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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WFCR Appoints News Director

[July 23, 2009--Amherst, MA] Public radio station 88.5FM WFCR and 640AM WNNZ has appointed a News Director. Fred Bever will join the station on July 27.



"We're thrilled that Fred will be joining us," said the station's Program Director, Helen Barrington. "He has significant news experience in many different kinds of settings, which will be a great asset to leading our award-winning news team."

Bever has worked for 20 years in print, radio and television journalism in New England, most recently as Chief Political Correspondent for the Maine Public Broadcasting Network, where he led MPBN's political and government coverage through three election cycles. He also co-hosted and co-produced the weekly newsmagazine

*MaineWatch*, which is broadcast on radio, television and the web.

"My first journalism job was at the Williamstown Advocate, so I know this lively region pretty well," Bever said. "WFCR and WNNZ's listeners know they are being served by an excellent news team and I am proud to be working with them."

In his new role at WFCR, Bever will oversee the newsroom and manage reporters based at the station's headquarters in Amherst and at the Peggy & David Starr Broadcast Center in Springfield. In addition, he will be the local producer for *All Things Considered* (4-6:30 PM on 88.5 FM WFCR and 640 AM WNNZ) and the Executive Producer for the station's new program, *Focus: Western New England*. Barrington, who had been serving as interim news director, will become the local producer for *Morning Edition* (5-9 AM on 88.5 FM WFCR and 7-9 on 640 AM), as well as continuing in her role as Program Director.

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88.5FM WFCR, NPR News and Music for Western New England, is an affiliate of National Public Radio, American Public Media, and Public Radio International serving over 200,000 listeners in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire with regional news and information, and locally produced classical, jazz, and world music programming at 88.5FM, 101.1FM (Adams, MA), 96.3 (Williamstown, MA), 98.7FM (Great Barrington), 98.3FM (Lee), 93.9FM (Pittsfield/Lenox) on the FM band via HD Radio (TM) on 88.5FM WFCR HD2, and on 640AM WNNZ. The University of Massachusetts is the license holder for 88.5FM WFCR, which operates with the advice and support of Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. For more information about 88.5FM WFCR's programs and services, call 413-545-0100 or visit our website at [www.wfcrr.org](http://www.wfcrr.org).

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