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WEDU PBS Announces Donation of Multimedia Library Corners to South Manatee Library and Mulberry Public Library



Artist rendering of a WEDU PBS Phyllis L. Ensign Library Corner.

Tampa, FL (July 24, 2017) — WEDU PBS announced today that the station will donate two multi-media library corners to area public libraries. The station has already donated 4 library corners and plans to donate a minimum of 16 multi-media library corners throughout its 16-county coverage area in West Central Florida.

South Manatee Library and **Mulberry Public Library** were each notified on Monday they would be the next recipients of a **WEDU PBS Phyllis L. Ensign Library Corner**.

In November 2015, WEDU received a very generous bequest from Phyllis L. Ensign, a long-time viewer. The \$4 million gift was the largest gift to WEDU in its 58 year history. "This generous bequest is helping WEDU expand services on-air and in the community to the more than 5 million people we serve," said **Susan Howarth**, WEDU President and CEO. "WEDU placed Mrs. Ensign's gift into WEDU's Endowment, which is providing long-term support for WEDU's operating budget. Those funds are supporting projects that we believe will honor Mrs. Ensign's gift such as her love of reading to children at the local library. That means *WEDU PBS Phyllis L. Ensign Library Corners* will be inspiring and educating thousands of children throughout West Central Florida," said Howarth.

The library corners include a bookshelf with a robust collection of PBS Kids books, DVDs, and CDs for the library's lending collection. The library corners will also include a reading rug, 2 electronic tablets loaded with PBS apps, a collection of 6 turnkey activity sessions with educational materials, take-home materials including a family resource guide, activity sheets, bookmarks, pencils, and more. WEDU will also provide the library staffs from each location a free training session on **Florida PBS LearningMedia**, **PBS Read-Aloud Program**, and **PBS Kids Lab**.

"WEDU has worked extensively with the public library systems to provide additional community outreach activities. Thanks to the generous bequest from Mrs. Ensign, we now have the opportunity to add a permanent platform of WEDU's multi-media PBS Kids Resources to the public libraries' collections. It's a powerful and exciting opportunity to help inspire a love of learning in children," said **Gail Taylor**, WEDU Director of Educational Services.

WEDU, in partnership with each library, will host community ribbon cutting celebrations complete with a PBS Kids character appearance, activities, book giveaways to mark the official opening of the library corners. WEDU is also currently taking applications for the next round of donations. Application priority is given to public libraries that are open year-round within WEDU's 16 county viewing area in West Central Florida. Applicants not selected within a round are automatically included in subsequent rounds for consideration. To learn more about the WEDU PBS Phyllis L. Ensign Library Corners and WEDU's educational services, visit www.wedu.org/edconnect.

The **WEDU PBS Phyllis L. Ensign Library Corners** are also sponsored in part by Regions Bank.

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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