



press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 receives two grants to develop new curriculum packages for local schools

\$210,000 in grants to be used to create history multimedia productions

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KENT, Ohio — Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006 — PBS 45 & 49 has received two \$105,000 grants from eTech Ohio to produce two multimedia curriculum packages for area schools. The first grant will fund an instructional project for grades 5-8 about the U.S. Constitution and the three branches of government. The second grant will fund *The Decades* (working title), which focuses on 20th-century American history for students in grade 10. Both projects will meet Ohio educational content standards and will be available free of charge to schools in fall 2006.

PBS 45 & 49 received the multimedia production grants through eTech Ohio, the state government's agency that coordinates educational technology initiatives. "Projects about the Constitution and American history from 1920 through 1960 were the PBS 45 & 49 Curriculum Committee's top choices for topics that would be helpful to teachers," said Maria Mastromatteo, the station's director of educational services. She added that the Constitution production will help schools comply with a new federal mandate to improve instruction on the U.S. Constitution.

Both multimedia packages will include instructional videos, Web sites and teacher guides produced by PBS 45 & 49 and teachers from area schools. The following local teachers are contributing to one or both of the projects: Jay Wise and Steve Zimmerer from Copley-Fairlawn City Schools; Jack Amhrein and Jeremy Hughes from Kent City Schools; Cathy Page Adler from Ravenna City Schools; Rob Howerton from Norton City Schools; Toni Stephens from Rootstown Local Schools; and retired educator Ric Hughes of Ravenna.

Over the past five years, PBS 45 & 49 has produced 14 free educational multimedia productions through eTech Ohio grants totalling more than \$1 million. In addition, the Educational Services staff has conducted free workshops about the productions for more than 500 teachers. The video components of the projects also air in the station's instructional television broadcast schedule. One of the productions, *Ama-Zone! The Rain Forest Project*, won a Cleveland regional Emmy award.

About PBS 45 & 49 Educational Services

Funded in large part by the state of Ohio through eTech, PBS 45 & 49 Department of Educational Services initiatives serve 264,000 students and 21,500 educators in eight Ohio counties: Carroll, Columbiana, Mahoning, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull and Wayne. Every year, PBS 45 & 49 trains more than 2,400 educators in the use of the latest educational technologies, and provides support services to educators and students for Web-based projects, distance learning, instructional television programming and multimedia instructional content.

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of non-commercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

PBS 45 & 49 Free Multimedia Projects, 2001-2006

The following educational multimedia projects have been produced by PBS 45 & 49 in the past five years. All projects listed offer teacher guides and Web sites. To view the Web sites, go to www.pbs4549.org/itv.

Ama-Zone! The Rain Forest Project

Five 10-minute videos and interactive CD-ROM; produced in 2001

The main goal of this simulation is for students to understand that their actions have an effect on the rain forest and, in turn, the rain forest has an effect on them.

Antarctica: 90 Degrees South

Five 10-minute videos; produced in 2004

Students explore the biological diversity of Antarctica, its geology, geography and weather. They debate the necessity of balance between progress and preservation on this important continent.

It's a Gas! Math & Science of the Blimp

Eleven 10-minute videos and interactive CD-ROM/DVD; produced in 2004

PBS 45 & 49 collaborated with Akron historians and blimp enthusiasts to help students learn about science through the story of the Goodyear blimp.

The Language of Trauma and Loss

Four 10-minute videos; produced in 2005

Tied to language arts educational standards, this series allows students to express feelings of loss or trauma. Professionals from the Trauma and Loss Clinic at Canton's Mercy Medical Center provided content advice.

Masters of Gravity: Soap Box Derby Math & Science

Eight 10-minute videos and interactive CD-ROM/DVD; produced in 2003

Two children use math and science principles to build a Soap Box Derby car. Local experts from the Soap Box Derby and The University of Akron provided curriculum support.

Math & Science Gumbo

Five 10-minute videos; produced in 2005

Food and cooking are used to teach many principles of math and science.

Media Moments

Four 10-minute videos; produced in 2001

Students go behind the scenes to see how television news programs are produced.

108 Stitches: The Physics in Baseball

Four 7-minute videos; produced in 2004

The science-based curriculum uses the game of baseball to demonstrate basic principles of physics.

One State - Many Nations: Native Americans in Ohio

Five 10-minute videos; produced in 2004

Students learn about the rich cultural and historical heritage of the Native American nations of Ohio.

Sharing Art

Fifteen 15-minute videos; produced in 2001

Students learn about art pieces in local museums and hear local artists describe how they create comparable art.

Shortcuts to Happiness: The Performing Arts

Ten 14-minute videos; produced in 2005

With the help of northeast Ohio performing arts organizations, this series demonstrates real-world applications of the techniques taught in performing arts classes.

Speaking of History ... Doing Oral History Projects

One 30-minute video; produced in 2002

This multicultural and interdisciplinary project emphasizes the practice of collaboration in collecting and archiving oral histories.

Test Quest

Three 7-minute videos; produced in 2002

Students discover their own learning styles in this three-part series designed to help students study and pass tests, including proficiency tests.

You Be the Producer

Four five-minute videos; produced in 2005

Students learn about the process of putting together a classroom video from beginning to end.