



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 26, 2015

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**WHRO RECEIVED NATIONAL AWARDS TO HONOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA**

NORFOLK: WHRO Public Media was the recipient of three awards from the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA), more than any other public media station. The honors were for achievements in Community Engagement Based on a Local Project, Community Engagement Based on a National Project, and Instructional Media.

On October 5, 2015, WHRO received awards for three station initiatives at the annual NETA national conference in Tampa, FL. These awards honor NETA members' achievements in community engagement, instructional media, promotion & marketing, and content production both online and broadcast.

WHRO's Great Computer Challenge received the award for Community Engagement Based on a Local Project. This exciting program, in its 30th year, is a joint project of WHRO, the Consortium for Interactive Instruction and Old Dominion University. This is a competitive opportunity for students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade to demonstrate their knowledge of various computer applications and programming skills. Categories include: Graphic Design, Desktop Publishing, Music Composition, Desktop Presentations, Web Design, Internet Scavenger Hunt, Integrated Applications, Scientific/Non-Business Programming, Visual Programming, CAD, JAVA Programming and Video Editing.

The award for Community Engagement Based on a National Project was for initiatives centered on Veterans issues – **Stories of Service** showcased national and local, multi-platform content while **Veterans Coming Home** focused on engagement and services available to service members. Working with community based partners WHRO publicized regional services for veterans and facilitated a dialogue about issues and solutions. WHRO connected veterans to local resources and support, and created original content centered on Veterans issues.

The award for Instructional Media was for WRHO's **Astronomy Online**. Virginia's Center For Virtual Learning at WHRO has developed a catalog of textbook independent online courses available to all Virginia schools covering core curriculum subjects, all correlated to Virginia's standards of learning. In **Astronomy Online**, students examine the universe, and Earth's place in it. Beginning with a basic introduction to astronomy, this course covers the known universe, including the Sun, stars, radiation and the electromagnetic spectrum, the larger Solar System and how astronomy influences everyday life. Through media-rich content, engaging assessments, simulations, and scientific investigations, students explore this sub-section of Earth Science throughout history and the universe.

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About WHRO: Since its founding in 1961 to support education, WHRO has utilized creativity and technology to serve the residents of southeast Virginia in its mission to educate, inform and entertain viewers and listeners of WHRO's four public television and eight public radio stations. Owned by 19 southeastern Virginia school divisions, WHRO also delivers online educational and new media services to 25,000 Educators & 280,000 Students Locally; 155,000 Educators & over 1.2 million Students Statewide.

About the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA): NETA is a professional association that serves public television licensees and educational entities in all 50 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Since 1967, our reason for existing has been to connect public television people and ideas by providing quality programming, educational resources, professional development, management support, and national representation.