

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 25, 2015



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

American Graduate Day Returns to WEDU PBS to Highlight Community Leaders, Educators, and Youth Making a Difference

American Graduate Day 2015 will air on Sunday, October 3 starting at 11 a.m. on WEDU PBS



Tampa, FL — American Graduate Day will return on **Saturday, October 3, 2015** from **11 a.m.- 6 p.m.** on **WEDU PBS**. Broadcast from Tisch WNET Studios at Lincoln Center in New York City, American Graduate Day is a live,

seven-hour multiplatform broadcast that leverages the power and reach of public media to focus on those organizations and individual Champions keeping kids on the path to graduation. American Graduate Day centers on the critical themes of: Career Readiness and College Completion, Caring Consistent Adults, Dropout Prevention and Re-engagement, Early Education, More and Better Learning, Special Needs, and STEAM. Journalists, thought leaders, and celebrities will join together to raise awareness of the incredible work being done across the country to keep kids in school. The broadcast and online event features a mix of national and local segments from across the country that showcases how community organizations and individual Champions provide support, advice, and intervention services to at-risk students, families, and schools.

Throughout the day, viewers are invited to engage with their local public television stations and the featured community organizations. Viewers can participate in the event by asking questions and sharing ideas before and during the broadcast on **Twitter** and **Facebook**, using the hashtag #AmGrad.

During the broadcast, three local educators from the Tampa Bay area will be featured as **American Graduate Day Champions**. **Edna Bailey** is the co-founder and principal at OASIS Middle School, a charter school for at-risk, low-income students in Bradenton. **Kelley Beall** is a teacher and trainer with Hillsborough County Schools and works with the district's VPK and Head Start programs. **Terry Boehm** is the Executive Director of the Pinellas Education Foundation and has helped direct education foundations in supporting students for more than 25 years.

The three local educators being profiled during American Graduate Day 2015 will also be honored at reception on **October 1st** at the WEDU Studios in Tampa. Tickets for this FREE event are still available and guests in attendance will get a preview screening of their American Graduate Day Stories of Champions profile. Tickets are available at www.wedu.org/americangraduate. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

-more-

ABOUT WEDU PBS

WEDU is West Central Florida's leading PBS station 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 multi-media platforms including: television programming, station website, 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 visit www.wedu.org; WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter (@wedupbs) or call (813) 254-9338.

-WEDU-