Veteran of PBS, WEDU On-Air Host and Volunteer, Lyn Seymour Dies of COVID-19 in Tampa

Tampa Bay, FL – WEDU PBS announced today that Lyn Seymour, an important friend to WEDU, passed away March 31st at St. Joseph’s Hospital from complications due to Coronavirus.

Lyn was a longtime television producer and had produced documentaries for WEDU. She shared her love for public broadcasting by hosting on-air membership drives for the station. She was also one of the first members of WEDU’s volunteer team.

“Our own WEDU team has been impacted profoundly,” said Paul Grove, WEDU PBS President and CEO. Grove worked with Seymour on WEDU’s nationally distributed Mote Marine documentary “Shark Mysteries, Unlocking the Secrets of the Gulf” and “John Ringling: Dreamer, Builder, Collector.” Grove remembered, “Her ability to exhibit both professionalism and kindness at the same time is rare. She always encouraged everyone around her and had a quality that made everything she produced seem effortless.”

Seymour worked closely with WEDU Senior Vice President of Development Claire O’Connor Solomon who oversees WEDU’s on-air membership drives. “I am deeply saddened by Lyn’s passing,” O’Connor Solomon said. “She was a breath of fresh air, witty with her comebacks and always so generous with her time. She offered thoughtful advice and was a true believer of PBS and everything it stands for. She will truly be missed.”

Seymour and her husband Mike Seymour, founder of The Programming Service which has offices within the WEDU studios, had been self-quarantined at their home in Tampa after returning from a trip to Egypt.

“Lyn was a woman of many talents; producing, on-air talent, writing, corralling producers (tougher than herding cats, she would tell you), and many others. But whatever talent she was displaying at any given time always came with her humanity and care for those around her. She used her experience in public television to be a mentor and strong source of encouragement to other women within her sphere of influence, including me. She was also my dear friend and I will miss her so very much,” said Sabrena Norris, a longtime friend and staff member of The Programming Service.

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Jack Conely, WEDU Senior Vice President of Operations recalls, “Lyn was a mentor and a friend at WEDU when I was just learning about TV and about PBS. She had a deep devotion to PBS and the mission. Lyn was a big fan of Mr. Rogers long before there were documentaries and films in his honor. She always seemed to come in and out of my life at unexpected times over the years and was always ‘mentoring’ me in a loving way,” said Jack Conely, WEDU Senior Vice President of Operations.

The Seymour family has requested that contributions in honor of Lyn Seymour be made to local PBS stations.

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**WEDU PBS**

WEDU is West Central Florida’s 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 (Marketing & Research Resources, Inc. M&RR, January 2019). 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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