**WNIN Tri-State Public Media, Inc. Community Representation Statement**

WNIN Tri-State Public Media, Inc. is a valuable part of the local Evansville and Tri-State area community. Through our mission of “using public media to enrich people’s lives and better our communities” we provide educational, informational, and cultural content that meets the needs of members of our local communities that we serve. We are a trusted source for news and information which help the community be better informed and better educated, through shared connections and local partnerships with individuals and institutions.

WNIN is committed to building a workforce of individuals from diverse backgrounds and cultures that reflect the population we are dedicated to serving. We strive to increase representation of underrepresented diverse groups in the composition of our Board of Directors, Community Advisory Board, and station management and staff. Our policy is to provide equal opportunity in employment and with each hiring manager expected to support this commitment, hiring the most qualified individuals who support and embrace the mission of public media while serving our local community.

WNIN produces local, relevant issue related content for TV, Radio, and Digital, including weekly, one-time and seasonal programming, as well as long-form documentaries. We strive for multi-media production on all platforms, including availability for streaming. Local TV content includes Regional Voices (featuring local Tri-State speakers/presentations), Newsmakers (weekly series featuring local experts discussing relevant issues), Lawmakers (weekly during state legislative season with local legislators discussing issues affecting SW Indiana), Shively & Shoulders (monthly discussion with local leaders to inform our citizens), and more.

Recently WNIN aired a new documentary we produced, “A Monumental Honor” on the honor flight program, and over the past year and a half we produced two other documentaries “Out and About” on the gay history in Evansville, and “Local Women with Inspiring Stories” exploring several local women’s life journey and how they overcame obstacles to arrive where they are today. In partnership with Riley Children’s Health we produced a documentary “Racing to Respond,” highlighting mental health issues and suicide among Indiana youth, that aired in 8 major markets in Indiana, and included community forums bringing local families together with experts for meaningful discussions.

WNIN Radio produces 2 weekly series, “The Friday Wrap” discussing weekly news and stories of local relevance with reporters; and Two Main Street” interviewing people throughout the Tri-State with inspiring stories to tell. “Food from Here,” is a new podcast sharing stories and recipes from local growers, producers and purveyors of the food we eat in the Midwest region. We air the Gatewave national radio reading service, providing news and information via special receivers to sight-impaired people throughout our listening area. Recently an intern at WNIN produced “Tri-State Life,” a digital series highlighting local businesses, organizations, and people in the community which is being shared on WNIN’s social media platforms. Some local events are also livestreamed to make them accessible at no cost. WNIN maintains our “?Que Pasa Midwest?” website with past episodes of the podcast series available, which discuss social, cultural, and legal topics of relevance to Latinos in the Midwest.

For almost 30 years WNIN has hosted Kid’s Fest, a free, family-friendly event with educational activities, performances by local talent and youth organizations and PBS character meet and greet opportunities. Over 2,000 people attend each year, and each child that attends received a free book. Attendees include many lower income children and families from nearby neighborhoods. For the past 2 years WNIN has hosted Jazz Fest, a free community outdoor event with performances by local jazz musicians and groups to connect and enrich the lives of local citizens with the power of music.

Efforts have been made to increase the diversity of members on WNIN’s Community Advisory Board over the past few years, and we recently added 5 new members to the 15 member board. Eight of the members are female, 7 are male, several Board members represent minorities, and a wide variety of age groups and professional backgrounds are also represented.

WNIN’s 26-member Governing Board represents the many diverse sectors of our local community, coming from a variety of backgrounds and age groups – educational institutions, small business owners, CEO’s and senior management, retirees, corporate sector, and community organizations. 46% of WNIN’s governing board members are female, several represent minorities, and we have Board members from other communities we serve in addition to Evansville, including Henderson and Jasper. The Board continues to discuss how we can increase diversity and expand our inclusion for the Board and WNIN as an organization, as well as through our programming while serving the local community. Two years ago WNIN added Student Board members from each of the local higher educational institutions (non-voting and non-fiduciary), as an opportunity for the students to learn about and experience the function of a professional organization and non-profit Board.

WNIN’s workforce consists of 30 employees, 63% of whom are women, and include minorities, LGBTQIA members, veterans, and a variety of age groups. Hiring managers are expected to interview several candidates for all openings (if enough applicants). Staff is encouraged to participate in professional development opportunities to increase their skills and knowledge for career advancement; we encourage promotion from within when possible, with staff encouraged to apply for internal job openings they are interested in as positions become available.

We attend career fairs and other employment related recruitment events, seeking out opportunities and connections with local organizations to help educate others and provide relevant employment experience. WNIN administration staff also participated in a networking event connected to Disability Awareness Month through a local university, and has hosted students at the station to learn more about career opportunities in the media industry. WNIN hires several student interns each year, both college students and high school seniors (from Southern Indiana Career & Technical Center’s Radio / TV program).

The composition of WNIN’s Boards and staff embraces and reflects the diversity and various sectors of the local communities that WNIN serves – including age, ethnicity, family/marital status, language, national origin, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, veteran status, professional backgrounds, and other characteristics that make everyone unique. Over the coming years WNIN plans to continue on this path in our hiring/employment efforts, staff, Board of Directors, Community Advisory Board, student interns, and locally produced media content.