



Wisconsin Public Television

## NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 10, 2018

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**Wisconsin Public Television Education Releases Online Video Game Oct. 10, 2018**

Peter Michaud, a fifth-grade classroom teacher at Reagan Elementary School in New Berlin, along with a number of his students, contributed to the development and testing of a new online video game, ***Jo Wilder and the Capitol Case***, released Wednesday, Oct. 10 on WPTeducation.org.

***Jo Wilder and the Capitol Case***, set in and around the Wisconsin State Capitol, assists educators in teaching history while engaging students as “history detectives” to immerse them in the action. It is a tool for students to engage in critical thinking and historical inquiry. The game was produced by Wisconsin Public Television (WPT) Education and Field Day Lab, an educational game developer within the University Wisconsin-Madison’s Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER), along with a cohort of teachers and students from around the state.

Designed to address Wisconsin Academic Standards for grades three through five in social studies, English language arts and information & technology literacy, players use detective skills to solve mysteries about real artifacts from Wisconsin’s history and use evidence to prove their discoveries. As the plot unfolds, players discover primary source materials. Then, like real historians, players engage in investigation, identification, corroboration and contextualization of evidence with their primary sources. To win each challenge, players must summarize the evidence and argue their case.

“The collaborative design process that brought teachers, historians, game developers and public media together has led to a playful entry point for students into the process historians follow,” says Alyssa Tsagong, WPT’s Director of Education. “We know that *Jo Wilder and the Capitol Case* will be used alongside other WPT Education local history classroom resources, drawing on the rich stories of our state to spark the kind of curiosity and engagement that will lead to authentic learning experiences.”

***Jo Wilder and the Capitol Case*** is available to play online for free at WPTeducation.org.

The project was made possible by generous funding from the Wisconsin Department of

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WPT is a service of the Educational Communications Board and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Wisconsin Public Television is a place to grow through learning on WHA-TV, Madison; WPNE-TV, Green Bay; WHRM-TV, Wausau; WLEF-TV, Park Falls; WHLA-TV, La Crosse; and WHWC-TV, Menomonie-Eau Claire.

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