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news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ideastream Public Media, PBS Western Reserve and the University of Akron Partner to Broadcast the Akron Roundtable

AKRON ROUNDTABLE Television Premiere Set for January

Akron, OH — Jan. 14, 2025 — Since 1976, the Akron Roundtable has brought new ideas to Akron. Now, PBS Western Reserve, Ideastream Public Media and the University of Akron’s Media Studies program are partnering with the Akron Roundtable to bring those ideas to the region at large — starting Jan. 23.

“Akron Roundtable is thrilled to partner with Ideastream Public Media, PBS Western Reserve and the University of Akron’s ZTV. With a nearly 50-year tradition of ‘bringing the world to Akron,’ we look forward to sharing our monthly Signature Series programs with new audiences around the world who are unable to join us in person for the live event,” said Barry Dunaway, president of the Akron Roundtable Board of Directors.

The Akron Roundtable’s *Signature Series* will broadcast monthly across three public media channels, offering widespread access to thought-provoking presentations on a wide range of topics from speakers of global, national and regional importance. This unique partnership was developed to educate, illuminate and inspire Northeast Ohio through elevating local voices and resources.

Each episode of AKRON ROUNDTABLE will air the following Thursday after the roundtable at 6 PM on PBS Western Reserve's Fusion channel (WNEO 45.2 / WEAO 49.2) and on the first Sunday in the month following the roundtable at 2 PM on WVIZ (WVIZ 25.1) and The Ohio Channel (WVIZ 25.2). Ideastream Public Media will also continue its 8 PM radio broadcast of AKRON ROUNDTABLE on the first Thursday in the month following the roundtable on WKSU (89.7 FM). Additionally, the series will be available to stream on-demand on the [Akron Roundtable](#), [PBS Western Reserve](#) and [Ideastream](#) websites, and the [PBS App](#).

"This bold vision to bring the Akron Roundtable Signature Series beyond the WKSU airwaves and to television audiences exemplifies the power of collaboration — a guiding principle of Ideastream Public Media," said Kevin Martin, president and CEO of Ideastream Public Media. "By bringing together the Akron Roundtable, PBS Western Reserve and The University of Akron, we forged a first-of-its-kind partnership that will now deliver the series across Northeast Ohio through radio and two local PBS stations; and the state of Ohio, distributed by the Ohio Channel; and beyond through YouTube. Together, we're better equipped to meet the needs and interests of the communities we serve."

"This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to fostering meaningful dialogue, promoting education and enriching the cultural fabric of Northeast Ohio. Together, we aim to bring impactful discussions to everyone across our region and beyond," said Natalie Pillsbury, president and CEO of PBS Western Reserve.

AKRON ROUNDTABLE will be recorded by media studies students working for the ZTV television station at the University of Akron. The students will be guided by PBS Western Reserve and Ideastream producers, offering a valuable, hands-on learning experience.

The first episode of the television broadcast of AKRON ROUNDTABLE will feature Jeannette Sorrell, the founder and conductor of Apollo's Fire. The episode will premiere Thursday, Jan. 23, at 6 PM on Fusion; Sunday, Feb. 2, at 2 PM on WVIZ; and Thursday, Feb. 6, at 2 PM on WKSU.

Upcoming speakers include the president of Feeding America, Linda Nageotte; Cuyahoga Valley National Park Superintendent Lisa Petit; and the president and CEO of the Knight Foundation, Maribel Pérez Wadsworth.

About Akron Roundtable

The Akron Roundtable was established in 1976 as a community forum to invite engaging speakers to Akron and bring bold, creative and new ideas to the region. To date, more than 500 major corporate executives, writers, government officials, artists, and civic leaders from around the country have shared their thoughts on subjects of global, national, and regional importance with the Akron Roundtable audiences.

About Ideastream Public Media

Ideastream Public Media serves as Ohio's largest independent, publicly supported media organization. Ideastream is the home of Northeast Ohio's PBS, NPR and classical and jazz music public broadcasting stations: WVIZ, WKSU, WCLV and JazzNEO. Free programs and services are made available to 3.6 million people in 22 counties across radio, TV and digital platforms, meeting the communities we serve where and when they need us. All our content is accessible online at ideastream.org, the Ideastream Public Media App, the PBS App, the NPR One App, and on major social media and digital content platforms.

About PBS Western Reserve

PBS Western Reserve is the brand name of Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. A trusted community resource, PBS Western Reserve uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population of Ohio's eight PBS member stations.

PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of Northeast Ohio. It is available to 4.9 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. The organization also operates two standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEO 49.2) and FNX (WNEO 45.3 / WEO 49.3).

About Z-TV

Z-TV is the student-run television station at The University of Akron. Created as a career-development program, Z-TV provides students with the opportunity to get experienced in creating content for television, video production, and social media. The quality of the work produced by our students has been recognized with a variety of awards, including 13 Student Production Awards from the Central Great Lakes Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Whether students are looking for a career in media or just have an interest in developing skills, Z-TV welcomes students from all areas of study to create content, from field recordings to live broadcasting/streaming, and even working with real clients on campus and in our community.

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