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NewsNight Akron to welcome Akron Public Schools superintendents

Host Eric Mansfield to discuss school system’s challenges with David James and Dr. Sylvester Small

KENT, Ohio — April 16, 2008 — David James, the Akron Public Schools’ newly appointed superintendent, joins Eric Mansfield on NewsNight Akron this Friday, April 18, at 9 p.m. The program repeats on Saturday, April 19 at 5 a.m.

James, whose appointment will begin on Aug. 1, 2008, takes over a district facing tough challenges with declining enrollment at a time when the system is undergoing an $800 million makeover with new and renovated school buildings. James, who has two children attending the Akron Schools, comes with high praise from city and education leaders, despite having never served as either a teacher or principal.

James began his career in the district in 1992, serving as the environmental program manager and as the energy, environmental health and safety manager. He was promoted to executive director of business affairs in 2002. In his current position, James is responsible for the operations side of the district and the $800 million building project. He is actively involved in the Harvard ExEL initiative to improve teaching and learning. James earned a bachelor of arts degree in economics and a master’s degree in Public Administration, both from Cleveland State University.

Dr. Sylvester Small, the current superintendent who announced his plans to retire in November 2007, will also appear on the program to discuss the transition of power, which is set to take place later this summer, and the tough road ahead for his successor.

About PBS 45 & 49
PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community
About NewsNight Akron

NewsNight Akron airs every Friday night at 9 p.m. on PBS 45 & 49 and offers spontaneous, lively, in-depth discussions about issues that affect the lives of people in greater Akron. Hosted by Eric Mansfield, Akron-Canton news anchor for WKYC-TV3, NewsNight Akron features a roundtable discussion with a panel of local journalists that covers both breaking news stories on topics such as education, the community and local business, as well as ongoing subjects including elections and major news stories. Serving as regular panelists on the show are Steve Hoffman, political writer at the Akron Beacon Journal; Jody Miller, editor and publisher of Bath Country Journal; and Ed Esposito, Joe Jastremski and Larry States, all of whom are members of the Rubber City Radio Group news staff.

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