



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Computer Classes Offered at Western Reserve Public Media

Training is part of statewide Every Citizen Online program

KENT, OHIO — Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012 — Western Reserve Public Media has partnered with Connect Ohio to offer free computer training sessions through the state of Ohio's Every Citizen Online program. On a trial basis, the three-part sessions are being offered Mondays through Wednesdays through the end of February at the following times. Sessions are held at Western Reserve Public Media, 1750 Campus Center Dr., Kent.

Level 1 Computer Basics: Monday through Wednesday, 9-11 a.m. Offers information about computer hardware, software, connectivity and operating systems.

Level 2 Internet Essentials: Monday through Wednesday, noon-2 p.m. Provides basic instruction about the Internet, including accessing it safely and working with browsers.

Level 3 Web Applications: Monday through Wednesday, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Reviews several Internet applications, including email, social networks and online documents.

Those interested in attending a session should call Western Reserve Public Media at 330-474-5005 at least one week ahead to register. The Every Citizen Online program runs until July 1, 2013, and interested parties may call Western Reserve Public Media for more information about future sessions.

"This program is an outstanding opportunity for area residents to learn about all that the Internet has to offer," said Jeff Good, Western Reserve Public Media director of education. "We're happy to help as many people as possible prepare for a technology-driven society."

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media serves the largest population among Ohio's eight PBS member stations. Its broadcast channels — Western Reserve PBS, Fusion, MHz Worldview and V-me — are available to 4.9 million viewers. Over 1 million viewers watch Western Reserve PBS each month. The organization not only embraces regionalism, it is regionalism: Western Reserve PBS is the only broadcast television service in the area that links together the entire Northeast Ohio area.

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly 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, Western Reserve Public Media 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.

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Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of Northeast Ohio. The organization also operates three standard definition channels, Fusion (WNEO 45.2/WEAO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEAO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEAO 49.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media 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 the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

About Connect Ohio

In collaboration with the Ohio Broadband Task Force, Connect Ohio is working to bring the benefits of universal broadband to the state. Technology, especially widespread access, adoption and use of broadband, improves all areas of life.

Connect Ohio has implemented a statewide broadband training program, Every Citizen Online (ECO), in order to increase sustainable broadband adoption in Ohio. The project provides free computer training sessions at public libraries, community colleges, community organizations and educational centers throughout Ohio, and teaches new users how to access the Internet and how to best utilize all the Internet has to offer.

The goal of the project is to showcase the many educational, health care, economic and communication benefits of broadband use, and to encourage adoption by residents statewide. Currently, just 66 percent of Ohioans subscribe to a broadband service at their home.

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