

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Now Accepting Applications and Nominations for 11th Annual WEDU Be More Awards



Tampa, FL – WEDU PBS is now accepting applications and nominations for the 11th Annual **WEDU Be More Awards**. The annual luncheon and ceremony will highlight the best work from West Central Florida 501(c)(3) organizations.

Now through October 30, 2015, WEDU will accept applications for non-profit organizations, both large and small. Online nominations in a variety of categories are also being accepted to recognize acts of generosity and kindness by volunteers and individuals throughout West Central Florida region.

“For us, it’s been an immediate impact. When you have something like the Be More Awards, where you all put it out in front of the community and say ‘are you aware?’ For us, it’s an invaluable asset for us to use because the broader public sees that and it’s a terrific amount of awareness,” stated Thomas Mantz, Executive Director of Feeding America Tampa Bay when asked about the impact of the WEDU Be More Awards.

High Risk Hope was chosen earlier this year as the 2015 Be More Unstoppable Non-Profit of the Year award winner and was the recipient of a \$2,500 WEDU Community Investment Grant.

There is no charge to apply. The WEDU Be More Awards application and complete details can be found at wedu.org/bemore or by calling 800.354.9338 ext 2241. The luncheon and ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 4 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg.

Awards will be given in a variety of categories recognizing everything from Marketing Campaigns, Special Events, Educational Outreach, Arts and Culture, to Philanthropists and Volunteers.

“The driving force behind the WEDU Be More Awards is not just simply to recognize the tremendous work and selfless acts that our area organizations and volunteers provide, but also to provide a level of awareness and understanding for these organizations that rely so heavily on the support of the community they serve,” said Allison Hedrick, WEDU Vice President of Communications.

The application and nomination categories include:

WEDU Be More Awards Application Categories:

(Organizations must submit a completed application to be considered in these categories)

- **Be More Informed**...Marketing Campaign Award
- **Be More Entertaining**...Special Events Award
- **Be More Brilliant**...Innovation Award
- **Be More Enriched**...Arts & Culture Award
- **Be More Knowledgeable**...Educational Outreach Award

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WEDU Be More Awards Nomination Categories:

(Individuals or organizations must submit an online nomination to be considered in these categories.)

- **Be More Relevant...**Best Use of Video Award
- **Be More Involved...**Volunteerism Award
- **Be More Inspiring...**Florida Hospital Rising Star Award
- **Be More Entrepreneurial...**Engaged Philanthropist Award
- **Be More Humble...**People's Choice Award
- **Be More Outspoken...**Voice of Tampa Bay Award
- **Be More Empowering...**Small Nonprofit Award

WEDU Be More Awards Judges Categories:

(An independent judging panel will select the ultimate winner in these categories.)

- **Be More Encouraged...**Judge's Choice Award
- **Be More Unstoppable...**Nonprofit of the Year Award

For complete details, please visit www.wedu.org/bemore.

The 2016 WEDU Be More Awards are sponsored in part by:



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://www.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 2015). For more information, program schedules or to support WEDU PBS, visit [wedu.org](http://www.wedu.org), WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter or call 813.254.9338.

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