



## WEDU DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Florida West Coast Public Broadcasting, the licensee of WEDU, is steadfast in its commitment to practices and policies that embrace and encourage diversity and equity in its programming and its people. The unique perspectives of our workforce foster a broadened understanding of the communities we serve. We are committed to fostering, cultivating and preserving a culture of diversity and inclusion, in the governing Board of Directors, the Community Advisory Board and the organization's employees, interns and volunteers to better fulfill our mission.

WEDU embraces board members' and employees' differences in age, disability, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity, language, national origin, physical and mental ability, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, veteran status, and other characteristics that make people unique.

WEDU's diversity initiatives are applicable – but not limited – to our practices on recruitment and selection, compensation and benefits, professional development and training, promotions, transfers, social and recreational programs, layoffs, terminations, and the ongoing development of a work environment that supports diversity.

As another important element to its public media work, WEDU celebrates the diversity in our communities with special programming throughout the year for Black History, Hispanic heritage, Asian Pacific heritage, Native American Heritage and Gay and Lesbian pride. During the past year, WEDU's local productions included many related to diverse communities, including its ongoing *WEDU Arts Plus* weekly series, highlighting local arts organizations, and sharing a diverse range of cultural and educational experiences. Each episode contains features of local arts and culture and is hosted by several multicultural hosts. In October 2015, WEDU held a community preview screening for the documentary "Veterans of Color" which was produced by the Manasota ASALH Branch together with The Ringling College of Art and Design. WEDU also filmed, aired and held a community preview screening, of the documentary called "VETERANS: The Telling Project". Both projects bring awareness to the less than 1 percent of the population that has served in the military over the past dozen years of war.

As of September 2016, 51% of WEDU's 49 member workforce are females; 34% of our workforce are members of minority groups. The composition of the staff has become more diverse in the past two to three years. We are focusing on improvement in our recruitment sources to achieve a diverse slate of candidates for all positions, and to continue to reflect the makeup of our communities.

Members of WEDU's Board and Community Advisory Board are drawn from the area's business, academic, community and volunteer organizations. WEDU continues to review recruitment practices for the Board and CAB to determine whether these practices accomplish the inclusion of diverse candidates for Board election slates.

WEDU is planning a Diversity seminar for the entire staff in 2016-17, and is seeking additional diverse sources for recruitment of staff members.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting

This report was created to comply with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's requirement that stations receiving funding under the Community Service Grant complete an annual Diversity and Inclusion Report. The report is publicly available at [www.wedu.org/about/publicfiles](http://www.wedu.org/about/publicfiles). Updated 9/30/16.