



## **WNEM – MID-MICHIGAN’S AL BLINKE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AFTER FOUR DECADES IN THE BROADCASTING INDUSTRY**

**SAGINAW, MI (October 11, 2017)** – Al Blinke, Vice President and General Manager of WNEM TV 5 in Saginaw for the past 13 years, announced today that he will retire after a distinguished 40-year career in television and radio broadcasting.

“The last 13 years at WNEM TV 5 have been some of the most rewarding of my career. I’ve been blessed to oversee a great station through drastic changes in technology that reshaped the business I grew up in—all while being the market leader in ratings,” said Blinke. “Time has flown by, but that’s what happens when you have the opportunity to work with some of the best people in the business. WNEM is the No. 1 station for news and digital because of the amazing staff I’ve had the honor to work with over the years, and I will miss all of them.”

During his tenure, Blinke helmed Mid-Michigan’s top-rated station, delivering news to more viewers than any other station in the market. Blinke is the longest-serving general manager in WNEM’s history as a Meredith Corporation station. He also served as the Chairman of the Board for the Bay County Chamber of Commerce in 2015. Blinke is a member of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Board of Directors and is on the advisory board for the Midland Center for the Arts.

“Al has been a tremendous leader in broadcasting and a huge asset to WNEM and the whole family of Meredith stations,” said Paul Karpowicz, President of Meredith Corporation’s Local Media Group. “Al will continue as Vice President and General Manager until a replacement is hired. We appreciate his years of service and contributions to Meredith, and are grateful for his support while we fill his role.”

Blinke started his career in radio as a reporter, writer and producer at WWJ-News in Detroit. He moved into television as an Assignment Editor at WJBK-TV, also in Detroit, then as an Assistant News Director and Assignment Manager at WTNH-TV in New Haven, CT. Blinke became News Director at WPXI-TV in Pittsburgh, then took on the same role at WSB-TV in Atlanta. He was a domestic television consultant for Frank N. Magid Associates before returning to news directing at the KDKA-TV/WNPA-TV duopoly in Pittsburgh for three years.

Meredith is currently conducting a national search to replace Blinke at WNEM TV 5.

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### **About Meredith Corporation**

Meredith Corporation (NYSE: MDP; [www.meredith.com](http://www.meredith.com)) has been committed to service journalism for more than 115 years.

Meredith's Local Media Group includes 18 television stations reaching 11 percent of U.S. households. Meredith's portfolio is concentrated in large, fast-growing markets, with seven stations in the nation's Top 25 – including Atlanta, Phoenix, St. Louis and Portland – and 13 in Top 50 markets. Meredith's stations produce 700 hours of local news and entertainment content each week, and operate leading local digital destinations.

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