Lisa, and their three sons live in the Akron area.

Mansfield joins **NewsNight Akron**'s roundtable discussion with a panel of local journalists who discuss both breaking news stories on topics such as education, the community and local business, as well as ongoing subjects including elections and major news stories. When opportunities arise, the show provides additional in-depth coverage with **NewsMaker Akron** interviews and candidate debates during election seasons. He will guide the discussion to explore issues surrounding greater Akron news, providing viewers with details that local commercial newscasts don't have time to cover.

Regular **NewsNight Akron** panelists include Mizell Stewart III, managing editor, and Steve Hoffman, political reporter for *The Beacon Journal*; Jody Miller, publisher and owner, *Bath Country Journal*; and Ed Esposito, news director, Joe Jazstremski,

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reporter, and Larry States, reporter, all of WAKR/WONE/WQMX. They bring diverse backgrounds and experiences in communication and journalism to the program, which creates the show's credibility and spontaneity.

“We look forward to working with Eric in his new role as program host,” said Don Freeman, executive producer of **NewsNight Akron**. “He has been involved in the Akron community for years, and he will help maintain the program standards that **NewsNight Akron** has set.”

About PBS 45 & 49

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

The only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio, PBS 45 & 49 is available to 1.8 million households and 4.6 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. Through funding from eTech Ohio, the organization provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 257,400 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit www.pbs4549.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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