Two PBS Western Reserve productions win industry awards

Two documentaries that premiered on PBS Western Reserve in 2021—LINES BROKEN: THE STORY OF MARION MOTLEY and BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME: JOURNEY TO CANTON—won multiple awards recently.

LINES BROKEN won three awards, including a gold award for Television—Documentary, announced in May at the 43rd Annual Telly Awards. This event that honors excellence in video and television across all screens. In addition, the documentary won a regional Emmy award in the Documentary Historical category. The winners were announced at the 53rd Central Great Lakes Regional Emmy Awards gala, which was held in July in Carmel, Ind.

Also at the Telly Awards, BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME won a silver award for Television—Cultural and a bronze award for Television—Museums & Galleries.

Both documentaries were co-directed by James Waters of Waters Media, LLC, and Shaun Horrigan of Fog City Multimedia LLC. They are available for free viewing on demand at PBSWesternReserve.org.
THE OHIO & ERIE CANAL premieres exclusively on PBS Western Reserve

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 premiered exclusively on PBS Western Reserve on Tuesday, July 12.

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 & 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.

The documentary is available for free viewing on demand at PBSWesternReserve.org.

New facilities expand and enhance production possibilities

August 3, 2022, is a day to remember. For the first time in PBS Western Reserve’s 50+ history the station has a professional broadcast studio capable of producing many different types of studio productions.

Prior to this, the station either outsourced studio production or pulled together a makeshift studio using cameras, lights and audio equipment intended for field production.

This project has been five years in the making. Thanks to a 2017-2019 State of Ohio Capital Budget award, administered by Kent State University, the station was able to separate the HVAC system in our large multipurpose room from the rest of the building. This started the process of transforming that room into a beautiful studio, fully equipped production control center and dedicated audio booth capable of doing just about any studio production imaginable.

In August we used the studio to prerecord pledge breaks, but it won’t be long before you will hear us say, “Live from Kent, Ohio … it’s PBS Western Reserve!”
**Community Outreach**

**Kite-flying event celebrates BEN FRANKLIN program**

On Saturday, June 18, more than 60 children and parents attended the station’s Go Fly a Kite with PBS Western Reserve event held at Youngstown’s main library branch. The grant-funded event was part of educational outreach events held in celebration of the April premiere of Ken Burns’ documentary BEN FRANKLIN.

**Station members enjoy exclusive “Downton Abbey” event**

Approximately 70 station members attended an early preview of the movie “Downton Abbey: A New Era” on May 18 at Regal Montrose in Akron. This exclusive member benefit included complimentary concession items and the opportunity to win door prizes.

**Educational Services**

**Station participation in Ohio Learns 360 statewide initiative begins**

The Educational Services staff is beginning Ohio Learns 360 projects. This statewide endeavor is a collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio’s public TV stations.

The two-year initiative targets kindergarten through fifth-grade students from underserved communities. Projects include training personnel in the use of “camps in a box,” which are self-contained activities for children grades K-5; development and delivery of virtual after-school webinars for children and parents; and more. The project wraps up in September 2025.

**Cyberchase: Green It Up programs held**

Multiple Cyberchase: Green it Up activities were held at local libraries, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Oh Wow! Children’s Science Center and virtually. Five modules focused on subjects such as pollinators, container gardening and composting, culminating with children focusing their efforts on environmental issues pertaining to their communities. The project, funded through WNET, wrapped up in July.
Staff News

Holly Cartwright joins Educational Services staff

Holly Cartwright joined us on June 27 as educational services project manager. She has 20 years of teaching experience and most recently was an elementary teacher for Crestwood City Schools. She specializes in differentiated literacy instruction for inclusive classrooms for both special education and gifted populations in the elementary grades.

Cartwright will be instrumental in managing Ohio Learns 360—our newest statewide project—along with other grant-supported projects in early learning. She also will support our Ohio Ready to Learn activities.

Randy Lipscomb graduates from Leadership Akron

Randy Lipscomb, account executive, graduated in the 35th class of Leadership Stark County on June 3. He was selected by his peers to be one of three graduation speakers and also to be head of the alumni committee.

Leadership Stark County is a 10-month program that engages and educates area community leaders through a range of programs tailored to meet business and community needs.

Jeff Good is now educational content reviewer

Jeff Good, chief education technology officer, has received approval to serve as a content reviewer for the Ohio Professional Learning Directory. This statewide catalog will list high-quality professional learning resources for use by Ohio educators.

Staff members participate in PBS Data Literacy Bootcamp

PBS Western Reserve employees Ryan Donchess, production manager, and Stephanie Virgallito, digital marketing & community engagement specialist, are among a select few who have been chosen to participate in PBS Data Literacy Bootcamp.

The program is a professional development opportunity for station staff that combines virtual coursework, in-depth discussions with subject matter experts and immersive training to help staff and stations use data to make informed and strategic decisions.