

***WBGU-PBS To Host Series of Regional Public Forums On
“Economic Crossroads: Retooling for the Future”***

The public is invited to attend a series of regional public forums to discuss economic development issues and some possible solutions. Meetings are scheduled from 7 – 8:30 p.m. in:

- Defiance – on Wednesday, July 22, in the Serrick Campus Center at The Defiance College; local partners include The Defiance College, *The Crescent-News* and First Federal Bank.
- Lima – on Thursday, July 23, in the City Club at the Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center; local partners include the Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center, the Allen County Economic Development Group, *The Lima News* and First Federal Bank.
- Findlay – on Tuesday, July 28, in the Alumni Memorial Union at the University of Findlay; local partner - the University of Findlay, *The Findlay Courier* and First Federal Bank.
- Fostoria – on Thursday, July 30, at the Roppe Training Center; local partners include the Roppe Holding Company, WSOS Community Action Commission and First Federal Bank.

These public forums are a follow-up to a Regional Economic Development Summit held at WBGU-PBS in early July and part of a larger community engagement project coordinated by WBGU-PBS, in partnership with BGSU’s College of Business Administration (**see feature article**).

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.

Rodney Heiligmann, Ph. D., Director of the Dallas-Hamilton Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at Bowling Green State University, will be facilitating each public forum.

The first 30 minutes of each public forum will be devoted to sharing information about economic development in this region:

- An overview of economic trends and recent employment figures will be presented.

- Rodney Rogers, Ph. D., Dean of the BGSU's College of Business will then interpret the information presented and provide a context for the numbers. Why are we in this position? How did we get here? Why do we need change to help rebound from our current economic situation?
- Finally, a local businessperson from the area will give a quick overview as to how they are making their small business work in these tough economic times.

The audience will then be invited to ask questions and share their ideas and opinions about economic development in the region.

WBGU-PBS will be videotaping the public forums for broadcast on WBGU-DT4. The forums will also be available for viewing online at the station's website wbgu.org/economicdevelopment.

This community engagement project will culminate with a live, two-hour ***NW Ohio Journal Special "Economic Crossroads: Retooling for the Future,"*** to be broadcast from 8 – 10 p.m. on Thursday, August 6.

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