



**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

press release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NewsNight Akron to welcome Akron Public Schools superintendents

*Host Eric Mansfield to discuss school system's challenges with
David James and Dr. Sylvester Small*

KENT, Ohio — April 16, 2008 — David James, the Akron Public Schools' newly appointed superintendent, joins Eric Mansfield on **NewsNight Akron** this Friday, April 18, at 9 p.m. The program repeats on Saturday, April 19 at 5 a.m.

James, whose appointment will begin on Aug. 1, 2008, takes over a district facing tough challenges with declining enrollment at a time when the system is undergoing an \$800 million makeover with new and renovated school buildings. James, who has two children attending the Akron Schools, comes with high praise from city and education leaders, despite having never served as either a teacher or principal.

James began his career in the district in 1992, serving as the environmental program manager and as the energy, environmental health and safety manager. He was promoted to executive director of business affairs in 2002. In his current position, James is responsible for the operations side of the district and the \$800 million building project. He is actively involved in the Harvard ExEL initiative to improve teaching and learning. James earned a bachelor of arts degree in economics and a master's degree in Public Administration, both from Cleveland State University.

Dr. Sylvester Small, the current superintendent who announced his plans to retire in November 2007, will also appear on the program to discuss the transition of power, which is set to take place later this summer, and the tough road ahead for his successor.

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.

About NewsNight Akron

NewsNight Akron airs every Friday night at 9 p.m. on PBS 45 & 49 and offers spontaneous, lively, in-depth discussions about issues that affect the lives of people in greater Akron. Hosted by Eric Mansfield, Akron-Canton news anchor for WKYC-TV3, **NewsNight Akron** features a roundtable discussion with a panel of local journalists that covers 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. Serving as regular panelists on the show are Steve Hoffman, political writer at the Akron Beacon Journal; Jody Miller, editor and publisher of Bath Country Journal; and Ed Esposito, Joe Jastzremski and Larry States, all of whom are members of the Rubber City Radio Group news staff.

##