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WQED Announces Butler Librarian as Part of 2021 Early Learning Champions Program

*Tiffany Harkleroad recognized by WQED as leader in the Butler early education
community*

PITTSBURGH -- Today, WQED announced Tiffany Harkleroad, Youth Services Librarian at Butler Area Public Library as a PBS KIDS Early Learning Champion. The awards, established in 2018, recognize and celebrate passionate educators who work with the nation's youngest students, from infants to second graders. Through the Early Learning Champions program, PBS KIDS and local PBS stations like WQED surround educators with professional learning and networking opportunities.

“Working with Tiffany over the past three years, we have seen not only her passion for engaging early learners, but also her dedication to her community,” said Liz Kostandinu, Manager of WQED Inquire Within. “She works tirelessly to create innovative and accessible experiences for children, going beyond the four walls of the library to meet people where they are and creating new partnerships to support the needs of her community.”

Tiffany was selected as an Early Learning Champion for developing inclusive learning environments, effective family engagement, and innovative and impactful community engagement.

She enjoys finding effective ways to engage families, which proved to be quite a challenge during the pandemic. She continues to offer virtual, asynchronous options along with analog resources to overcome barriers to learning by modeling best practices, sharing resources, and working collaboratively with community leaders not only in her county but also in the broader state library system.

Tiffany's compassion and deep commitment to her community make her a wonderful Early Learning educator. WQED is excited to launch new innovations and ideas with Tiffany as a thought partner.

The PBS KIDS Early Learning Champions program, which has recognized 38 passionate educators of young children since its inception, including the 2021 honorees, includes various early learning educators, including Pre-K, Head Start and early elementary teachers; center care providers and directors; museum and community educators; and home care providers and owners. The program represents the diverse teaching community impacting young learners today. As they continue to move through the uncharted territory of pandemic-impacted learning, including the proliferation of hybrid teaching environments, PBS KIDS and local PBS stations will support skill-building within the classroom, in-person and at-home, while encouraging these professionals to seek out their own personal and professional trajectories.

These Early Learning Champions will also connect with educator networks across the nation, and further their commitments to their community's families, education officials, and administrators through the utilization of PBS KIDS and local PBS stations tools and resources.

This year's honorees were chosen for their passion and devotion to early education, strengthening the ecosystem in which children learn and innovating the teaching experience as we know it. Through the Early Learning Champions program, PBS KIDS aims to create a unique environment that includes professional learning and networking opportunities for educators, while fostering relationships between them and their local PBS stations.

The full list of the 2021 PBS KIDS Early Learning Champions can be found at [Class of 2021 | PBS Education](#)

About WQED

WQED was an experiment in educational community-supported television that was the forerunner to PBS. Today, WQED is a multimedia powerhouse that is as much a part of Pittsburgh as the three rivers. WQED is WQED-TV (PBS); WQED World; WQED Create; WQED Showcase; WQED PBS KIDS Channel; Classical WQED-FM 89.3/Pittsburgh; Classical WQED-FM 89.7/Johnstown; the Pittsburgh Concert Channel at WQED-HD2 (89.3-2FM) and online at www.wqed.org/fm; local and national television and radio productions; WQED Interactive (www.wqed.org) and WQED Education (www.wqed.org/edu).

About PBS KIDS

PBS KIDS believes the world is full of possibilities, and so is every child. As the number one educational media brand for kids, PBS KIDS helps children ages 2-8 learn lessons that last a lifetime. Through television, digital media, and community-based programs, PBS KIDS wants children to see themselves uniquely reflected and celebrated in lovable, diverse characters who serve as positive role models, and

to explore their feelings and discover new adventures along the way. Families can watch PBS KIDS anytime on the free PBS KIDS 24/7 channel and the PBS KIDS Video app, available on mobile and connected-TV devices, no subscription required. PBS KIDS' large collection of mobile apps and pbskids.org provide accessible content, including digital games and streaming video to spark kids' curiosity. PBS KIDS and local stations across the country support the entire ecosystem in which children learn and grow - including their teachers, parents, and community - providing resources to support children's learning, anytime and anywhere. For more information, visit pbs.org/pressroom, or follow PBS KIDS on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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