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KBTC recognizes Puyallup teacher named 2021 PBS KIDS Early Learning Champion

Puyallup School District kindergarten teacher is one of 11 educators nationwide honored as a leader in early education

Tacoma, Wash. –KBTC recently announced Amy Reed-Ferguson, a kindergarten teacher at Puyallup School District’s Pope Elementary School, is one of 11 educators from across the country to be named a [PBS KIDS](#) Early Learning Champion.

The award, established in 2018, recognizes and celebrates passionate educators who work with young children from infants to second graders, and offers professional learning and networking opportunities provided by PBS KIDS and KBTC, a service of Bates Technical College.

Reed-Ferguson was selected for her deep experience with tools and resources available from PBS KIDS through the station, and her creative approach to applying them in the classroom, said KBTC’s General Manager DeAnne Hamilton.

“Amy is passionate about supporting young learners and truly believes that KBTC and its PBS KIDS resources are a partner in her teaching journey, as well as her own lifelong learning,” said Hamilton.

As part of a two-year cohort, Reed-Ferguson will have the opportunity to participate in a collection of community building, leadership and professional development activities.

Hamilton said, “KBTC is excited to spotlight the importance of early education and professionals in the field like Amy. She is making a difference for our youngest learners. We are honored to partner with and celebrate her as someone who is passionate about teaching and is using media to help students understand and relate to the presented material.”

The program honors those who positively impact young learners. As they continue to move through the uncharted territory of pandemic-impacted learning, including the proliferation of hybrid teaching environments, PBS KIDS and KBTC continue to support skill-building within the classroom, in person and at home.

According to a statement from PBS, 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 like KBTC.

Read the full list of the 2021 PBS KIDS Early Learning Champions [here](#). To learn more about KBTC, please visit www.KBTC.org.

About KBTC Public Television

KBTC is the South Sound's public broadcasting station. Operating out of Tacoma, Wash., KBTC is the only television broadcaster in Pierce County. KBTC is committed to telling local stories that aren't being told anywhere else, serving underserved and diverse audiences, and connecting viewers with the people and ideas that shape Western Washington. KBTC is available to 1.8 million TV households and 4.3 million viewers in Western Washington, British Columbia and Oregon. KBTC, a PBS affiliate, is operated as a service of Bates Technical College.

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](#).