

FOR RELEASE: October 10, 2014



MEDIA CONTACT: Allison Alvarez Hedrick
Vice President of Communications
P: 800.354.9338 ext. 2240
E: ahedrick@wedu.org

WEDU PBS to Launch New Monthly Science, Technology and Education Series - Dr. Shannon McQuaig Hosts



Dr. Shannon McQuaig, Host of WEDU QUEST.

Tampa Bay, FL – WEDU PBS, West Central Florida’s primary PBS station, will launch a new monthly series that captures the latest breakthroughs in science, technology and education.

WEDU Quest will premiere on **Thursday, October 16 at 8:30 p.m.** and will explore innovative techniques educators are using in the classroom and the latest developments in technology, such as 3D printing, drones and mobile devices.

WEDU Quest is a result of a collaborative effort of a group of innovative large market PBS stations across the country. This collaboration allows public broadcasting stations like WEDU to share their local science, technology and education features with one another allowing West Central Florida’s science, technology and educational institutions to get their stories out to a national audience.

WEDU QUEST will also feature insights into the Florida education continuum, early grade success through postsecondary completion with support from the **Helios Education Foundation**.

WEDU Quest will be hosted by **Dr. Shannon McQuaig**. Dr. McQuaig earned her Bachelors of Science in Microbiology and Cell Science from the University of Florida. She graduated from the University of South Florida with a PhD in Biology with a concentration in Ecological and Environmental Microbiology. Currently, Dr. McQuaig teaches Biology, Microbiology, and Immunology at St. Petersburg College. She also mentors an undergraduate research club with a variety of projects including the potential spread of various virulence genes on fomites, extracting pigments from bacteria and examining the prevalence of triclosan resistance in enterococci isolates.

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 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

ABOUT HELIOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Helios Education Foundation is dedicated to creating opportunities for individuals in Arizona and Florida to succeed in postsecondary education, and we are excited to share that from October 2014 through September 2015, we will be celebrating our 10th Anniversary as a philanthropic organization working to change lives through education in the states we serve. Through a decade of strategic partnerships and investments, Helios and its partners have built and strengthened education systems that are impacting thousands of students, teachers, families and communities. In commemoration of Helios Education Foundation’s 10th Anniversary, we are proud to partner with WEDU in support of WEDU Quest, a 12-part science, technology and education series.

-WEDU-

WEDU PressRoom: www.wedu.org/press

WEDU Video Portal: <http://video.wedu.org>

WEDU on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WEDUPublicMedia

WEDU on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/wedupbs>