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news release

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Press release image available at pbswesternreserve.org/press/photos
Full list of guests (PDF File)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Community Leaders to Be Featured in “City Centric” on PBS Western Reserve

Kent, Ohio — Aug 15, 2024 — The series “City Centric” returns to PBS Western Reserve for a second season of interviews with trailblazers from six cities across Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. The six-episode weekly series will premiere on Friday, Aug. 30, at 8:30 p.m. on PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEO 49.1). Following its premiere, the season will also be available on demand via the PBS Western Reserve website, PBS app and YouTube.

The half-hour episodes air on Fridays at 8:30 p.m. as follows:

- Aug. 30: Experience an inviting city with a vibrant future in “Cuyahoga Falls”
- Sept. 6: Discover a welcoming community with a grassroots mentality in “Wooster”
- Sept. 13: Learn how this resilient city is building a stronger future in “New Castle”
- Sept. 20: Explore a timeless village that thrives on creativity in “Chagrin Falls”
- Sept. 27: Enjoy a charming city with a hometown feel in “Medina”
- Oct. 4: Visit a passionate city with unwavering grit in “Warren”

Each city’s episode reveals the stories of six changemakers who exemplify their city and possess unique roles including business leader, revitalizer, artist, humanitarian, historian, educator and visionary.

Guests include Cuyahoga Falls student Abishak Gajmer, who organized a culture fair at his high school; Chagrin Falls humanitarian Destinee Burse, whose non-profit organization raises awareness of social and environmental

justice issues; and Chris Frye, New Castle’s city administrator, whose revitalization efforts have transformed the city’s economy and safety.

“The passion this cast of guests has for their communities has been so inspiring for me to see,” said Sophia Gillespie, associate producer of content. “We hope that anyone who watches feels the same way I do listening to these stories of authenticity, courage and kindness.”

The series is hosted by Stephanie Marie, a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, who later moved with her family to Campbell, Ohio. She was named Miss Ohio USA in 2020 and was the third runner-up at Miss Grand International in 2023, representing the United States.

PBS Western Reserve produced “City Centric” in collaboration with Skully Media Co. of Youngstown. Production support was provided by members of PBS Western Reserve.

Access the “City Centric” website at PBSWesternReserve.org/city-centric for bonus content.

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 / WEO 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 / WEO 49.2) and FNX (WNEO 45.3 / WEO 49.3).

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