



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Mary Riker  
(850) 484-1211; [mriker@wsre.org](mailto:mriker@wsre.org)

### **WSRE RECOGNIZES LOCAL CHAMPIONS FOR EARLY LEARNING** New television spots identify Studer Community Institute and *Sacred Heart Hospital's Early Steps* as *American Graduate Champions*



*Pensacola, Fla., September 15, 2016*—On PBS stations nationwide, Saturday is American Graduate Day, and a four-hour broadcast from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. CDT will spotlight individuals and non-profit organizations dedicated to helping youth stay on track to high school graduation. Just prior to and immediately following the broadcast, WSRE will premiere videos recognizing Sacred Heart Hospital's Early Steps and Studer Community Institute as local "American Graduate Champions" who advocate for early learning and providing children with a solid foundation for improved academic and social outcomes in the local community.

These locally produced American Graduate "Stories of Champions" can also be viewed online at [wsre.org/AmericanGraduate](http://wsre.org/AmericanGraduate).

Hosted by former CNN anchor Soledad O'Brien, the four-hour national broadcast will explore the power of mentorship through half-hour long segments on the following topics: Early Education, More and Better Learning, Special Needs Communities, STEAM, Dropout Prevention and Re-Engagement, and College and Career Readiness. Celebrity guests include Gen. and Mrs. Colin Powell, Shaquille O'Neal, Dolly Parton and Rachel Platten.

The national "American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen" campaign uses the power and reach of public media to share community-based solutions helping communities across America improve graduation rates as well as college and career preparedness. The overall goal is to reach a national graduation rate of 90 percent by 2020.

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#### **About WSRE, PBS for the Gulf Coast**

WSRE, a Public Broadcasting Service station, is locally owned and licensed to the Pensacola State College Board of Trustees. Since 1967, WSRE has served Northwest Florida and South Alabama with quality TV programs, educational media and community outreach reflecting the diverse cultural, political, geographic and demographic characteristics of the coverage area. WSRE aims to help improve educational outcomes and provide access to enlightening, informative and entertaining content for all learners. Visit [wsre.org](http://wsre.org) to learn more.