

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**WKAR's "Curious Crew" debuts in Detroit market**
Award-winning STEM education project to air Fridays on WTVS

EAST LANSING, MI.; March 24, 2016 -- The WKAR original program "Curious Crew" will air on WTVS Detroit Public TV 56.1 on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. starting March 25 as part of a media partnership to bring more original content for children to the two stations' channels, apps and websites.

"Curious Crew" takes a hands-on approach to scientific exploration with host Rob Stephenson and a cast of inquisitive kids ages 8 to 14. The young explorers hail from across mid-Michigan and the Detroit area. Now in its second season, "Curious Crew" is a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education project from WKAR and is set at Impression 5 Science Center in Lansing.

"A key focus of the partnership with Detroit Public Television is to provide high quality educational content for children and families," said WKAR TV Station Manager Susi Elkins. "More than 500,000 children, parents and caregivers already connect to DPTV's programming, so we're thrilled to have 'Curious Crew' added to the mix."

The ten episodes coming to WTVS feature topics such as refraction of light, mechanical energy and more. A set of CuriosityGuides accompanies each episode, providing step-by-step instructions to help kids, educators and caregivers conduct their own investigations at home and in school. CuriosityGuides are available for download at wkar.org/programs/curious-crew.

Viewers can also explore additional STEM-based content through an interactive, game-driven website designed by researchers at the MSU College of Communication Arts and Sciences. The "Stem Game Crew" companion to "Curious Crew" can be found at stemgamecrew.org.

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"With our emphasis on STEM education, 'Curious Crew' is a great addition to our schedule," said Detroit Public TV Vice-President of Broadcasting Dave Devereaux. "We also like it because it's produced by WKAR and will help Detroit-area children and families discover fun things to do in Michigan."

All past episodes of "Curious Crew" can be viewed in the PBS Channel on iPad/iPhone and TV streaming devices such as Roku, Apple TV and Amazon Fire; and online at video.dptv.org and video.wkar.org.

Season two episodes originally aired in mid-Michigan on WKAR-TV earlier this year will repeat on that station Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. beginning April 2.

Open auditions for season three of "Curious Crew" will be Saturday, May 7, at WKAR on the MSU campus. Season three of the award-winning show will air on WKAR and Michigan PBS stations in Fall 2016 or Winter 2017.

"Curious Crew" is supported in part by Fifth Third Bank, TechSmith, Capital Area District Library, LAFCU and the John E. Fetzer Institute Fund of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

WTVS Detroit Public TV is watched each week by more than two million people in Southeast Michigan and throughout Canada.

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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