



## Native American television channel makes debut in Chicago

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Agreement between Public Broadcast channel First Nations Experience (FNX) and Major Market Broadcasting of Chicago Inc (MMB) will bring the United States only national channel dedicated to Native American and World Indigenous cultures to the windy city.

*San Bernardino, CA - May 15th, 2019* - FNX | First Nations Experience, established in 2011 by PBS member station KVCR, announced today that they have formed a partnership with Major Market Broadcasting of North Dakota Inc to bring FNX's award-winning programming to the state through WRJK TV. Among the network's programming lineup are shows like *Lakota Berenstain Bears*, a translation of the popular PBS series by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Lakota Language Consortium. *Mat'ho Waúnšila Thiwáhe* (the Compassionate Bear Family) airs Saturday and Sunday mornings at 7:30 am PST.

FNX is the first and only nationally distributed TV channel in the U.S. exclusively devoted to Native American and World Indigenous programming and is carried by 20 affiliate stations in 21 states from Alaska to New York, reaching more than 57 million households across the United States. This marks the first time the 5 Federally Recognized tribes, and the Tribal communities of North Dakota will have a television channel exclusively devoted to telling stories by and about American Indian communities. The channel currently features North Dakotan tribal members on various genres of programs as well as original series *Wassaja*, *The AUX* and *Studio 49*.

"Launching FNX in Chicago is extremely exciting for all who work so hard to deliver First Nations Experience daily. This partnership with WRJK TV aligns with our mission to provide the global audience Native American and World Indigenous educational content that informs, inspires and entertains," said Interim Director of Operations Anthony Papa.

Producer/Director Frank Blanquet (Maya) stated, “Having FNX as an avenue to tell their own stories, to submit their content and allowing the general public to hear from them directly, maybe it can be a way for them to be heard on a national level, but more importantly to them, on a local level. Be heard by their neighbor. And not just be a place for stories of struggle, but be a place for stories of triumph. Be a way for their youth to feel represented. See Native talent doing all sort of different things out there.”

### ***About FNX (First Nations Experience)***

***FNX | First Nations Experience is the first and only national broadcast television network in the U.S. exclusively devoted to Native American and World Indigenous content. Through Native-produced and themed documentaries, dramatic series, nature, cooking, gardening, children’s and arts programming, FNX strives to accurately illustrate the lives and cultures of Native people around the world.***

***Created as a shared vision between Founding Partners, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the San Bernardino Community College District, FNX is owned by and originates from the studios of KVCR-PBS San Bernardino. FNX began terrestrial broadcast in the Los Angeles area on September 25, 2011 and went national on November 1, 2014, via the Public Television Interconnect System (PBS satellite AMC-21 Channel SD08), making the network available to PBS affiliates, community and tribal stations, and cable television service providers across the country.***

***FNX is working diligently to obtain channel carriage in as many communities as possible across the country. Learn more at [www.fnx.org](http://www.fnx.org) and find local listings of FNX affiliate channels at [www.fnx.org/how-to-watch-us/](http://www.fnx.org/how-to-watch-us/).***

***For more information about this topic please call Frank Blanquet at 909.384.4345 or email [fblanquet@fnx.org](mailto:fblanquet@fnx.org).***