



MONTANAPBS ANNOUNCES BILLINGS TEACHER AS PART OF “EARLY LEARNING CHAMPIONS” PROGRAM, RECOGNIZING PASSIONATE EDUCATORS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Traci Piltz recognized by MontanaPBS as leader in the Montana early education community

Billings, MT November 15, 2018 – Today, MontanaPBS announced Traci Piltz from Billings Public Schools as a PBS KIDS Early Learning Champion. This new awards program recognizes committed educators who work with young children, from infants to second-graders, and will offer a variety of community building, leadership and professional learning opportunities provided by PBS and member stations over the next two years. The program kicks off this week, when the PBS KIDS Early Learning Champions will participate in the NAEYC Conference (November 14-16), be recognized at an awards ceremony (November 16) and attend the inaugural PBS KIDS Early Learning Champions Summit (November 17).

Traci Piltz is a former kindergarten teacher and a technology integration specialist for Billings Public Schools. She works primarily with K-2 teachers to use technology to inspire students to create, collaborate and think critically. Traci was selected for this honor because of her commitment to helping primary teachers in Billings successfully integrate technology and digital media with their young students. Traci supports teachers and students to explore innovative experiences such as coding, creating with tools such as Seesaw and communicating with other communities using video conferencing tools such as Skype and Google Hangout.

The PBS KIDS Early Learning Champions cohort is made up of various early learning caregivers – including certified Pre-K, Head Start and early elementary teachers, childcare providers as well as family, friends and neighbors in early learning settings – representing, celebrating, and supporting the diverse teaching community impacting young learners.

The full list of the 2018 PBS KIDS Early Learning Champions, their profiles and photographs can be found [here](#).

About MontanaPBS

MontanaPBS is a local public television station serving the state of Montana. MontanaPBS shares diverse stories; connects our citizens; discovers common ground; and celebrates the independent spirit and beauty of Montana.

About PBS KIDS

PBS KIDS, the number one educational media brand for kids, offers children ages 2-8 the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television, digital media and community-based programs. PBS KIDS and local stations across the country support the entire

ecosystem in which children learn, including their teachers, parents and community. Provided by stations, the free PBS KIDS 24/7 channel and live stream is available to more than 95% of U.S. TV households. Kidscreen- and Webby Award-winning pbskids.org provides engaging interactive content, including digital games and streaming video. PBS KIDS offers mobile apps to help support young children's learning, including the PBS KIDS Video app, which is available on a variety of mobile devices and on platforms such as Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android TV and Chromecast. PBS KIDS also offers parent and teacher resources to support children's learning anytime and anywhere. For more information on PBS KIDS content and initiatives supporting school readiness and more, visit pbs.org/pressroom, or follow PBS KIDS on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and Instagram.

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