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news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Documentary Explores Ohio and Erie Canal's Evolving Significance

THE OHIO & ERIE CANAL to premiere on PBS Western Reserve on July 12

Kent, OH – Tuesday, June 21, 2022 — Over nearly two centuries, the Ohio and Erie Canal evolved from a significant transportation route to an important civic asset. A new documentary, THE OHIO & ERIE CANAL, tells the story of its construction in the early 1800s and its ensuing history. Produced by Larry Baker of Chagrin Falls, the half-hour production will premiere exclusively on PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1) on Tuesday, July 12, at 8 PM.

Early visionaries understood that development of the city of Akron would require the ability to transport goods from there to Cleveland. Through perseverance and ingenious engineering, the canal route was built and in 1827, the first boat passed through it. Almost immediately the canal enabled all kinds of industries to flourish using its route. The project greatly contributed to Ohio's rise to industrial prominence.

THE OHIO AND ERIE CANAL tells of life along and on the canal for people and businesses. It also chronicles its decline, demise and then redevelopment as an important natural and recreational resource. Historians featured in the production include Robert Snyder, vice president of Barberton Historical Society; Dan Rice, president and CEO of Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition; Janean Kazimir, interpretive naturalist, Summit Metro Parks; and more.

For additional air dates on PBS Western Reserve and Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEAO 49.2) channels, visit PBSWesternReserve.org.

About PBS Western Reserve

PBS Western Reserve is the brand name of Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

A trusted community resource, PBS Western Reserve 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. It serves the largest population of Ohio's eight PBS member stations.

PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of Northeast Ohio. It is available to 4.9 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates two standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEAO 49.2) and FNX (WNEO 45.3 / WEAO 49.3).

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