OTTINGER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

(COLUMBIA, SC – November 19, 2018) The member services committee of NETA’s board of directors today named Carol Garber, education coordinator at Wyoming PBS and MiChelle Jones, communications manager at Nashville Public Television as the recipients of this year’s Richard E. Ottinger Scholarship to attend the 2019 NETA Conference and CPB Public Media Thought Leader Forum, January 21-24 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In announcing the scholarship news, NETA board chair Molly Phillips, executive director and general manager of Iowa Public Television, said, “The candidates for this year’s Ottinger Scholarship were a glimpse into the amazing talent that exists across public media. The two recipients – one from a statewide broadcaster and one from a community licensee -- represent the diversity of our system and will bring a broad perspective of ideas to the conference.”

Named after Richard E. Ottinger, the former executive director of Georgia Public Broadcasting, who died in 1997, the scholarship provides transportation, hotel, and conference registration. Ottinger is remembered for the 1994 decision to broadcast the controversial PBS mini-series “Tales of the City,” despite the Georgia legislature’s threat to withhold $19.6 million in funding for GPB. Ottinger stood firmly behind the programming, and the lawmakers relented. Ottinger, mentored many public television people and the scholarship continues that tradition of supporting professional development across the system.

Carol Garber has worked for Wyoming PBS for nearly two years. According to general manager Terry Dugas, “Carol tirelessly travels our station’s geographically-challenging service area to provide PBS LearningMedia™ training. In her relatively short tenure she has managed to organize and nearly triple the WyomingPBS Education collection.”

MiChelle Jones, a former Nashville-area journalist, has worked at Nashville Public Television since 2014 and serves on the executive committee of NETA’s professional communications council. NPT’s president and CEO Kevin Crane says, “MiChelle is an invaluable asset to the station’s advertising, media relations, social media strategy and implementation.”

The 2019 NETA Conference and the CPB Public Media Thought Leader Forum are designed to advance public media’s educational content and services, and attract public media professionals from throughout the country. Registration is now open at www.netaonline.org

NETA is a professional association of public television licensees created in 1997 from members of the original Southern Educational Communications Association (SECA, incorporated in 1967) and the Pacific Mountain Network (PMN, chartered in 1978) to serve and support public television licensees and public media’s education mission. The organization has members in 43 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. See NETAonline.org for more information on NETA, its mission, and its services. Follow NETA on Twitter and on Facebook.

###