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news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Scientists Featured in Documentary on 2024 Total Solar Eclipse

*The film “Gathered in Darkness” to premiere on PBS Western Reserve
on Saturday, June 14, at 10 p.m.*

Kent, OH — June 3, 2025 — There won’t be another total solar eclipse in Ohio until 2099, but the memory of last year’s April 8 eclipse has been captured in an upcoming documentary, “[Gathered in Darkness](#),” which will premiere exclusively in Ohio on PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1) on Saturday, June 14, at 10 p.m. The film documents the 2024 Citizen Continental-America Telescopic Eclipse (CATE 2024) project at multiple stops along the path of totality, including in Northeast Ohio.

CATE 2024, funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and NASA, placed 35 identical telescope setups along the path of totality from Texas to Maine. Community scientists then collected polarized images of the eclipse, allowing scientists to better understand the sun’s corona, the outermost layer of the sun.

“While the film covers what the CATE 2024 project is and the value of science and data collection, it more importantly follows the community scientists who were involved in the project,” said Daniel Zietlow, the documentary’s filmmaker and educational designer at NSF National Center for Atmospheric Research, a major partner in CATE.

11 local participants, who operated as part of CATE’s “Team 24,” included team leader Marcia Long; Katrina Halasa, the supervisor for science and health K–12 for Akron Public Schools; and student scientists Elijah Fleming and Ogheneovo Erho from Garfield CLC, Stella Cundiff from Akron Early College, and Edward McHenry III from Buchtel CLC, among others.

“From first getting to know one another, learning each person’s strengths, diligent practice sessions for learning to use new tools and techniques, to moving a giant pile of mulch at our observation site to assure the perfect setup location, it was a once in a lifetime experience,” said Long.

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Halasa looks forward to the documentary's premiere, especially for her students.

"Sharing experiences like this is vital because it helps shift the narrative of who belongs in science. Too often, scholars — especially those from historically underrepresented backgrounds — don't see themselves in these kinds of roles," said Halasa in a [statement](#). "Projects like Citizen CATE and platforms like PBS help widen the lens. They show that science is not confined to labs or textbooks — it can be hands-on, local, and accessible."

Following its broadcast premiere, "Gathered in Darkness" will be available to watch on the free [PBS App](#), the [PBS Western Reserve website](#) and [YouTube](#).

About PBS Western Reserve

PBS Western Reserve is the brand name of Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. PBS Western Reserve empowers Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania through the impact of accessible public media and educational services to foster connection and lifelong learning, presenting to the region cultural, scientific and artistic programming for awareness and enjoyment; local storytelling and access to trusted regional, state and national public affairs; experiential opportunities and community outreach for people of all ages; and educational initiatives that support the healthy development of our youth.

About NCAR

The U.S. National Science Foundation National Center for Atmospheric Research (NSF NCAR) is a global leader in Earth system science. NSF NCAR advances scientific breakthroughs by providing the research community with cutting-edge modeling, observational tools, and computing resources. This frontier research delivers critical insights that protect lives, support the economy, and strengthen national security.

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