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For Immediate Release

UToledo Faculty Receives National Distribution for Documentary Film

The National Educational Broadcasting Association (NETA) will release Professor Holly Hey's documentary film *Reentry Realities, Hope Deferred*. on Saturday May 29th, 2021. The film is a 30 minute documentary that centers on the relationship between Larry Thompson, an Ohio inmate, and his reentry mentor Joe Hoeflinger of Sylvania, Ohio. Larry and Joe met over a decade ago after Larry returned to prison to serve out his fourth prison sentence. Brought together by a Christmas card, the two men describe their journey to develop, teach, and publish a reentry curriculum that helps those released stay out of prison.

Director and editor Holly Hey says, *"the film reveals how Larry came to be incarcerated for more than half of his adult life, Joe's commitment to loving the unlovable, and the ways in which our judicial system fails to recognize reform beyond time served."*

Senior United States District Judge Jack Zouhary helped Professor Hey get access to Larry inside Marion Correctional Institution in Marion, Ohio for a one-hour long interview and to capture additional footage of Larry teaching his *Reentry Realities* class. *"I have known Larry for nearly nine years, and his rehabilitation efforts while incarcerated are the most impressive I have seen in my sixteen-year involvement with criminal justice reform. His story is a 'must see' for lawyers, judges and anyone interested in learning about the 'reality of reentry.'"* Jack Zouhary – Senior United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

Professor Hey led an internship initiative for six UToledo Film/Video majors who helped develop and shoot the film summer 2019. The students' pre-professional, work-based experience at UToledo has now led to showcasing their work to a national audience. Ali Moussa, a 2020 UToledo graduate who operated First Camera on the documentary said, *"working on this project was a real eye-opening experience, as a filmmaker, as storyteller, and as a person questioning the purpose and goal of incarceration: Is it to punish or to rehabilitate?"*

Professor Hey also collaborated with the University of Toledo's College of Arts and Letters and College of Law to produce the film. The colleges financed the project in the hopes of bringing visibility to Larry's story and his request for judicial release. Professor Hey developed a study guide in collaboration with Rob Salem, ESQ. (UToledo Clinical Professor of Law) and Dr. Renée Heberle (UToledo Professor of Political Science and Public Administration) that helps frame discussions around our judicial system, rehabilitation, relationships across walls, and Larry and Joe's work in reentry. The study guide can be found on the [film's webpage](#).

NETA distributes over 1,200 hours of media programming a year to 277 member public television stations in 46 states, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. *Reentry Realities* will air on Public Media of Western New York and Southern Ontario in July and will reach 1.3 million people. *"Although centered in Ohio, this story is relevant and meaningful to audiences anywhere in the United States ."* Kathryn Larsen – Vice President Broadcast Services, Buffalo/Toronto Public Media.

Please visit reentryrealities.com for more information.