STORIES ABOUT US

Documentary about water access and affordability in Ohio premieres

AND WATER FOR ALL, a production about water issues in Ohio, premiered on Oct. 12 exclusively on PBS Western Reserve. It was produced by Ramiro Berardo, a professor in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University.

Building and maintaining the physical infrastructure to deliver high-quality, affordable water to Ohio’s citizens is a costly endeavor, and how to pay for these important investments can lead to heightened levels of social and political conflict. The documentary examines the challenges that governmental and nongovernmental actors will face to secure access to clean, affordable water in the coming decades.

The production, plus options for financial assistance programs for water and sewage rates in Ohio counties, is available at https://www.PBSWesternReserve.org/luminus/and-water-for-all.

Iconic local series begins new season

AROUND AKRON WITH BLUE GREEN, a local series about the best of everything in Akron, began its seventh season on PBS Western Reserve on Oct. 24.

The season premiere featured local artists plus efforts to preserve local history. The entire series is available for viewing on demand at PBSWesternReserve.org.
Ohio Ready to Learn training sessions begin

Free training for early childhood education professionals through the Ohio Ready to Learn program will begin in November. Attendees may choose from 18 sessions that are offered virtually or in person.

Ohio Learns 360 projects continue

The Educational Services staff continues to work on Ohio Learns 360, a statewide educational initiative that targets kindergarten through fifth-grade students from underserved communities. Activities include the following:

- An AfterSchool 360 virtual session featuring the PBS Kids show PINKALICIOUS AND PETERRIFIC.
- AfterSchool 360 webinars held from September through May.
- Training for PBS Western Reserve’s Camp-in-a-Box facilitators beginning in October.
- A virtual field trip to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.
- “Closing the Gap” family webinar.

The project wraps up September 2025.

New project to support writing skills

PBS Western Reserve has begun production of a new multimedia project, “Everyday Writing with Coach Write,” which will focus on improving writing skills for students in Grades K-3.

Using a team coaching theme, the project will include short video segments that emphasize everyday writing concepts. The project also will include short videos for parents that offer activities that can be done at home.

In June, the station will host related outreach events at local libraries.

Ohio’s Broadcast Educational Media Commission (BEMC), in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education, is providing funding for the project.

Two PBS Western Reserve productions are award finalists

PBS Western Reserve received two nominations in the National Educational Telecommunications Association’s 54th annual Public Media Awards.

“Best Practices in Closing the Pandemic Learning Gap in Ohio’s Schools” was nominated in the Learning Event category. The five-part interactive webinar was developed in collaboration with the Broadcast Educational Media Commission and the Ohio Department of Education.

“TRAINING FOR FREEDOM,” a 30-minute production that premiered exclusively on PBS Western Reserve (WNEO / WEAO) in February, was nominated in the Independent Producer category. It was produced by Richard Campbell, PhD, professor emeritus of journalism at Miami University. The production chronicles how idealistic college students and Black activists came together in Oxford, Ohio, in 1964 to fight for civil rights. It is available for free viewing on demand at PBSWesternReserve.org.

While neither project won an award, it was an honor to receive national nominations that honor the best work from across the public media system.
Community Outreach

Station to host children’s event in Niles

PBS Western Reserve hosted an appearance by Xavier Riddle from the PBS KIDS series XAVIER RIDDLE AND THE SECRET MUSEUM on Saturday, Nov. 12, at the McKinley Birthplace Museum in Niles, Ohio. Participants got to meet and take photos with Xavier, take part in story time and coloring activities, receive free goodie bags and more.

Daniel Tiger visits children in Youngstown

On Sept. 18, PBS Western Reserve hosted an appearance by PBS Kids character Daniel Tiger at Be My Neighbor Day, held at Oh Wow! Science Center in Youngstown. The event was sponsored by PNC Grow Up Great and The Fred Rogers Foundation. Children could meet and have their photo taken with Daniel Tiger, plus receive book bags, Daniel Tiger books and school supplies. Families also created hanging bird feeders to take home.

Station production featured at film festival

The PBS Western Reserve production MONUMENTAL DEVOTION: THE MCKINLEY NATIONAL MEMORIAL was selected to be shown at the fourth annual American Presidents Film & Literary Festival in Fremont, Ohio, held Sept. 30–Oct. 1. In addition to the showing, two cast members who were featured in the documentary hosted a discussion.

StephanieVirgallito, digital marketing and community engagement specialist, attended the event on behalf of PBS Western Reserve.

 PBS Western Reserve cohosts Holocaust film event

On Sept. 7, PBS Western Reserve partnered with Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage to host an event featuring a 45-minute screening of the new documentary THE U.S. AND THE HOLOCAUST, a Q&A session and a panel discussion. Directed by Ken Burns, Lynn Novick and Sarah Botstein, the film explores one of the greatest humanitarian crises in history.

The event took place at the museum, which is located in Beachwood, Ohio.
Staff News

New employees welcomed

In September, PBS Western Reserve welcomed KJ Archer to the position of member services representative. He is primarily responsible for ensuring a positive membership experience and handling in-house membership customer relations, data entry and membership database maintenance.

Anthony Catalano joined the station in October as administrative assistant. His responsibilities include providing administrative support to all departments within the station and assisting with executive administrative tasks such as board meeting and daily meeting minutes. He also provides feedback and assistance with station marketing and publications.

Fred Barrett offers educational instruction to students

Fred Barrett, emerging media learning and development manager, offered instruction on digital content creation recently to area high school students.

In early August Barrett presented a Digital Content Training series at the Mayor’s Youth Leadership Council Teen Leadership Workshop at The University of Akron. The interactive leadership workshop was geared toward giving students in Grades 9-12 the tools to help lead their peers and communities.

Barrett is providing a podcast presentation as an instructor in the 2022 Media Academy for area high school students. The eight-week program is sponsored by Cleveland.com and The Plain Dealer.

Barrett also provided instruction on social media branding and digital content creation at Ellet High School Community Learning Center on Oct. 5. He participated as part of a partnership with United Way and Akron Public Schools.

Jeff Good appointed to education board

Jeff Good, chief education technology officer, was recently appointed to the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center governing board in Canfield. The center provides career courses and education to middle school, high school and adult learners. Good was appointed by the Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio, on whose governing board he has served since 2017.

Jeff Good’s son marries

Dan Good, son of employee Jeff Good and his wife, Laura, married Rachel Vaught on Oct. 14. The couple honeymooned in Florida and now reside in Columbus.