

INVISIBLE STRUGGLES

Stories of Northern Segregation

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Warren Town Hall Forum to Discuss Race Relations

*Feb. 1 forum to include PBS 45 & 49 premiere of documentary
Invisible Struggles: Stories of Northern Segregation*

KENT, Ohio – Dec. 15, 2006 – Coinciding with the PBS 45 & 49 premiere of **Invisible Struggles: Stories of Northern Segregation**, a town hall forum discussing issues of race relations in Trumbull County will be held on Thursday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. at the W.D. Packard Music Hall in Warren.

The first hour of the forum will be taped for broadcast by PBS 45 & 49 and will air following **Invisible Struggles**. The documentary will air on Monday, Feb. 5 at 9 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 12:30 a.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. The town hall forum broadcast will air on Monday, Feb. 5 at 10 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 1:30 a.m. and Sunday, Feb. 11 at 3 p.m.

Gene Shelton, professor and academic diversity adviser, Kent State University School of Journalism and Mass Communication, will moderate the forum, which will include a screening of the documentary; a question-and-answer session with the filmmakers, students and interviewees; and a panel discussion.

Participants on the panel include Michael J. O'Brien, mayor of Warren; Bob Faulkner, longtime civil rights activist; Frederick Harris, documentary subject and former Warren public safety director; Molly Merryman, director and executive producer of **Invisible Struggles** and professor of justice studies at Kent State University's Trumbull Campus; and Ken Bindas, assistant director of the production and professor of history at Kent State Trumbull.

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Produced by



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Town Hall Forum — 2

The documentary evolved from a special topics class, Civil Rights in America: 1954-1964, that Merryman and Bindas taught in the fall of 2002. Students in the class interviewed Warren-area black residents who were civil rights activists or who witnessed or experienced racial segregation. As the oral history project progressed, the professors became aware of the significance and importance of the findings. "The honesty of the subjects in sharing their stories made us realize that we could document this form of cultural segregation through oral history," Bindas said.

The **Invisible Struggles** project has grown to include a high school history essay contest to be held in February 2007, where local high school students will be invited to participate in the forum and submit reflective essays with the opportunity to compete for Kent State Trumbull scholarships. Also in February, **Invisible Struggles** producers will release a curriculum guide for northeast Ohio schools to use in conjunction with the documentary.

The town hall forum broadcast is being underwritten by the Kent State President's Office, KSU Division of Regional Development, KSU Trumbull Campus, KSU Departments of Justice Studies and History and the Trumbull Diversity Council. For more information about the forum, call KSU Trumbull Campus at (330) 675-7615.

About Kent State University's Trumbull Campus

Kent State University's Trumbull Campus, located just north of the Route 5 bypass on State Route 45 in Warren, OH, offers programs at the freshman and sophomore level in 170 majors, along with 18 certificates and 15 associate degree programs. Junior/senior level coursework is offered for baccalaureate degree completion in applied communication, business management, English, general studies, justice studies, nursing, psychology, and technology. The Workforce Development and Continuing Studies Center at Kent State Trumbull provides non-credit training to individuals and businesses covering more than 60 areas of study. Kent State Trumbull faculty and the Workforce Development instructors are positioned to provide the tools that will make you and your company more productive, competitive, and efficient within a constantly evolving global economy.

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 noncommercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit www.pbs4549.org or call 1-800-854-4549.

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