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## **Proctors' Zebulon Schmidt Appointed to Board Of NY Chapter of Alliance for Community Media**

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### ***Sharing a vision of civic engagement through community media***

**Schenectady, NY – Feb. 10, 2013 -- Zebulon (“Zeb”) Schmidt**, Station Manager of Open Stage Media (OSM) at Proctors will join the Board of the NY Chapter of the Alliance for Community Media, effective immediately. In his new role as ACMNY Board Member, Mr. Schmidt is expected to emphasize ACM’s local and national mission of promoting civic engagement through community media, a function that he has spearheaded on behalf of Proctors for the past three years.

According to **Maryann Arrien**, ACMNY Chair, “The North East Region of the ACM recently awarded a prestigious Grassroots Scholarship to Zeb Schmidt to attend the ACM North East ‘Conference by the Sea’ in Plymouth, MA. Every year the Region likes to recognize and invest in one or two great human resources for Community Media within the region,” she said. “Zeb was picked in 2012.

“It was actually later that the ACMNY Board discovered that Zeb had already instinctively reached out to help the fledgling ChannelAlbany, even to the point of providing additional original programming to help the understaffed new station meet its requirements for Stage 2 funding. Zeb Schmidt was already so much in tune with our mission to help foster the growth of Community Media in New York State. We noted his conspicuous outreach to Albany when we unanimously voted to add Zeb to the ACM

New York Board.”

Proctors’ designation as manager and operator of public, education, and government access cable television by the City of Schenectady in December 2009 spurred the creation of Open Stage Media (OSM) at Proctors (formerly SACC-TV) and in line with that charge, OSM at Proctors provided community organizations with enhanced opportunities to share opinions, ideas, and interests through three public access broadcast streams: Channel 16: Public Access; Channel 17: Education; and Channel 18: Government.

“Zeb’s knowledge of public access television from his tenure at SACC-TV -- coupled with his talent and personal vision were critical to the expansion of OSM at Proctors over the past four years,” said Proctors CEO **Philip Morris**.

“Just as important,” added Morris, “is Zeb’s ability to work well with others to achieve established goals. This was critical both in the transition from SACC to Open Stage Media at Proctors and in establishing OSM as the premiere distribution hub for public access throughout the region.”

OSM at Proctors has shown itself to be deft at integrating and linking the legacy assets of the former Schenectady public access television with the front-running multi-venue Proctors entertainment complex, its evolving pool of intellectual property, as well as its reservoir of creative talent and technological innovations.

Schmidt is proud of his association with both Proctors and OSM: “Being on the public stage and really pushing myself and OSM toward the high standards that the residents of Schenectady have come to expect of Proctors has been an exciting challenge,” he said.

“Managing three television/internet station(s) under the Proctors brand has made me strive to drive that hallmark of excellence even higher, always aiming beyond what’s expected. That goal keeps me sharp, focused and driven.”

Under Schmidt’s leadership, OSM has enriched community information sharing and

entertainment through such programs as *MasterMinds*, *Green Talk*, *Carla Page Show*, *movie planet*, *Scopitones*, *OSM presents*, *BlueTV* and many others.

A graduate of Schenectady County Community College, Schmidt says he has explored the professional landscape between Philadelphia and Boston, but remains proud to call Schenectady – and Proctors -- home.

He has been involved with public access since 2005 and with Proctors since 2009, drawn by the combination of free-speech and limitless creativity of public access.

What does he enjoy most about his professional life: “When people compliment me and my work – and I know they really mean it, he says. “I also enjoy producing forgotten and mostly odd filmstrips such as Scopitones or Avant-Garde Cinema -- and re-packaging them into shows. Knowing that people will enjoy them and learn from them gives me a solid sense of fulfillment “

He is also excited about producing an upcoming "big table" show titled **Capital District Political Watch**.

Asked about his most challenging project to date, Schmidt says that he is about to become a new dad: “I have an untitled project due in March -- and expect it to last the rest of my life!” he said.

Schmidt says that he eagerly looks forward to his new role at ACMNY and contributing to its stated vision of *an ever increasing array of media channels, with communities demanding relevant, factual and hyperlocal content from respected sources. The Alliance for Community Media will be a recognized contributor, aggregator and leader in that movement.*

“ACM’s guiding principles are akin to those that have shaped my own professional development: *promote free speech, expand civic engagement through local media, collaborate with others, and act with one voice.* The goals and aspirations of the

Alliance closely mirror his own as station manager of Open Stage Media at Proctors, says Mr. Schmidt

Founded in 1976, the Alliance represents more than 3,000 Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access organizations and community media center throughout the country. The ACM works to protect the interests of these access centers and those who use PEG facilities and equipment to advance their causes through cable television and the Internet. The Alliance also represents local community groups, public schools, religious institutions, colleges and universities, Government officials, and second language communities.

**For more information on ACM:**

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