

IDnet-New Mexico (nmidnet.org)

Attention: Assignment Editor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NM Intelligent Design Scientists Encourage Dialogue With KNME About Censoring Documentary

ALBUQUERQUE, NM Jan. 6, 2005 — The Intelligent Design Network of New Mexico (IDNet-NM) is negotiating with PBS station KNME to provide a public platform for discussion about the documentary “Unlocking the Mystery of Life,” which was scheduled to air January 7, 2005 at 9:00 pm, but was unexpectedly withdrawn from KNME programming.

“I was really shocked to learn KNME had pulled the plug on the “Unlocking the Mystery of Life” video,” said Dr. Rebecca Keller, research scientist and spokesperson for IDNet-NM. “It is a scientific documentary, not unlike a NOVA or National Geographic program,” said Keller. “That KNME would refuse to air such a science program is unconscionable and quite confusing,” she said.

Keller said that IDNet-NM is negotiating with KNME to provide an alternative platform for discussing the concerns surrounding the controversies over theories of biological origins.

“KNME graciously offered us [IDNet-NM] an opportunity to debate members of a local skeptics group on their ‘In Quest’ program this Friday, but we were unable to make the next-day deadline,” said Keller. “We hope that we can work something out for next week,” she said.

However, Keller notes that a debate does not replace a first-hand look at the design theory presented in the documentary. She and others at IDNet-NM would like a forum where the documentary could be aired, followed by an informed discussion where both sides are represented. “I think it would be valuable for everyone to watch the video, followed by a discussion of its content,” said Keller. “This way, everyone can decide for themselves if the science in the documentary should have been censored,” she said.

“Unlocking the Mystery of Life” explores the current prevailing theories about the origin of life and introduces a different interpretation of the scientific data. “ ‘Unlocking the Mystery of Life’ helps explain important aspects of design theory, such as where biological information originates, irreducible complexity, as well as its criticisms,” said Keller. “So, it actually shows arguments both for and against design theory,” she said. “If you really want to understand the challenges to Darwin’s theory and get a glimpse of the incredible molecular machinery inside a living cell, watch the video,” encourages Keller.

“Unlocking the Mystery of Life” is a 58-minute program exploring what DNA reveals about the origin of life and documents how some scientists are skeptical about naturalistic explanations for the origin of genetic information and are looking to theories of design instead. Employing state-of-the-art computer animation and other visuals, the documentary follows the development of intelligent design theory through interviews with key design scientists such as biochemistry professor Michael Behe of Lehigh University, biologist Dean Kenyon of San Francisco State University, mathematician William Dembski of Baylor University, microbiologist Scott Minnich of the University of Idaho, and Cambridge-trained philosopher of science Stephen Meyer.

For more information on “Unlocking the Mystery of Life,” please visit the producer’s website at www.illustramedia.com.

About IDnet-NM

The Intelligent Design Network of New Mexico (IDnet-NM) was established in July 2002 to promote unbiased evidence-based science education with respect to the teaching of cosmological and biological origins; enhance public awareness of the evidence of intelligent design in the natural world; and to inform the public of the underlying philosophical, religious, scientific, and legal issues surrounding the teaching of origins science in public schools. IDnet-NM is a Division of Intelligent Design Network, Inc, (IDnet) of Kansas. www.nmidnet.org.

###