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## Black Woman Is A First To Co-Host Network A. M. Show



Rene Syler

DALLAS (NNPA)—Rene Syler recently debuted as one of the new anchors of "The Early Show," CBS News' weekday morning broadcast.

Ms. Syler, who becomes the first Black female to co-host a national morning program, will sit alongside Harry Smith, Hannah Storm and Julie Chen.

Ms. Syler is a hometown favorite for Texans, having spent the last decade at Dallas stations.

"She was committed to working with programs dealing with breast cancer," explained Barbara Hawkins, who showed up at the South Dallas Cafe for a "Watch Rene Syler" breakfast.

Ms. Syler also is the first national network person to come from KTVT, a relatively new station, compared to stations WFAA, KXAS and KDFW. Vice president and general manager Brian Jones praised Ms. Syler's inaugural performance.

"She certainly held her own," he said proudly. "I knew that she would do very well."

According to Mr. Jones, Ms. Syler's personality made her an excellent choice.

"She is a great person and this position is well deserved," he continued. "It's very exciting for us to have someone from our team picked for a national broadcast."

According to Andrew Heyward, president of CBS News, who made the announcement, the new "The Early Show" will be exciting and informative.

"First and foremost, the new Early Show is a news program so we'll continue to provide viewers with the stories and issues of the day, as well as local weather and news," he said. "But, our anchors will also give viewers a more spontaneous broadcast with four distinct personalities adding their own interests to the mix. The result will be a lively, unconventional and engaging program."

The Early Show, as described on CBS' website, will offer a fresh twist on the traditional morning news program: four anchors reporting the top stories of the day, mixed with interviews and features, in a more flexible and spontaneous format. This less-rigid structure is designed to provide the opportunity for more direct exchanges among four distinct personalities.

Those who have watched Ms. Syler over the years feel that she is a natural for the show. "This is a big move for Rene, but she is prepared," said James Ragland, a columnist with the Dallas Morning News and president of the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators. "Interestingly, Rene had just agreed to serve in a very important role as we (DFW/ABC) plan to host the National Association of Black Journalists convention in Dallas next August.

"Although she's moving on up, in a big way, we know that we can still count on her for support," he said.

—Cheryl Smith, The Dallas Weekly



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