

For Immediate Release
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*WBGU-PBS Airs Four Regional Public Forums
And "NW Ohio Journal Special-Economic Crossroads:
Retooling For The Future"*

Bowling Green, OH - How will Northwest and West Central Ohio emerge from the economic crisis? Tune in for a live, 2-hour program from WBGU-PBS' studio on Thursday, August 6, from 8 to 10 p.m.

"Economic development is one of the biggest challenges we have faced in Northwest and West Central Ohio since the draining of the Great Black Swamp!" said Patrick Fitzgerald, General Manager of WBGU-PBS and Director of Television Services at Bowling Green State University, who will be the program host and moderator. "We encourage people to share their ideas and opinions about economic development in the region."

Questions and comments can be emailed in advance to this address: economicdevelopment@wbgu.org. Or viewers can call in with questions or comments during the live program.

The first hour will focus on economic and business development in Northwest and West Central Ohio. Why are we in this position? How did we get here? Why do we need change to help rebound from our current economic situation? An overview and analysis of economic trends and recent employment figures will be presented.

First-hour guests include:

- Michael Carroll, Ph.D., Director, Center for Regional Development at BGSU;
- Rodney Rogers, Ph.D., Dean of BGSU's College of Business;
- Rodney Heiligmann, Ph.D., Director, Dallas-Hamilton Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at BGSU; and
- Sam Strausbaugh, President, Defiance Metal Products.

The second hour will focus on public policy issues. Guests include:

- Matt Huffman, State Representative (R), District 4;

- Randy Gardner, State Representative (R), District 6;
- Matt Szollosi, State Representative (D), District 49 (Also Speaker Pro Tempore); and
- Jerry Good, Regional Economic Development Director, Region 3, Ohio Department of Development.

Over the past two weeks, WBGU-PBS videotaped four regional public forums on economic development for broadcast on the station's fourth digital channel WBGU-DT4 Encore. The public forum broadcast schedule is as follows:

- Defiance Forum airs Sunday, Aug. 2 at 1 am, 7 am, 1 pm & 7 pm;
- Lima Forum airs Monday, Aug. 3 at 1 am, 7 am, 1 pm and 7 pm;
- Findlay Forum airs Tuesday, Aug. 4 at 1 am, 7 am, 1 pm & 7 pm;
- Fostoria Forum airs Wednesday, Aug. 5 at 1 am, 7 am, 1 pm & 7 pm;

The four public forums are also available for viewing online at the station's website <http://www.wbgu.org/economicdevelopment>.

These broadcasts are part of a larger community engagement project coordinated by WBGU-PBS, in partnership with BGSU's College of Business Administration.

In May, WBGU-PBS received a grant from the National Center for Media Engagement that provided seed money to facilitate community discussions about this important issue.

The goal of WBGU-PBS' community engagement project is to prioritize a coordinated list of regional economic development needs and develop a plan of action for WBGU-PBS and partners, which can be implemented in the fall of 2009 and beyond.

For more information on this project, go to wbgu.org/economicdevelopment or call the project coordinator, Denise Kisabeth, at 419.372.7378.