

Young NET Television Filmmaker's Work Will Be Nationally-Distributed

LINCOLN, Neb. (August 28, 2010) – “Paths of the Displaced,” a documentary produced by a high school student from Lincoln, Neb., received its broadcast premiere on NET Television this past July. The program, which captures the struggles and triumphs of five Sudanese teenagers who came to the United States to escape a devastating civil war, has been chosen to be distributed to public television stations across the country through the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA).

NET Television will rebroadcast the special program on Friday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m. CT and Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 11p.m. CT on NET1 and NET-HD. It will also air on NET2 Saturday, Sept. 11, at 7 and 10 p.m. CT.

Now a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), Natalia Ledford produced, directed, wrote, shot and edited “Paths of the Displaced.” Ledford befriended the refugee teens while they were all students at Lincoln High School in Lincoln, Neb. She was shocked by their stories, yet fascinated by the courage and resiliency the young people displayed. Toward the end of Ledford's junior year in high school, she and her refugee friends decided to produce a short video about the situation in Sudan to show to other classrooms at the school.

The project gained the support of NET Television in 2007 when Ledford and her mother approached the statewide NET Television network for advice. As part of a cooperative effort between UNL's College of Journalism and Mass Communication and NET, Ledford received visiting status as a UNL student and was granted use of editing and post production facilities. She also became an NET intern, which provided her with access to professional mentoring and feedback.

The film combines an historical depiction of the ongoing civil war in Sudan and its consequences in the present day lives of young refugee victims now living in Lincoln and Grand Island. It focuses on the challenges refugees face in the school systems and in the job market when they relocate to an American city such as Lincoln.

"Paths of the Displaced" is a co-production of NET Television, Meadowlark Films and UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications. It was funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. NETA is a professional association that serves public television licensees and educational entities in all 50 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

NET1, NET2 and NET-HD are part of NET Television, a service of NET. For complete program schedules, visit NET's Web site at netNebraska.org/television.

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NET Television:

NET1 is Nebraska's first public television broadcast service and includes PBS and award-winning, locally produced public television programming. NET1 programming is also obtainable on Dish and DirectTV satellite networks in available areas; **NET2** offers live coverage of the Nebraska Unicameral, and other news and public affairs programming; **NET3** is a 24-hour channel featuring the most popular how-to, travel and lifestyle series; and **NET-HD** presents high-definition digital broadcast programming displayed in a wide-screen format.