

Chicago Public Media®

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Chicago Public Media Purchases WKCC and Preserves Public Radio for Kankakee and Surrounding Region

WBEZ Programming will air on WKCC 91.1FM beginning December 18

CHICAGO-Chicago Public Media and WKCC, Kankakee Community College's public radio station, are excited to announce a sales agreement and transfer of ownership for the WKCC 91.1 FM broadcast license.

The sale comes more than five months after WKCC announced that due to budget constraints it would cease operations in December. This fall, Chicago Public Media bid on, and won the license to operate WKCC. The terms of the agreement were finalized this week.

"Our purchase of WKCC is a huge win for everyone who cares about preserving high quality public radio programming for the region," said Goli Sheikholeslami, president and CEO of Chicago Public Media. "We are so excited to provide the Kankakee area with WBEZ's rich and diverse news and information, including NPR's acclaimed news magazines *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*."

"Our community greatly values public radio and this transition to WBEZ will enable them to continue to enjoy the high-quality listening experience that they desire and deserve," said John Avendano, president of Kankakee Community College. "WKCC has proudly served our community for over seven years delivering public radio and while we're disappointed that funding issues forced us to sell our license, we are very happy that WBEZ will step in and keep public radio alive in the region."

WBEZ's programming will simulcast on WKCC, extending WBEZ's reach to an additional audience of more than 200,000 potential listeners in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

Final FCC approval of the license transfer is expected in early April.

About WBEZ Chicago

WBEZ 91.5 FM is the region's premier public media service and Chicago's exclusive station for NPR programming. Our mission is to amplify conversations that matter by telling

thought-provoking stories that entertain, capture emotion and inspire action. WBEZ produces two local shows *The Morning Shift* and *Worldview*, and successfully launched three nationally acclaimed programs: *This American Life*, *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!* (a co-production with NPR), and *Sound Opinions*. WBEZ Chicago is extending the public radio experience through a suite of digital products which enhances the current listener experience, while reaching new audiences.

For more information, please visit www.wbez.org.

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