WIPB and its partners in the 8twelve area on the south side of Muncie, including Ross Community Center and Maring-Hunt Library, completed the first of a two-year series of workshops and camps funded by a Ready to Learn grant.

All of the activities were based on popular PBS Kids programs and focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

WIPB’s first camp in March took over the Ross Community Center during Spring Break. More than 20 kids ages 5 to 10 clipped on their ODD SQUAD badges each day for this “Be the Agent” camp, solving cases while learning about teamwork, math knowledge, inquiry practices, and the engineering design process.

Kids at our second “Sensational Science” camp in June at Ross engaged in science inquiry and engineering design alongside Ruff Ruffman and his friends. Thirty-five kids attended the summer camp and let’s just say that the day we focused on mixtures, which included making their own play dough, was a big hit.

WIPB’s third camp blasted into space with the newest PBS Kids star, Jet. The READY, JET, GO! Space Scout Camp at Ross campers engaged as scientists and engineers, exploring and investigating the conditions needed to support life on earth and in space and imagining and creating solutions to space-themed engineering challenges. Thirty kids attended this week of fun.

“Kids were able to learn without realizing they were learning,” said Ball State University Senior
Austin King, who helped lead several of the Space Camp activities.

At each of the camps, kids were able to explore the many PBS Kids apps. All of the meals for the camps (breakfast, lunch and snacks) were provided through grant funds.

“Why I think this project is so important is because it allows children and families to understand — to experience first hand — different ways of learning,” said Jacquie Hanoman, Executive Director of Ross Community Center. “Some of the best learning happens when we are having fun!”

WIPB had its first Family Community Learning workshop in August at Maring-Hunt Library. This CAT IN THE HAT KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THAT workshop series brought out more than 10 families for three consecutive Saturday afternoons.

Each session began with a shared meal (made possible with grant funds), followed by activities and a video.

Families went home after each session with books to read and activities to do together and, at the completion of the final workshop, each family went home with a PBS Kids Playtime Pad (tablet), packed with educational PBS Kids videos and games.

Facilitators for the camps and workshops included Darbi Strahle of Habitat for Humanity; Ross Community Center Education Coordinator Amanda Owen; Shanna Hurd, Youth Services Supervisor at Maring-Hunt, and several Ball State University students.

The station will complete the grant project in September of 2020.

“Our hope is that, through some key sponsorships, we can continue these wonderful educational programs beyond 2020,” said WIPB community engagement and grants manager Michelle Kinsey.

For more about the project, including videos and photos, go to www.wipb.org/readytolearn
WIPB announced in November that Felicia Gray, a first grade teacher at Burris Laboratory School in Muncie, has been named an Early Learning Champion by PBS KIDS.

Established in 2018, this awards program recognizes committed educators who work with young children, from infants to second graders, and offers a variety of community building, leadership and professional learning opportunities provided by WIPB and PBS KIDS.

“Felicia Gray has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to outside-the-box creativity inside her classroom,” said Michelle Kinsey, Community Engagement and Grants Manager for WIPB.

At Burris, she enthusiastically spearheads innovative hands-on projects, encourages collaborative efforts with other classrooms, and believes field trips are necessary, not optional. Not one to simply cover a topic, she will often create an entire theme, complete with art projects, costumes or skits.

Gray said she is “focused on the whole child and strives to help students understand their own emotions.” She promotes kindness through building a classroom community that “lifts each other up, and seeks to help others.”

With support from PBS KIDS and local PBS stations, including WIPB, Gray will explore unique in-person and digital experiences, forge pathways for her own professional growth, build meaningful relationships with peers from across the country, create content, and develop and implement ideas in her community and classroom.
EDCAMP ROCKS!

On June 1, WIPB hosted its first PBS Kids Edcamp at the Ball State University Alumni Center.

Elementary school teachers, preschool teachers and child care providers from Delaware County and beyond attended the morning event, which offered an opportunity to connect, share and learn with a network of other early childhood educators in our viewing area.

The unique "un-conference" Edcamp model began as an idea in 2010 and has transformed into a movement. And, in 2018, Edcamp partnered with PBS Kids to launch events hosted by select PBS stations.

An Edcamp is based on four main principles: it is participant-driven (educators choose what they want to discuss), it is free to attend, it is led by experience (not experts), it encourages educators to explore multiple topics by using the rule of two feet (getting up anytime and moving to a topic that speaks to their interests).

The WIPB Edcampers came up with these timely session topics: “Family Engagement - Connecting Caregivers to Parents,” “Project-based Activities and Ideas for the Classroom,” “Different Approaches to Behavior Management,” “Teaching about Differentiation and Transitions,” “STEAM and Preschool,” and “Social Emotional Learning with Kids and Parents.”

Edcampers were also able to explore a PBS Learning Media lounge, where they learned about the amazing free PBS Kids resources that support social and emotional development, math, science, and literacy skills.

“I hope this is the first of many [PBS Kids Edcamps],” said Liane Nickey after the event. Nickey is the executive director of Huffer Memorial Children's Center, an event partner.
STORIES OF VALUE

Now Entering...

WIPB’s highest-rated local program returned for its fourth season in 2019. NOW ENTERING... shines the spotlight on the great small towns in our viewing area. NOW ENTERING is a video scrapbook of the people, places and history of towns as seen through the eyes of its residents.

This is a wonderful community engagement opportunity for WIPB, visiting the mostly rural towns in our viewing area, engaging with its residents through town meetings, on-site production days, preview screenings and, on the night of the pledge program, bringing members of the community to our home – our studio on the Ball State campus.

In 2019 we featured the towns of Rushville, Winchester and Tipton. In Rushville, we learned about their national political contribution, and how the Kennedy Family made a name for themselves as builders of Covered Bridges. Winchester featured a trip to famous Wick’s Pies, and a few laps around the Winchester Speedway. And Tipton showcased the town’s rich agricultural traditions and the famous Tipton County Pork Festival.

New episodes featuring more great small towns are slated for 2020.
WIPB partnered with INSIGHT with Mark Oppenheim (mOppenheimTV) to produce a nine-episode series that highlighted 17 nonprofit organizations and their impact on strengthening the communities of the East Central Indiana.

Episodes featured organizations including Muncie Outreach, Red-Tail Land Conservancy, Ball State University, East Central Indiana CASA, Muncie Civic Theatre, Ball State’s Building Better Neighborhoods, Muncie Symphony Orchestra, Boys & Girls Clubs of Muncie, Habitat for Humanity of Madison County, YWCA Muncie, John Jay Center for Learning, Second Harvest Food Bank, Project Leadership, Little Red Door Cancer Agency and Hayes Arboretum.
New Neighbors

In July, WIPB took BE MY NEIGHBOR DAY on the road. The free family event in downtown Anderson featured DANIEL TIGER and KATERINA KITTYCAT, community partner booths, live music by Ruditoonz and a scavenger hunt through the neighborhood. Based on the animated PBS KIDS show DANIEL TIGER’S NEIGHBORHOOD, and with a nod to MISTER ROGERS’ NEIGHBORHOOD, this event focuses on the importance of being neighborly. More than 400 people spent a beautiful day in the neighborhood.

WIPB welcomed nearly 1,000 “neighbors” to its 5th annual Be My Neighbor Day in September. Based on the popular PBS KIDS animated program, DANIEL TIGER’S NEIGHBORHOOD and with a nod to the classic MISTER ROGERS’ NEIGHBORHOOD, the event focuses on the importance of being a good neighbor. Children — from toddlers to 10 year-olds — used a map to lead them through the “streets” lined with more than 20 neighbors from community centers, arts organizations, neighborhood groups and much more. At each booth, the kids participated in neighborly activities and their adults learned about new ways to give back, from volunteer opportunities to supporting local arts and culture. There was live music provided by Ruditoonz, a performance by Muncie Civic Theatre's children's workshop, the MITS "neighborhood” trolley and, of course, Daniel Tiger himself.
Far Out

In January, WIPB partnered with The Charles W. Brown Planetarium at Ball State University to provide “far out” activities for young astronomers during a series of Family Month programs based on SESAME STREET. This cross-cultural adventure opened children’s eyes to the sky, helping them see how people all over the world are connected. Families with children in preschool through second grade enjoyed learning from our SESAME STREET friends. Children created postcards from space, and Moon Molds based on the different phases of the moon, and much more.

Downton Premiere

In September, scores of Downton Abbey devotees joined us for an exclusive, advanced premiere of THE DOWNTON ABBEY MOVIE, five days before it opened nationwide. The Brit-loving audience participated in Downton Abbey trivia and a fancy fascinator contest (complete with fabulous prizes) before the enjoying the highly-anticipated premiere of the movie at the AMC Muncie 12 theater.

Beautiful Day

In November, dozens of neighbors in our viewing area joined us for a private, early premiere of A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, five days before it opened nationwide. The Mister Rogers-loving audience showed up in their favorite red cardigans and participated in fun Fred trivia before the screening at the AMC Muncie 12 theater. And after the movie, they were invited to pose for photos in Fred's “living room.”

‘Secret’ Screening

WIPB’s Community Engagement Manager presented a screening of the new PBS Kids program, XAVIER RIDDLE AND THE SECRET MUSEUM, at the Dunkirk Public Library and Glass Museum in November. More than 30 children from the nearby elementary school watched a few episodes and participated in activities based on the show. “The kids had a great time,” said Beth A. Davidson, Dunkirk Library Director.
Wellness Matters

WIPB continued its series that focuses on all aspects of being healthy and living a healthy lifestyle—mind, body and spirit. Each episode of WELLNESS MATTERS features local panelists who share their advice and expertise as well as community members who share their personal experiences. The series is hosted by Jeff Bird, MD., president, east-central region for IU Health. Topics in 2019 included dementia care, obesity, alternative medicines, opioid recovery, transitioning to college, antibiotic stewardship, food insecurity, aging, and keeping children healthy.

Table Talk

The second season of WIPB’s monthly series focusing on public issues that face the people and places in Indiana — THE ROUNDTABLE — continued in 2019. ROUNDTABLE is hosted by Michael Hicks, George and Frances Ball Distinguished professor of economics and director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University. Roundtable guests included Heather Presley-Cowen, Director of Community Development Initiatives and Ryan Chasey, President of High Performance Government Network; James Connolly, Director of the Center for Middletown Studies at Ball State; Deirdre McCloskey, Distinguished Professor of Economics at the University of Illinois, Chicago; Karl Barron, Indiana Board of Realtors President; Matthew Greller, CEO of Aim, and Jennifer McCormick, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Bee Focused

WIPB hosted its fourth Regional Spelling Bee in 2019, which involved nearly 60 schools from six counties in our viewing area, encompassing a wide range of economic and cultural backgrounds. The bee was broadcasted live on WIPB, on our website and on our Facebook page. The Ball State University Teachers College provided the funds for students to participate from Delaware, Jay, Blackford, Randolph, Madison and Henry counties. The champion of the WIPB Spelling Bee won an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. In the months leading up to the Spelling Bee, WIPB’s Community Engagement Manager offered a weekly Bee Great Spelling Club at Motivate Our Minds, designed to get students excited about spelling, become more comfortable with public speaking and find motivation to achieve their goals. It culminated with a Club Bee that enabled kids who did not advance to the WIPB event the opportunity for bee success within the club.
Masterworks Celebration
In January, WIPB aired a special documentary celebrating Muncie's Masterworks Chorale's 40 years as a community choir, engaging with the city of Muncie, Ball State University and Indiana residents from across the state. In a special documentary, Masterworks musicians shared insights into why this organization has retained its vitality and continues to be an essential ingredient of Muncie's civic involvement and engagement. The chorale's ability to adapt to new directors, evolve its sound, and increase its visibility is a model for civic arts groups throughout Indiana.

Making Music
WIPB aired the recorded broadcast of the IPR's annual RADIO DRAMA in December. The production featured community actors, authentic sound effects (produced by a foley artist on stage) and a live orchestra. Video and animation for the open was created by Chris Flook, Ball State University Telecommunications Department.

WIPB also continued its longstanding tradition of broadcasting the MUNCIE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SING. The event, which returned to its renovated home at the Muncie Fieldhouse, featured hundreds of Muncie Community Schools students (choirs and bands) and community performers.

Along with the Ball State School of Music, WIPB produced new episodes of FRONT ROW CENTER AT SURSA HALL. The concerts of Ball State University's Wind Ensemble, Symphony Band, Symphony Orchestra featuring Graduate Competition winners, Centennial Celebration, and Spring and Holiday Chorus performances were all featured during 2019.

Healthy Experience
In May, WIPB was a part of Ball State University's “Community Campus Experience: Healthy Kids, Healthy Community” at Heekin Park in Muncie. The free event included fun, hands-on PBS Kids activities and much more. Other organizations involved included Indiana Public Radio, YMCA and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Muncie.
WIPB is deeply integrated with area schools, agencies, arts organizations, public health experts and many others in an effort to publicize community issues and initiatives in order to help people solve problems and improve quality of life in our community.

Local Impact

WIPB's local services had a deep impact in our viewing area. In 2019 we:

- Provided STEAM resources, education and information in underserved areas of our community through a grant from CPB and the U.S. Department of Education
- Partnered with more than 30 nonprofit organizations to promote free resources and services to the community

Key Local Services

In 2019, WIPB provided these vital local services:

- Produced local public affairs, arts & culture and educational programming and documentaries that tell the stories of citizens in east central Indiana.
- Provided real-life work experiences for Ball State students working in the telecommunications field

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS...

These are some of our partners for events, programming and more during 2019:

- 8twelve Coalition
- Ball State Counseling Center
- Ball State Building Better Neighborhoods
- Ball State Journalism Department
- Ball State Telecommunications Department
- Ball State Theatre and Dance Department
- Ball State Libraries
- Ball State School of Music
- Beyond I Can
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Muncie
- Charles Brown Planetarium
- Ball State Center for Business and Economic Research
- Community Hospital Anderson
- Cornerstone Center for the Arts
- David Owsley Museum of Art
- DC Prevent Child Abuse and Huffer Girl Scouts
- Habitat for Humanity
- Huffer Child Care Resource and Referral
- IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital
- LifeStream Services
- Muncie Public Library
- Minnetrista
- Motivate Our Minds
- Muncie Ballet Studio
- Muncie BYS
- Muncie Civic Theatre
- Muncie Symphony Orchestra
- Muncie Moms Demand Action
- Muncie Optimists
- Ross Community Center
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- South View Elementary School
- Upward Bound