Denver – (Oct. 20, 2014) – The original Rocky Mountain PBS documentary "Urban Rez" has been selected by the American Film Showcase and the U.S. State Department as part of a cultural exchange program with Kazakhstan.

"Urban Rez," directed by award-winning Rocky Mountain PBS Executive Producer Lisa D. Olken, tells the story of a 1950's U.S. government relocation program which encouraged Native Americans to leave their reservations and resettle in urban areas. This led to dramatic consequences such as discrimination and disenfranchisement, the effects of which are still being felt today in many American cities, including Denver. But for the majority of Native people, the program worked, not only because of the endless opportunities, but for the many more personal victories fought for and won. "Urban Rez" was tapped by the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan in part because that nation is home to indigenous and semi-indigenous tribes whose living conditions parallel the Native American experience.

Olken will travel to five major cities, screening her film at universities and working with advanced student filmmakers. She will also appear on television, speak before an audience of nearly 1,000, conduct lectures and seminars, and act as a U.S and Colorado ambassador throughout her journey. The stated goals of the program are to foster diversity, tolerance and minority integration, promote civil societies, and to improve the perception of Americans.

"Urban Rez" is the only public media film to have been chosen for this high honor. Rocky Mountain PBS CEO Doug Price says the award epitomizes what Rocky Mountain PBS is all about. "We wear many hats, but our number one goal is always to bring people together, whether in Colorado, the U.S. or the world. At heart, we are storytellers, and Lisa is among the best. I couldn’t be prouder of this amazing achievement!"

To follow Olken on her trip, check in regularly at rmpbs.org/urtour. To arrange an interview after her Nov. 8 return, or for audio and video footage, please contact Wynne Racine at wynneracine@rmpbs.org or 303-620-5612.

About Rocky Mountain PBS
Each week, nearly 900,000 people throughout Colorado turn to Rocky Mountain PBS to discover inspiring local, national and international programming; find diverse viewpoints; score front row center seats to world-class performances; and experience lifelong learning opportunities.

Rocky Mountain PBS celebrates its 58th anniversary on the air this year. The network began in Denver in 1956 as Colorado’s first public television station. It is now Colorado’s only statewide television network, with stations in Denver (KRMA), Pueblo/Colorado Springs (KTSC), Steamboat Springs (KRMZ), Grand Junction (KRMJ) and Durango (KRMU). To learn more, visit rmpbs.org.

About KUVO/KVJZ
KUVO/KVJZ is a jazz public radio station dedicated to providing distinctive music, news, and information programming that reflects the values and cultural diversity of its listener community. KUVO/KVJZ has served the community since 1985 with jazz, blues, news and a weekend lineup of culturally rich diverse programming. The station is on 89.3FM Denver, 89.7FM Breckenridge, 88.5FM Vail and online at kuvo.org.

About I-News
Rocky Mountain PBS I-News produces in-depth, research-based journalism. It collaborates with the most respected news outlets to deliver this journalism to millions of Coloradans. Together with these media partners, I-News fills a void in serious public-service journalism by delivering in-depth news to newspapers, radio, television, computers and digital devices. I-News produces news that makes a difference.