

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## ***WEDU PBS Awarded Grant from Community Foundation of Sarasota County in Support of Educator Workshops***

**Tampa, FL — WEDU PBS** is pleased to announce it has received a \$5,000 grant from the **Libby Yungblut FOI Charitable Fund** of the **Community Foundation of Sarasota County**. The grant funds will support expanded outreach efforts of WEDU's ***American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen*** initiative, which includes a campaign to create public awareness and help find solutions to the school drop-out crisis in West Central Florida.

Thanks to the generous grant, WEDU PBS will be able to present five free workshops to educators, early learning providers, and families through organizations serving children and families in the Sarasota area. The funds from the grant will also offset the cost of materials and supplies, as well as provide for additional electronic tools to be utilized for the hands-on workshops.

Educators and early learning providers will be instructed in the use of **Florida PBS Learning Media**, an innovative free service available for home and classroom instruction featuring more than 35,000 classroom ready videos, games, audio clips, photos and lesson plans, aligned to National and Common Core State Standards that support PreK-16 instruction. Resources are derived from highly respected PBS educational programs such as ***NOVA, American Experience, Sid the Science Kid*** and ***Super WHY!***

Each workshop will also include a **PBS Ready To Learn Mobile Lab** providing attendees the opportunity to "test-drive" the latest educational resources available from WEDU PBS. Codes for free educational

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game application download featuring popular PBS series *Martha Speaks* and *Dinosaur Train* will be distributed to workshop attendees as part of the PBS Mobile Learning Program.

Classroom and home educators interested in more information or attending a Sarasota workshop should contact WEDU's Director of Educational Services, Gail Taylor by email at [gtaylor@wedu.org](mailto:gtaylor@wedu.org) or by phone at 813. 813.739.2912



**ABOUT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SARASOTA**

The Community Foundation is a public charity founded in 1979 by the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council as a resource for caring individuals and the causes they support, enabling them to make a charitable impact on the community. With assets of over \$239 million in more than 1,100 charitable funds, the Community Foundation awarded grants and scholarships totaling \$15.8 million dollars last year in the areas of education, the arts, health and human services, civic engagement, animal welfare and the environment. For more information, visit [www.CFSarasota.org](http://www.CFSarasota.org).



**ABOUT WEDU PBS**

WEDU PBS is West Central Florida's primary PBS station and public media company reaching 16 counties through media platforms including on-air programming and online experiences that broaden horizons, transport and transform and open gateways to new ideas and new worlds. Financially supported by the community, the organization offers a wealth of award-winning inspirational, educational and enlightening content over a variety of media platforms including: television programming, station's website, [wedu.org](http://wedu.org) and various social media platforms, monthly member magazine *Premiere*, educational outreach activities and a myriad of special events. WEDU's focus on the local community has resulted in the station being regarded as a beacon of trust for men, women and children of every walk of life no matter their age, ethnicity or socio-economic status. WEDU is a treasured community resource; a window to the world for the homebound and a vital educational source for the youngest members of society. WEDU prides itself on its position in the Tampa Bay community as a leader, partner, informed citizen and a member of PBS, the most trusted institution in America (ORC International's DualFrame CARAVAN, January 2014). For more information, program schedules or to support WEDU PBS, visit [wedu.org](http://wedu.org), WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter or call 813.254.9338.

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