



PBS 45 & 49

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 to Air Gov. Ted Strickland's "Conversations on Education" Akron Forum on July 25

KENT, Ohio — July 18, 2008 — PBS 45 & 49 will air the second of Gov. Ted Strickland's 12 "Conversations on Education" on PBS 45 & 49 on Friday, July 25 beginning at 10 p.m. **Conversation on Education Forum** will include 60 minutes of Gov. Strickland's July 23 forum at North High School in Akron, followed by a half-hour **NewsNight Akron** analysis of how the governor's plans might affect the Akron area.

Participating on the panel are **NewsNight Akron** reporter Jody Miller as host; Akron Beacon Journal reporter Stephanie Warsmith; **NewsNight Akron** host, WKYC-TV reporter and concerned parent Eric Mansfield; and Joe Siegfert, an associate with Summit Education Initiative.

Gov. Strickland also will hold a "Conversations on Education" forum at Youngstown State University's Kilcawley Center on Sept. 3. PBS 45 & 49 will use a similar broadcast format to air coverage of that forum on Friday, Sept. 5 from 10 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Gov. Strickland's "Conversations on Education" are being held throughout every region of Ohio and will focus on the six principles for education reform that he laid out in his State of the State address last February. They will also focus on specific policy ideas for making sure Ohio schools are among the best in the world and meeting the needs of every child. All 12 town hall meetings will broadcast live or be taped for later broadcast by Ohio's public television stations.

At each regional forum, Gov. Strickland will give local citizens the opportunity to share their thoughts and vet proposed ideas on creating a system of education that is innovative, personalized and linked to economic prosperity in Ohio. The meetings will be broadcast on local PBS stations and streamed live on the Web at conversationsoneducation.org. Local citizens and educators not attending the event will be invited to gather for watch parties and offer feedback within their watch party and online in response to the governor's meetings.

"We look forward to hearing our community's thoughts on how to build an education reform plan from the ground up," said Trina Cutter, president and CEO of PBS 45 & 49, "and we are eager to be a part of implementing that plan."

A second round of education forums will be held later in the fall of 2008 and focus on how to properly finance a truly reformed system of education. For more information on Gov. Strickland's "Conversations on Education," visit www.conversationsoneducation.org or contact his office.

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 (soon to be Western Reserve Public Media) 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 4.4 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 256,700 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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