

'MAKERS: Women in Space' Featured at WKAR Community Cinema and Project 60/50

Free Screening and Conversation at WKAR

EAST LANSING, MI; SEPTEMBER 29, 2014 – WKAR Community Cinema returns in October with a screening and conversation about **Makers: Women in Space**. The new documentary chronicles the crucial and often unsung role women have played in the U.S. space program. This screening and conversation is a free presentation in partnership with **Project 60/50** at Michigan State University.

The WKAR Community Cinema event takes place **Thursday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m.** at WKAR in the Communication Arts and Sciences building on the Michigan State campus. The event is free, but online reservations are required at WKAR.org.

The evening begins with a screening of a short portion of the film and continues with conversation led by Michigan State University scientists Megan Donahue and Melanie Cooper.

Megan Donahue is a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at MSU, where she explores what clusters of galaxies can reveal about the history and contents of the universe, as well as how people learn about astronomy and science.

Melanie Cooper is Lappan-Phillips professor in the Department of Chemistry at MSU, where she specializes in chemistry education with a focus on approaches to teaching and learning.

About 'MAKERS: Women in Space'

MAKERS: Women in Space chronicles the crucial and often unsung role women have played in the US space program. The film is both a look back as well as a glimpse of the important role women will continue to play in the future of this field.

The story of women in the US space program starts in 1957, as the United States raced to beat the Soviet Union at sending a human being into orbit. Thirteen women were included in NASA's initial tests to select America's first astronauts and the rigorous testing proved that women were ready to go into space. But America wasn't yet ready to put women into space. Sally Ride would become the first woman to launch into space in 1983. By the 1990s, there were new milestones; Eileen Collins became the first woman pilot astronaut. Just a few years later, Collins became the first woman commander. The space race continues and women are in it.

The program includes interviews with Eileen Collins, as well as Sally Ride's classmates Shannon Lucid, Rhea Seddon and Kathryn Sullivan, and features Mae Jemison, the first woman of color astronaut, and Peggy Whitson, the first female commander of the International Space Station.

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On the Air

MAKERS: Women in Space airs Tuesday, Oct. 14, 9 p.m. on WKAR-HD.

About Project 60/50

Michigan State University facilitates a year-long community conversation on civil and human rights. Learn more at inclusion.msu.edu

Community Cinema is a groundbreaking public education and civic engagement initiative featuring screenings of films from Independent Lens on location in 100 cities and online. Between September and June, Community Cinema brings together leading organizations, community members and public television stations to learn, discuss and get involved in today's critical social issues.

The WKAR Network is part of Michigan State University's College of Communication Arts and Sciences. The WKAR Network provides mid-Michigan and the global community with award-winning original programming and the best from PBS and NPR via television channels WKAR-HD, WKAR World and WKAR Create; and radio broadcasts at 90.5 FM, AM 870 and WKAR Radio Reading Service. At WKAR.org and video.wkar.org, the network offers live audio streaming, plus local news features, TV original full episodes and the best from NPR and PBS on-demand. The WKAR Network provides additional community outreach with WKAR Ready to Learn Service and PBS LearningMedia.

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