An Answer from Akron

PBS Western Reserve was the presenting station in February for the broadcast TV premiere of AN ANSWER FROM AKRON. The documentary tells a unique story about a group of young African American men who, at the height of the civil rights movement, were in the right place to answer a call for help.

Members of the local chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, the nation’s oldest African American fraternity, became the first black organization to receive federal funding for affordable housing. With virtually no experience, these men launched a program to provide housing for their friends and families who had been displaced from their homes due to an aggressive urban renewal program. This achievement is historic not only because it was the first of its kind, but because it also represents a successful case study in affordable housing, for it is still in operation today more than 50 years later.

AN ANSWER FROM AKRON tells how local members of Alpha Phi Alpha combatted racial barriers and ultimately succeeded in building affordable housing for those in need. While similar projects in other cities have failed and been demolished, those in Akron continue to thrive and serve their original purpose.

Drew Perkins of Rubicon Productions directed the production.

Interviews conducted for station history project

Independent producer Drew Perkins and crew were in studio the week of Jan. 20 to record interviews with a number of past and current PBS Western Reserve staff, board members and supporters. The interviews are part of the station’s history project being coordinated by President and CEO Trina Cutter.
**Educational Services**

**Multimedia project illustrates computer science standards**

PBS Western Reserve is in the process of producing six short videos that will show teachers how computer science can be incorporated into subjects such as math, science and social studies. Commonly seen at the high school level in Ohio, the introduction of voluntary computer science standards in younger grades is just beginning. The videos also address why computer science is vital for our future workforce and include insights from employers.

PBS Western Reserve is pleased to be working with the Ohio Department of Education’s Office of Learning and Instructional Strategies and the Broadcast Educational Media Commission to help teachers better integrate computer science instruction into the classroom.

**Educators learn about augmented reality**

Christine Danhoff from Genoa Local Schools recently conducted advanced augmented reality training for educators at PBS Western Reserve.

**Six District Compact meeting held**

In January, more than 40 teachers from area Six District Compact schools attended an educator training session. Attendees learned about the latest programs offered by the collaboration.

**Staff attends Learning Innovations Conference**

PBS Western Reserve participated in the Learning Innovations Conference for educators, which was held on Nov. 5 at Kent State University. Staff member Keith Nedved presented on the services that our organization provides for educators.

**Code.org training offered to educators**

Educators attended Code.org administrator training in November and computer science training in January. November’s training was open to any Ohio school administrator or school guidance counselor looking to find additional information on how a school can incorporate this curriculum.

Code.org has developed elementary school curriculum that allows even the youngest students to explore the limitless world of computing. Courses blend online, self-guided and self-paced tutorials with “unplugged” classroom activities that require no computer.

**Ohio’s educational technology agencies meet**

PBS Western Reserve met with Ohio’s other educational technology agencies in January. The purpose was for educational training consultants and agency directors to discuss future initiatives for the statewide organizations.

**Technology leaders meet at station**

In December, 40 members of the Northeast Ohio chapter of Tech Integration Leaders of Ohio met at PBS Western Reserve. Lunch was provided and program support came from Xtek Partners. Attendees gained hands-on experience with 3D printing, virtual reality experiences and interactive touch-screen boards.
WEAO antenna moves to permanent broadcast site

As part of the FCC’s Spectrum Auction Repack, WEAO (serving Akron-Canton-Cleveland) began broadcasting on its newly assigned frequency on Aug. 2, 2019. The station was initially broadcasting from an interim side-mount antenna while the main transmission line and top-mount antenna for the new frequency were replaced. On Dec. 20, a helicopter was used to remove the old top-mount antenna and install the new one.

Although much preparation and staging was required, the entire chopper lift from takeoff to landing took just 22 minutes to remove the old antenna and lift the new one in place. WEAO began broadcasting from its new, permanent broadcast facilities on Dec. 27.

Board of Directors News

New board members welcomed

PBS Western Reserve welcomes Stephen Colecchi, Nicole Mullet and Wendy Turner to its board of directors.

Stephen Colecchi is CEO of Hattie Larlham, a nonprofit entity that provides services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. From 1994 to 2016, he was president and CEO of University Hospitals Portage Medical Center. He is a 1976 graduate of Kent State University and earned his Juris Doctor from The University of Akron School of Law in 1979.

Nicole Mullet is the executive director of ArtsNow, an organization that helps to build and strengthen a thriving Summit County arts and culture scene. She is a graduate of Leadership Akron Class 34, serves as secretary of the board of the Gay Community Endowment Fund of the Akron Community Foundation and serves on the board of United Disability Services.

Wendy Turner is executive director and general manager of public radio station WKSU. She joined the station in 2016 and previously worked for Chicago Public Media and Minnesota Public Radio. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Olaf College in Minnesota.
Trina Cutter attends statewide bill signing

On Dec. 12, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed into effect S.B. 77, which designates June 12 as Women Veterans Day. President and CEO Trina Cutter attended the signing because of her role as a board member of the Ohio Women Veterans Foundation.


Jeff Good to lead service center’s board

Jeff Good, chief education technology officer, was elected president of the Mahoning County ESC governing board in January. He has served on the board since February 2017.

Good attends conferences for educators

Jeff Good attended the following conferences:

- Regional Broadband Forum meeting in Caldwell, Ohio, in January. The meeting highlighted the broadband capabilities and future broadband plans for the state.


- Ohio School Boards Capital Conference in November in Columbus, where he presented “Ohio’s New Tech Standards—Where Do They Fit?”

Plan to Rescan?

If you use an antenna to watch WNEO Channel 45, you will need to rescan your TV on March 14 to continue receiving it.

Need help? Call 1-888-225-5322 or visit PBSWesternReserve.org/rescan.