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WEDU PBS Requests Applications and Nominations for 12th Annual WEDU Be More Awards



Winners of the 2016 WEDU Be More Awards gather on stage for a photo with ceremony hosts Lissette Campos and Jack Harris.

Tampa, FL; Aug. 19, 2016 – WEDU PBS will honor West Central Florida’s 501 (c)(3) organizations during the 12th Annual **WEDU Be More Awards**.

Applications and nominations will be accepted beginning Friday, August 26, 2016 through October 28, 2016.

Complete details can be found online at wedu.org/bemore. WEDU will accept applications and online nominations in a variety of categories that will recognize acts of generosity and kindness by organizations, volunteers, and individuals.

“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 honored 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 23, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the new Bryan Glazer Family JCC in Tampa.

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. Organizations that participate in the WEDU Be More Awards report an increase in inquiries from potential volunteers, donors, and people interested in or in need of their services,” said **Allison Hedrick**, WEDU Vice President of Communications.

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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...**Nielsen 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

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...**Rising Star Award
- **Be More Entrepreneurial...**Engaged Philanthropist Award
- **Be More Humble...**Warren Averett People's Choice 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 Positive...**ABC Action News Award
- **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 2017 WEDU Be More Awards are sponsored in part by:



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 (Source: Survey Sampling International (SSI), January 2016). 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.

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