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Press Contact:
Karen Frasca
617.300.5465
karen_frasca@wgbh.org

One Guest Street
Boston
Massachusetts
02135

617 300 2000 tel
617 300 1016 fax
wgbh.org

WGBH's *Greater Boston* kicks off six-part Project Dropout series with the personal story of a high school student from Lawrence

Tuesday, March 3 at 7pm on WGBH 2

www.projectdropout.org

Starting on March 3, the WGBH nightly news and public affairs program *Greater Boston* kicks off a six-part series about the Massachusetts high school dropout crisis. Hosted by Emily Rooney, *Greater Boston* examines how the state dropout rate affects everyone in the Commonwealth, from students and their families to state citizens and their communities.

The first segment focuses on 16-year-old Maggie, a student at Lawrence's High School Learning Center, who discusses the challenges of being a pregnant teen. *Greater Boston* examines how her daily struggle interfered with studies and led to poor life choices.

The series is one element of the collaborative Project Dropout, a multi-media journalistic examination by WGBH and fellow public broadcaster WBUR on the state's dropout crisis. Project Dropout aims to raise public awareness of this crisis and encourage public dialog. All content is centrally located at projectdropout.org, an interactive web site that invites viewers and users to comment, engage and share their own stories. The site's central feature is a collection of ongoing video diaries posted by nine high school students from across Massachusetts, including Maggie. For more on her personal journey, please visit www.projectdropout.org/meet-maggie/.

Project Dropout culminates with a one-hour live broadcast in front of a studio audience with Rooney, WBUR *Radio Boston*'s David Boeri and contributions from WGBH *One-on-One*'s Maria Hinojosa. The special airs on WGBH 2 at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, will be simulcast on WBUR and will stream live online on www.projectdropout.org. Viewers at home are invited to watch and chat online as well as respond to poll questions.

Funding for Project Dropout is generously provided by The Boston Foundation.



News

About WGBH

WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcaster, producing such celebrated national PBS series as *Masterpiece*, *Antiques Roadshow*, *Frontline*, *Nova*, *American Experience*, *Arthur*, *Curious George* and more than a dozen other award-winning primetime, lifestyle and children's series. Boston's last remaining independent TV station, WGBH produces local TV productions (among them, *Greater Boston*, *Basic Black* and *María Hinojosa: One-on-One*) that focus on the region's diverse community, while WGBH 89.7 FM is Boston's NPR Arts & Culture station, offering a rich menu of classical, jazz, blues, news programming and more. WGBH is the leading producer of online content for pbs.org—one of the most-visited dot-org sites on the Internet—a major producer for public radio and a pioneer in developing educational multimedia and new technologies that make media accessible for people with disabilities. For its efforts, WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors, including Oscars, Emmys, Peabodys and duPont-Columbia Journalism Awards. Visit WGBH on the Web at www.wgbh.org.

About WBUR

One of New England's leading sources of news and information, WBUR, 90.9 FM, is owned and operated by Boston University and is a member of National Public Radio. WBUR also broadcasts a selection of BBC programs and locally produced programs such as "Here & Now," "Only a Game," "On Point," and "Car Talk." WBUR has won more than 100 major awards for its news coverage, including several George Foster Peabody Awards, the Associated Press News Station of the Year for 2003-05, and three prestigious Edward R. Murrow Awards in the 2007 Radio-Television News Director Association's (RTNDA) annual national electronic journalism competition.

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