

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## UNC-TV PARTNERS WITH NC DPI TO SUPPORT AT-HOME LEARNING On-Air & Streaming of Weekday Educational Programming Starts Monday, March 30

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC, 3/27/2020 — In its continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNC-TV Public Media North Carolina announced today that it is working with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to assist with stay-at-home solutions for students and their families or caregivers. For more than 65 years, UNC-TV has served as a trusted partner alongside parents and educators to provide quality educational content that is both free and accessible to North Carolina's children.

Starting Monday, March 30, UNC-TV will provide students in grades four through 12 with a robust schedule of programs designed to complement their schools' existing virtual learning efforts. These free educational resources are designed to be used by parents, caregivers and educators to help support and maintain learning for children during school closures. This multi-platform initiative includes PreK–12 educational programming online and on air, as well as additional robust resources through PBS LearningMedia.

The educational programming block will be available over the air on the North Carolina Channel and streamed live at unctv.org/athomelearning. This vetted, curriculum-informed programming is available Monday-Friday, from 8 AM-1 PM, for grades four through eight, and from 1-6 PM, for grades nine through 12 (actual times may vary, please check the weekly schedule online at unctv.org/ahl). This is an evolving effort on the part of UNC-TV and NC DPI and will be adapted as needed over coming weeks to best serve the needs of North Carolina's children.

"We are committed to helping our state's students receive the best possible education," said Joy Potts, director of UNC-TV's Children's Media & Education Services. "With a foundation in instructional media and 65 years of experience, we are uniquely positioned to assist North Carolina's public schools and students during this unprecedented time in our lives."

Additionally, programming developed for intellectual and emotional development of PreK through third grade students continues on UNC-TV's Rootle 24/7 PBS KIDS channel, as well as weekdays during a seven-hour block, from 6:30 AM-1:30 PM, on UNC-TV.

UNC-TV and PBS have also curated free, standards-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans and more at unctv.pbslearningmedia.org. Content is organized by grade and subject area, along with tips and techniques for engaging, effective at-home learning.

To support this at-home learning initiative, UNC-TV is launching a dedicated webpage Thursday available at unctv.org/athomelearning and a special *At-Home Learning* weekly e-newsletter Friday with the upcoming week's schedule information. Sign up for the Rootle e-newsletter at unc.tv/kidsnewsletter.

## **About UNC-TV Public Media North Carolina**

As North Carolina's statewide PBS network serving the country's third-largest public media market, UNC-TV educates, informs, entertains and inspires its statewide audience on-air, online and in-person. Through its unique partnership of public investment and private support, the statewide network includes in-person engagement, digital-first social and online content delivery, and four over-the-air channels—UNC-TV PBS & More, the North Carolina Channel, Rootle 24/7 PBS Kids and the Explorer Channel. Its transformational events and content spark curiosity and wonder for all North Carolinians. Additionally, UNC-TV serves as the backbone for North Carolina's state's emergency services. Visit unctv.org and join the conversation at facebook.com/publicmediaNC, instagram.com/publicmediaNC and @publicmediaNC on Twitter.

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