COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT 2021

EDUCATION • CIVIC LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SAFETY
Last year, I reported the substantial efforts of APT to serve Alabama communities in reaction to the pandemic. I’m delighted to say that work was recognized with a Southeastern Regional Emmy and an ABBY from the Alabama Broadcasters Association this year. The vital importance of APT was also recognized by Alabama legislators, who increased funding for the agency, and by record-breaking contributions from our viewers.

APT continued to share important news and tell amazing stories of Alabama in 2021, with series including Capitol Journal, Monograph, Journey Proud, Spotlight on Agriculture, Spotlight on Education, Discovering Alabama, Alabama Gospel Roots, Alabama Scholars Bowl, Alabama Upstarts and Bookmark; and specials such as Forever Wild: The Jim Martin Story, Fire in Anniston: A Freedom Riders’ Story, Women of True Grit, and Bluegrass on the Rim.

Following our commitment to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education this year, we successfully launched DIY Science Time, a weekly science show geared toward students in grades 4-6 that has been picked up by numerous PBS stations around the country and is available nationwide through PBS Learning Media.

APT made new gains in serving the blind, deaf and deaf/blind community in 2021, culminating in a special screening of the WNET documentary Becoming Helen Keller at the Ritz Theatre in Talladega, where 270 students from the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind seemed to be spellbound by the film that provided captioning, descriptive audio and ASL sign interpretation throughout. Seeing the joy and excitement on the faces of the kids from the AIDB reminded me of why I wanted to work in public broadcasting in the first place.

With a dedication to education, civic leadership and public safety, APT provides vital services to the people of Alabama that are available nowhere else. The staff of Alabama Public Television can do what they do thanks to the combined support of individuals, organizations, corporations, state government and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. We sincerely thank all these partners.

Philip F. Hutcheson
Interim Executive Director
Alabama Public Television
APT provides educational experiences for people of all ages, motivating children to learn, empowering students and teachers to succeed, and providing a lifelong path to knowledge through our unique programs and services. From award-winning interactive learning adventures to hands-on activities for pre-school, APT is a 24/7 hub of activity for teachers, students and parents.

APT's public affairs programming keeps citizens informed about state government, laws, regulations, budgets and plans. APT provides tools and guidance for young people exploring careers and training opportunities after high school. APT’s Young Heroes scholarship program honors high school students for academic excellence, community service and overcoming obstacles.

APT is a vital link in the communications network for state law enforcement, homeland security and emergency notifications to the public throughout the state of Alabama. EAS alerts for all broadcasters, WARN alerts for cell phone users and Amber Alerts are all distributed via the microwave system that connects APT’s transmitters.
BROADCAST & LIVESTREAM

APT HD
APT PBS Kids Channel
APT Create Channel
APT World Channel
8,760 hours each

APP
APT Mobile App
7,145 unique users
53,079 sessions

PBS LEARNING MEDIA
812,872 Views
292,782 Resources Viewed / Downloaded

WEBSITE
www.aptv.org

345,644 Visitors
1,118,390 Page Views
87,729 Video Views

SOCIAL MEDIA
Facebook
Instagram
Twitter
YouTube

Watch all four of APT’s broadcast channels anywhere you go with the free APT App.
In a year that began with violence in the nation’s capital and saw continued disruption of business, jobs, medicine and schools caused by new waves of COVID pandemic, viewers turned to APT for reliable information, clear insight, and stimulating entertainment at the end of the day.

**Capitol Journal**

Host Don Dailey and reporters Karen Goldsmith and Randy Scott covered important Alabama news throughout the year, interviewing newsmakers, lawmakers and a range of experts about important issues facing the state and viewers. CAPITOL JOURNAL’s straightforward, unbiased reporting and in-depth coverage offers viewers access to state officials and legislators that is unique on television. State Health Officer, Dr. Scott Harris, also appeared each week to provide updates on COVID in Alabama. In addition to broadcasts, these one-hour CAPITOL JOURNAL WEEK IN REVIEW episodes are available online and across media platforms, including podcasts and the APT and PBS Video apps.

**NIGHTLY UPDATES**

CAPITOL JOURNAL adds nightly coverage of issues and activities in the state capital when the Alabama Legislature is in session. Legislative coverage included a live broadcast of Governor Kay Ivey’s State of the State address in February.

**SPECIALS**

In CAPITOL JOURNAL: VACCINE ALABAMA, a special primetime broadcast in September 2021, state leaders and healthcare experts explored COVID-19 vaccination rates and recommendations in response to a new surge of Coronavirus infections in Alabama driven by the Delta variant and complicated by students returning to schools.
Spotlight on Education
Teachers, students and parents were constantly adapting to new routines during 2021 as schools adjusted live and virtual education with the severity of the coronavirus pandemic. *Spotlight on Education’s quarterly episodes helped viewers understand decisions about masking, the facts about vaccinations, developments in virtual learning technology* and much more. State Superintendent of Education Dr. Eric Mackey provided updates on school plans for viewers in each quarterly episode. Viewers also heard from Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind President Dr. John Mascia; Nancy Pack, Director of the Alabama Public Library Service; Alabama Community College System Chancellor Jimmy Baker; Rep. Bill Poole of Tuscaloosa; Wallace State Community College President Dr. Vicki Karolewics; State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris; and Josh Laney with the Alabama Office of Apprenticeship, among others.

Spotlight on Agriculture
APT’s quarterly agriculture series *tells stories of farming and food, research and innovation, rural life and urban connections*. In January 2021, it explored the work of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), which provides research-based educational programs in agriculture, forestry, wildlife and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, economic and community development and 4-H and youth development. Another episode introduced viewers to the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology and its work with Auburn University to develop more plant species that would be commercially viable for Alabama agriculture. “First Time Farmers” *explored the growing interest of people in farming, including row crops, poultry, beef cattle and organic vegetables*. Restauranteurs, including Birmingham’s Frank Stitt talked about growing food to serve in their businesses. An episode that premiered in July shared the story of Auburn University’s Animal Sciences Department and the school’s national championship equestrian team.

Host Retires
Don Dailey, host and executive producer for Alabama Public Television’s *CAPITOL JOURNAL* since December 2011, *retired at the end of 2021 after 40 years in radio and television broadcasting*. “For the last decade, it has been a high point of my career to bring Alabamians important news from the Statehouse and the Capitol,” Dailey said. “It has also been an honor and a privilege to interview leaders from all aspects of state government. I am so very thankful for the opportunities that have been afforded to me by Alabama Public Television and I look forward to the next chapter of my life.” Phil Hutcheson, interim executive director for APT, said “Don has been a tremendous asset to Alabama Public Television and to the people of our state. We’re grateful for his years of service, and we wish him all the best in whatever he decides to do next.”
JSU Partnership

Alabama Public Television began a partnership with Jacksonville State University in 2020 to provide students with hands-on experience in video production to create documentaries on Alabama. Two new films premiered on APT in 2021. *Forever Wild: The James D. Martin Story* examined the life and legacy of the U.S. Congressman and the Director of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources who founded Alabama’s Forever Wild Program. *A Fire in Anniston: A Freedom Riders Story* provided eyewitness accounts of the KKK attack on a bus filled with Freedom Riders in Anniston – a bus which they set on fire. The JSU team also contributed a music special to APT’s schedule in 2021. *Bluegrass on the Rim 2021* celebrated the 50th anniversary of Birmingham’s famed Three on a String.

Another River to Cross: The Alabama Indian

From an early settlement found at Russell Cave to the great Mississippian mound builders to modern day Alabama, *Another River to Cross* explored the history and legacy of Alabama’s indigenous people.

Deep South Science: Frances Grace and Southern Research

*Deep South Science* – a new series celebrating exciting scientific discoveries in the southeastern United States – featured the story of Frances Grace Hirs of Fairhope, Alabama, and a lifesaving new cancer drug developed by Alabama-based Southern Research that saved her life.
Discovering Alabama: Alabama Fossils
It is always fun to travel along with Dr. Doug Phillips as he explores the natural wonders of Alabama. In “Alabama Fossils,” the hunt was for things that are millions of years old. The program visited spots all around Alabama where fossils can be found, from the mountains in the north to the beaches in the south, and examined what this fossil record tells us about Alabama’s ancient past.

Distinguished Young Women Awards
Young women from around the nation come to Mobile each year for the finals of the Distinguished Young Women Awards, formerly known as Junior Miss. Distinguished Young Women is a unique program that combines the chance to win college scholarships with life skills training to prepare young women for the world after high school. APT shared highlights from the final night of the Mobile event including the presentation of prizes.

Fight for the Noblest Democracy: Women’s Suffrage in Alabama
Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 18th Amendment, Fight for the Noblest Democracy examined the history and future of women’s suffrage and the right for women to vote both nationally and in Alabama.
**ARTS & CULTURE**

**Alabama Gospel Roots**
Alabama Gospel Roots shares the sound of Alabama gospel singers and musicians every Saturday night on APT. Hosted by Tuscaloosa native George W. Stewart, programs include performances and interviews with the artists, short interviews with people and organizations making a difference in people's lives, and shout outs to local communities. Alabama Gospel Roots shares all different kinds of gospel music – solos, groups, a cappella singers and instrumentalists – and as Stewart says in every program, “There's only one color and that's the color of love.”

**Handel’s Messiah – Alabama Civic Chorale**
The COVID pandemic created a crisis for the Alabama Civic Chorale, which was unable to hold a public performance of Handel’s Messiah for the first time in 73 years in 2020. To continue their tradition, APT presented a recorded version of the Chorale's 100-voice choir and orchestra on television.

**Opera Birmingham – Sounds of the Season**
Performers from Birmingham’s professional opera company offered an evening of classic carols and beloved holiday songs. The television performance helped Opera Birmingham reach public audiences at a time when the pandemic made live concerts impossible.

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**Monograph**
Monograph celebrated its third season documenting Alabama's rich tapestry of creative works and artistic endeavors in 2021 with stories that embraced a multitude of disciplines and human identities, showcasing voices both inside and outside the traditional arts framework to honor the cultural vibrancy of our state. Monograph's stories originate as short films that are released digitally on a regular basis during the year, and then broadcast as collections of films in television episodes hosted by Jackie Clay. Creators featured this year included Birmingham-based maker Missy Roll, social worker and artist Chris Lawson, illustrator Lo Harris of Bessemer, filmmaker Lily Ahree Siegel, textile artist Aaron Sanders Head of Greensboro, mixed-media artist Celeste Amparo Pfau, Montgomery-based photographer Sydney A. Foster, and hip hop performers Shaheed & DJ Supreme.

**PBS Short Film Festival 2021**
Monograph’s creative team, Lisa Cordes and Kelsey Harrison, were honored to have two of their films accepted for PBS's Eleventh Annual Online Film Festival in July. Monograph films “Migratruse Ataraxia at Klein Plantation” and “Stacey Holloway” were among 25 films about identity, society, culture, family, race, and humanity in this high-profile annual showcase.
The importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education is well-recognized, and Alabama Public Television has been a leader in creating powerful STEM-related content for educators for years. The advent of COVID – which led to large numbers of students attending school “virtually” – created a need for new STEM learning resources that families could utilize easily at home. APT launched DIY Science Time in March 2021 to meet that need.

DIY Science Time is a fun and innovative series that highlights the importance of families learning together while exploring the world. The show’s mission is to break down barriers to STEM for all learners including students, teachers AND parents and improve overall attitudes towards science and STEM learning while reminding learners that “science is wherever you are!” The series is designed for learners in grades 4th-6th but is also of interest to younger and older children who are looking for ways to explore amazing science concepts in their homes.

Working on a new series safely during a pandemic posed challenges. The series was conceived, developed, and created with the entire team working from home in two different states. DIY Science Time is hosted by Kevin Cornell of Ohio, also known as Mister C, a science-loving, STEM-driven educator who investigates the world through experiments, demonstrations, and activities. Each episode takes place in Mister C’s home kitchen where the production team consisted of series co-creators Heather and Kevin Cornell. They installed a brand-new kitchen lighting rig and did all aspects of production safely from home while the APT team was hard at work in Alabama. The series also features a young science crew, composed of four animated young scientists. The voice actors were able to record from home while the producers oversaw the sessions virtually. The Mister C and APT teams then worked from their home editing suites for post-production.
The animated young scientists model that science is exciting, fun and can be done by anyone who is interested in learning. They also remind viewers that everyone can contribute to a team in a unique and important way. The Science Crew and Mister C keep a science notebook where they emphasize the scientific importance of defining the problem, taking notes, looking at data, asking questions and finding creative ways to experiment and test new ideas. Viewers can follow along and conduct experiments safely at their own homes using ordinary, household objects.

*DIY Science Time* illustrates that “science is wherever you are” and can be explored at home with familiar materials many families already have.

Additional educational resources for the series include a PBS LearningMedia collection, downloadable corresponding teacher guide, activities, and of course, the science notebook.

*DIY Science Time* provided immediate relief to the families, students and teachers impacted by COVID-19 with sound educational resources to supplement classroom and at-home learners. The on-air broadcast provided phenomenal reach for all learners and minimized the potential barrier for families without internet access at home.

“We love watching *DIY Science Time* because it gets the kids excited about science! It is a great way for the entire family to come together and do science experiments. It is hands on and fun!”

– Debbie Berger, parent of two *DIY Science Time* loving kids.

“*DIY Science Time* added a wonderful hands-on science element to the Michigan Learning Channel’s summer program lineup. We appreciated the focus on an upper-elementary audience, the engaging presentation, and the use of simple projects that could be completed at home.”

– Gillian Ream Gainsley, Program Director, Michigan Learning Channel

Following its successful launch in Alabama, APT offered *DIY Science Time* to other PBS stations around the country. To date, more than 20 member stations have added the program to their schedules, reaching approximately 30% national coverage.

*DIY Science Time* is available nationwide on multiple digital platforms including PBS Video, YouTube, and PBS LearningMedia, PBS’s national media-on-demand service offering educators access to the best of public media. Current metrics for the series since April 23, 2021 include 18,139 video streams and 151,477 minutes (2,524 hours) of watch time with viewers from across the country.
EDUCATION

Keeping pace with the extraordinary challenges to K-12 schools during the pandemic - and with new expectations for digital delivery - APT’s Education team continues to innovate and meet the needs of teachers, students, families and adult learners alike.

BROADCAST

PBS KIDS programming has helped children start school better prepared to learn and do better throughout school for two generations, and parents trust the PBS programs above all others on television. Children's programs make up just less than half of APT's broadcast day, and our PBS KIDS Channel makes sure children and caregivers can benefit from these programs 24/7. We always encourage parents to watch with their children and reinforce the lessons covered by the programs.

PBSKIDS is also one of the most popular websites for families, offering educational games as well as episodes of popular series. A variety of educational PBS KIDS apps can be easily downloaded so children can keep learning without internet access.

QUICK FACT: According to PBS research, 72% of all children watched PBS last year. Parents rated PBS Kids the most educational media brand for children by an 8 to 1 margin over second-rated Disney.

*Marketing & Research Resources, Inc., (M&RR) 1/2019

With the PBS KIDS Channel, my grandchildren can wake up learning and fall asleep learning!
**EVENTS**

**Hero Elementary**
The PBS Kids series *Hero Elementary* features students who use the “Superpowers of Science” to help people and solve problems. In November 2020, APT partnered with YMCA locations to host a *Hero Elementary* Family Science event. Children participated in the activities during their aftercare program at the YMCA and then went home with other activities to do with their families to extend their learning. Each child had the opportunity to make their own superhero cape and explore the new *Hero Elementary* game, Operation Investigation. Two hundred children participated in this event at the Hoover, Shades Valley, Alabaster, Pelham, Greystone, Paine Elementary School, Cahaba Elementary School, Magnolia Elementary School, Trussville, Northeast, and the Youth Center YMCA program location.

**Be My Neighbor Days: A Virtual Week of Kindness**
APT has hosted live *Be My Neighbor Day* (BMND) family events in several Alabama cities in recent years. Due to restrictions placed by COVID-19 this year, **APT utilized a virtual format for the first time and expanded the activities to span five days for Be My Neighbor Days: A Virtual Week of Kindness.** With support from Fred Rogers Productions and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, each day participants tuned into APT's main channel to watch an episode of *Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood* and were then directed to APT’s Education Facebook page to watch a short animation highlighting a community helper (doctor, teacher, etc.) that corresponded to the episode. Following the animation clip, a short APT-produced video demonstrated the activity of the day, which was geared to help care for the person highlighted in the animation clip. The goal of BMND is to teach children, ages 0-8, to use resources from *Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood* to care for and show appreciation to members of their community.

APT assembled **500 boxes** (“kindness kits”) filled with the supplies needed for each activity. These boxes were sent to the first 500 children registered for the event. The activity supply lists and instructions were also posted online. A total of **872 families** registered for the event. This included **3,397 children**, of which **2,558** were in the target age range of 2-8 years old.
LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Ready to Learn

APT received a five-year CPB Ready to Learn (RTL) grant in 2021 to create a “learning neighborhood” with the goal of promoting early learning and school readiness for all children, especially children from low-income families. APT is developing a community partnership with community-based organizations in the Montevallo, Alabama area that are focused on the early learning needs of children and their families, especially related to functional literacy and career readiness. APT will be responsible for fostering a community-wide culture that promotes the RTL theme of “learn together” and empowers children and adults to learn anytime, anywhere. The station, along with their Montevallo area partners, will intentionally coordinate parent, family, and educator experiences to provide a comprehensive set of touchpoints for a community to support a child’s learning, encouraging sustained use and extending the impact of RTL content. The work will be conducted with an explicit focus on multi-generational learning, access, and equity.

Sesame Street in Communities

A grant from Thirteen/WNET allowed APT to host a community summit focused on “Heath Emergencies” in April 2021 and to offer a virtual train-the-trainer event for Family Child Care Partnership mentors entitled On the Right Track: Eat Right, Move Smart. Both events were based on the resources Sesame Street in Communities (SSIC)
offers. SSIC resources consist of hundreds of bilingual multi-media tools to expand caregivers’ knowledge of child development during the early years of birth through six, a critical window for brain development. The resources engage kids and adults in everyday moments and daily routines—from teaching early math and literacy concepts, to encouraging families to eat nutritious foods, to serious topics such as divorce and food insecurity. A panel of local early childhood experts and an expert from Sesame Street discussed the topic of “Health Emergencies” during the SSIC Community Summit event webcast on Facebook on April 20th, with a live Q&A at the end of the event. Virtual train-the-trainer sessions were presented in partnership with Family Guidance Center in Montgomery and Dothan, Family Child Care Partnership and Kids and Kin of Alabama.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Educator Training

APT’s Early Childhood Education team provides online and face-to-face training for childcare providers throughout Alabama.

A total of 422 childcare providers enrolled in online facilitated professional development courses in 2021, impacting an estimated 5,313 children:

• Adverse Childhood Experiences (20)
• Alabama Early Childhood Guidelines (AELG) Credential (223)
• CDA Credential: An Introduction (26)
• Character Education: Life’s Little Lessons with Daniel Tiger (21)
• Early Brain Development/Lasting Importance of Caregiver-Child Relationships (46)
• Exploring Literacy with PBS Kids (46)
• STEM for the Preschool Classroom (28)
• Race and Racism (32)

Participation in APT’s On-Demand courses more than doubled that of the previous year, with a total of 2,121 providers enrolled, impacting an estimated 41,718 children:

• Addressing Homelessness (255)

2021 Workshops and Conferences

APT provided training at 55 events in 2021, directly serving 1,241 educators with an estimated impact on more than 106,000 students:

• Professional Learning Units (PLU) Courses (60)
• Alabama Dept of Archives and History: Alabama History Institutes (207)
• Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) (70)
• Customized Trainings for Schools/Systems (119)
• Other (785)
A new training opportunity developed in 2021 was a 3-part webinar series based on accessibility which was developed and presented in partnership with Lakeshore Foundation/National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability, Trussville City School system and the Alabama State Department of Education. The webinar series was piloted in the spring and in August APT offered the introductory segment, Accessibility 101, to APT staff members as professional development training. The full webinar series included:

1. Accessibility 101 (basic accessibility design practices)
2. Strategies for Physical Activity and Youth With Physical Disabilities
3. Students Making Better Books/Games for Blind and Visually Impaired Students

WORLD GAMES – A LAUNCHPAD FOR LEARNING
In preparation for the 2022 World Games coming to Alabama, APT has been hard at work to turn sports into learning opportunities for Alabama classrooms. The World Games 2022 Live Healthy Play Global virtual teacher toolkit was completed and distribution began to teachers across the state via virtual trainings and presentations at summer conferences. The official launch of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Alabama-sponsored Live Healthy Play Global initiative was in September 2021. APT conducted ten trainings on the use of the teacher toolkit with a total of 188 educators participating, and an estimated student impact of 19,167. APT’s early childhood department also developed World Games 2022: Bringing Them to Life in Your Program, a training for early childhood educators.

FREE CHILDRENS BOOKS
More than 13,000 free books were distributed as part of various trainings in 2021. APT also contributed 300 K-5 books for a YMCA MLK service project that went to children participating in YMCA childcare programs and programs at the Boys and Girls Clubs. In addition, more than 1,000 books were donated to the YMCA to be given to families as part of the YMCA/Community Food Bank Food drives.

GED Fast Forward
More than 700,000 adults in Alabama don’t have a high school diploma, which puts them at a disadvantage in the job market. APT works with the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) to connect Alabama citizens to high-school equivalency preparation and workforce development resources. Through APT’s partnership with ACCS, this year 999 students have been able to use GED Fast Forward to prepare for the GED exam through the adult education centers and another 55 students utilized Fast Forward as independent learners to prepare for the GED exam.
Becoming Helen Keller

In July 2020, APT received a grant from PBS station WNET in New York to create local programming and resources to accompany an AMERICAN EXPERIENCE documentary on the life of Helen Keller. Keller refused to let physical challenges limit her life, and the goal of our initiative was to give voice to today’s deaf, blind and deaf/blind citizens, celebrate their achievements, and increase APT’s ability to better serve their needs.

To raise awareness of the issues and amplify the voices of disabled individuals, APT broadcast more than 28 hours of local and nationally-produced programming during the community engagement initiative. CAPITOL JOURNAL featured interviews about proposed changes in the state voting laws to make it easier for deaf and blind citizens to cast a ballot, a legislative bill protecting parental rights for deaf and blind citizens and a forthcoming bill that would make voting more accessible to Alabama’s deaf and blind citizens. SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION featured interviews about the challenges during the pandemic in using virtual educational avenues for deaf, blind, and deaf/blind citizens, and about resources and materials available through the Alabama Public Library Service system to serve these citizens.
APT’s Accessibility Advisory Board identified individuals from the blind, deaf and deaf/blind community who could share stories of their experiences, including blind rapper Big Prophet and pastor/musician/radio personality Julius Love, one of the Blind Boys of Alabama. Pastor Love shared his belief that “If you look at your disability, you’ll always fall up short. If you want to do it bad enough, you can.”

In a video created for social media and broadcast, deaf Alabama couple Kristen and Jim Hammontree visited the water pump at Ivy Green, Helen Keller’s childhood home, and talked about the importance of what Keller accomplished. In another short video created for a Facebook digital series called I Am APT, APT staff member Colby Leopard, who is visually impaired, told the true story of how public television made a difference in his life.

APT staff members expanded their skills and knowledge of tools to enable accessibility and learned to produce more accessible videos, printed documents and presentations. To help other educators improve their practices, APT created a 3-part webinar series, Creating and Using Accessible Educational Resources, in partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education, Trussville City Schools, and Lakeshore Foundation/National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability. APT’s online facilitated and on-demand early childhood courses were also updated to better serve deaf and sight-impaired participants.

The culmination of all our efforts was the broadcast of Becoming Helen Keller in October 2021. APT partnered with the Historic Ritz in Talladega and the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) to host a viewing party for the documentary on the night of the national premiere. Approximately 350 guests attended, including more than 250 AIDB students, faculty and staff who appreciated that the documentary was closed captioned and contained descriptive audio. APT worked with AIDB to print copies of the event program in braille, and all presenters’ remarks were interpreted by an American Sign Language interpreter. AIDB president, Dr. John Mascia, said his students were mesmerized by the experience and that it was beyond doubt the most accessible video presentation they had ever witnessed.

“The accessibility available for Becoming Helen Keller set the Gold Standard and because of the effort and thought put into making this documentary available to people with vision and hearing exceptionality, our children had an amazing experience. Thank you.”

-Dr. John Mascia

The changes implemented for broadcast, print, social media, and web mediums are now part of APT’s operating procedures and will continue to provide ongoing accessibility for people with vision and hearing impairments.

APT Accessibility Advisory Board

Dr. John Mascia
President Alabama Institute for Deaf & Blind

Barbara Manuel
President Alabama Federation of the Blind

April Chamberlain
Technology Coordinator, Trussville City School System/National Fellow, Fund for Teachers

Mindy Dill, American Association of the Deaf-Blind

Dr. Marissa K. Locy, Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation, University of Alabama-Birmingham

Susan Harrell, Helen Keller Birthplace - Historic House Museum (volunteer).

Ingrid Pfau, Lakeshore Foundation
Each of us has the ability to be a hero. Heroism is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost.

– Arthur Ashe

Each year, Alabama Public Television recognizes students in grades 9-12 who have excelled in academics, given of themselves through public service, overcome adversity or inspired others through deeds and strength of character. APT received nominations from all around the state, and five students were selected as winners. We couldn’t have a live awards ceremony due to the coronavirus this year, but that didn’t stop us from honoring Alabama’s Young Heroes. Each student received a $5,000 college scholarship, a laptop computer and other prizes.
Our 26th annual contest engaged students in kindergarten through third grade who wrote and illustrated their own books, a process that helps develop basic writing skills and artistic abilities. Books included works of fiction and non-fiction, and some kids tried their hands at poetry. We always encourage parents to lend their support and assist young children who need help with spelling, but the stories and illustrations must be done by the children themselves. First, second and third place awards were presented for each grade level.

KINDERGARTEN
First Place to Kace Powell of Sylacauga for “Three Monsters”
Second Place to Kenzie Garrett of Alexander City for “Stuck on Mars”
Third Place to Kellen Sara Lockwood of Huntsville for “Dog Heroes”

1st GRADE
First Place to John Luke Allcorn of Cullman for “Harry’s Adventures”
Second Place to Shiloh Kizer of Adamsville for “The Little Kitten”
Third Place to Lorenzo Torres of Madison for “Turtle Is Lost”

2nd GRADE
First Place to Ethan K. Chatterton of Hoover for “The Duck Who Needed an Umbrella”
Second Place to Lila Golightly of Helena for “The Tulip Who Wanted to be a Human Girl”
Third Place to Anvika Haradanahalli of Hoover for “The Mystic Island”

3rd GRADE
First Place to Brennan Lockwood of Huntsville for “C.I.A.: Children’s Investigative Agency”
Second Place to Brycelyn Blackmon of Boaz for “Hippo Hippo”
Third Place to Jon Thomas Macri of Madison for “Missing”
APT is a vital part of Alabama’s public safety infrastructure.

Alabama Public Television’s 2,200-mile microwave network is the backbone of Alabama’s Emergency Alert System (EAS), distributing national, state and local emergency broadcast signals to all radio and television broadcasters throughout the state. APT is also the hub for Alabama’s Amber Alert system to track missing children, and WARN system notifications for cell phones. APT’s microwave system provides extensive communication services for Homeland Security, the Alabama Department of Public Safety, State Capitol Police and 68 E911 centers throughout the state. A microwave connection to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) bunker in Clanton provides constant communications with the ability to disseminate emergency messages, as well as live video/audio broadcasts directly from the SEOC bunker, to 99% of TV households in the state of Alabama, as well as nationally from APT’s satellite uplink center in Montgomery.

aptv.org/emergency
APT’S website provides helpful information to help people prepare for tornados and other emergencies. Resources include a Tornado Safety Checklist, Family Emergency Plan, Family Emergency Supply List and safety information and activities for children and families.
We’re proud of the recognition APT has received for our television and digital productions this year, especially for two which recognized the vital services APT provided to families, schools, businesses and individuals across Alabama during the first year of the pandemic – a “Best in Broadcasting” award from the Alabama Broadcasters Association and a Southeastern Region Emmy Award for “Overall Excellence.”

COMMUNITY SERVICE
- 2021 Alabama Broadcasters Association, Best in Broadcasting, Television Service, Critical Programming & Service During the Pandemic
- 2021 Southeastern Emmy Award for Overall Excellence, Alabama Public Television, COVID-19 Pandemic

MONOGRAPH: A SPOTLIGHT ON ART & CREATIVITY IN ALABAMA
- 2021 Alabama Broadcasters Association, Best in Broadcasting for Television Local Programming
- 2021 PBS Short Film Festival (2 Official Selections), Stacey Holloway and Migratuse Ataraxia at Klein Plantation

UNSTOPPABLE: THE ROAD TO WOMEN’S RIGHTS LEARNING ADVENTURE
- 2021 National Silver Telly Award in Television, Education
- 2021 National Silver Telly Award in Television, History
- 2021 National Silver Telly Award in Online, Education
- 2021 National Silver Telly Award in Online, Live Event

THEY DARED! DIGITAL SHORTS SERIES
- 2021 Southeastern Emmy Award for Excellence in Informational/Instructional, They Dared!, Claudette Colvin
- 2021 National Silver Telly Award in Television, Motion Graphics/Design
- 2021 National Silver Telly Award in Television, History
- 2021 National Silver Telly Award in Online Series, History
- 2021 National Silver Telly Award in Online Series, Education & Discovery

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH
- 2021 National Silver Telly Award in Online, Education, Little Libraries
- 2021 National Bronze Telly Award in Television for Not-for-Profit Regional Campaign, Learn At Home With Alabama Public Television

Additionally, APT received 2021 Southeastern Emmy Nomination for
- Excellence in Historical Documentary, Alabama Black Belt Blues
- Excellence in Historical/Cultural, Short Form Content, They Dared!, Helen Keller
- Excellence in Political/Governmental, Short Form Content, They Dared!, Lilly Ledbetter
- Excellence in Graphic Arts/Motion
Educational partners are those organizations that assist APT, or APT assists, in providing services for pre-K through adult education. Charitable contributors are not included in this listing.

Alabama Association of School Boards
Alabama Bicentennial Commission
Alabama Community College System, Adult Education
Alabama Dept. of Archives & History
Alabama Dept. of Commerce
Alabama Dept. of Children's Affairs
Alabama Dept. of Early Childhood Education
Alabama Dept. of Human Resources
Alabama Dept. of Labor
Alabama Governor's Office of Education & Workforce Transformation
Alabama Humanities Alliance
Alabama Institute for the Deaf & Blind, Talladega
Alabama Library Association
Alabama Literacy Alliance
Alabama Office of Apprenticeship
Alabama Office of School Readiness
Alabama Partnership for Children, Help Me Grow Alabama, Montgomery
Alabama Possible, Birmingham
Alabama School Library Association
Alabama State Council on the Arts
Alabama State Dept. of Education, AMSTI/Career and Technical Education/Superintendent's Extending Access to Education (SEAL) Roadmap to School Year 2020/2021

Auburn University, Civic Learning Initiatives, College of Liberal Arts/Dept. of Human Development & Family Studies, Auburn
Better Basics, Birmingham
Birmingham Business Alliance
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
Birmingham Holocaust Education Center
Bold Goals Coalition of Central Alabama, Birmingham
Boys & Girls Club of South Alabama, Mobile
Carbon Hill Junior High School, Carbon Hill
CAWACO Resource Conservation & Development Council, Birmingham
Child Care Central, Talladega & Huntsville
Child Care Resource Center, Opelika
Child Development Resources, Tuscaloosa
Childcare Resources, Birmingham
Childcare Resource Network, Fort Payne
Chilton County High School Career Tech
Council on Substance Abuse-National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependency, Montgomery
David Mathews Center for Civic Life, Montevallo
Family Child Care Partnerships, Auburn
Family Guidance Center of Dothan
Family Guidance Center of Montgomery
Fund for Teachers, Houston, Tx.
Gear Up, Alabama
Girls Rock, Birmingham
Gulf Regional Early Childhood Services, Mobile
Homewood High School, Birmingham
Hoover Public Library, Hoover
Ingram State Technical College
Jefferson County Children’s Policy Council, Birmingham
Jefferson State Community College, Jefferson County
Kentucky Educational Television, Lexington, Ky.
Kids & Kin, Montgomery
Lakeshore Foundation, Birmingham
Literacy Council of Central Alabama, Birmingham
Mr. C., LLC, Dayton, Oh.
NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville
National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA), Columbia, S.C.
North Alabama Workforce Development Council, 13 counties
Oakman Middle School, Oakman
Parnell Memorial Library, Montevallo
PBS LearningMedia, Washington, D.C.
Reach Out & Read Alabama, Montgomery
San Diego Zoo Television, San Diego, Ca.
SAWDC (Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council), Mobile
Southeast Alabama Workforce Development Council, Dothan
Success by Six, Birmingham & Gadsden
Summer Adventures in Learning (SAIL), Birmingham

Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement (SAFE) Family Services Center
The Grounds, Mobile
Trussville City Schools
United Way of Central Alabama, Birmingham
University of Alabama at Birmingham, The Graduate School/The School of Public Health/IT Dept.
University of Montevallo
University of West Alabama, Division of Economic Development & Outreach, Livingston
US Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville
Walker Area Community Foundation, Jasper
Walker County Board of Education, Jasper
Walker County High School Career Tech, Jasper
WXXI, Rochester, N.Y.
The World Games 2022, Birmingham
YMCA of Greater Birmingham
GENERAL & PROJECT SUPPORT
The Alabama Educational Television Foundation Authority
Alabama Heritage Magazine
Alabama Department of Human Resources
Alabama Humanities Alliance
Alabama Magazine
Alabama State Council on the Arts
B-Metro Magazine
Birmingham Mountain Radio
Central Alabama Community Foundation, Till Family Charitable Fund
The Chapman Foundation
City of Montgomery
City of Vestavia Hills
Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, Boulware Family Fund
Hulsey Family Fund
Nielson Family Fund
Community Foundation of South Alabama, The Helen Young Charitable Fund
Cornerstone Media
Decatur Daily / Times Daily
Dunn-French Foundation
Eppes-Jefferson Foundation
Frame It Birmingham
C.D., Helen & Jeff Glaze Foundation
The Hobbs Foundation
Holle Family Foundation
Nelson & Charlene Kemp Foundation
Piassick Family Foundation
PMT Publishing
Precision Graphics
Royal Cup Coffee
Helen Young Charitable Fund
State of Alabama Rehabilitation Services
Tennessee Valley Media
Upton Investment Company
Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff and Brandt, LLC
Bobbye Weaver

PROGRAM SUPPORT
200 Alabama Bicentennial
Alabama Power
Alabama State Council on the Arts
Alabama State Parks
Alabama Tourism Department
A Place For Mom
Birmingham Home & Garden Magazine
B.J. and Nancy Harris Trust
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama
Business Alabama
The Chapman Foundation
Children's of Alabama
HEAL of Alabama
Medical Properties Trust
Mobile Symphony Orchestra
Opera Birmingham
The Tony & Libba Rane Foundation
The S. Adam Schloss Foundation
The Lonnie & Kitty Strickland Foundation
Spring Hill College
VP Funds

AND YOU.
Alabama Educational Television Commission

Mr. Ferris W. Stephens
Chairman, Birmingham
6th Congressional District

Mrs. Bebe Williams
Vice-chairperson, Huntsville
5th Congressional District

Mr. J. Holland
Secretary/Treasurer, Gadsden
4th Congressional District

Mr. Lester Barnett
Mobile
1st Congressional District

Mrs. Tijuanna Adetunji
Montgomery
2nd Congressional District

Mr. Pete Conroy
Jacksonville
3rd Congressional District

Mr. William A. Green, Jr.
Montgomery
7th Congressional District

Alabama Public Television

Interim Executive Director: Philip F. Hutcheson