Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media Award

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

WGBH

WGBH Boston is the recipient of the 2020 Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media Award for *Molly of Denali*. Melissa Carlson, senior digital producer, and Bill Shribman, executive producer, on *Molly of Denali*, delivered acceptance remarks during the ALA Book Award Celebration held Sunday, June 28, 2020, on YouTube.

Melissa: Hello, I'm Melissa Carlson, senior digital producer on *Molly of Denali.*

Bill: And I'm Bill Shribman, executive producer on the very same project.

Melissa: We're here to thank you for the ALSC's Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media Award for our work on *Molly of Denali.*

Bill: *Molly* is a PBS KIDS show, produced by WGBH Boston. It was funded by the US Department of Education under a Ready to Learn grant, supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Melissa: It's the first national children's series to feature a Native American lead character—Molly Mabray, a feisty and resourceful 10-year-old Alaska Native girl. She takes viewers ages four to eight along on her adventures, fostering literacy skills along the way.

Bill: It's not just a TV series, and that's where we come in. We've produced a website, a suite of digital games, and a free app, and it's this app that you

have kindly acknowledged in your award.

Melissa: In the app, children can go on dog sledding races, create beading projects, go fishing, and help run the Denali Trading Post.

Bill: The *Molly of Denali* app teaches children to use familiar texts such as books, diagrams, and captioned photos as part of an informational text curriculum. This helps them to solve problems, accomplish tasks, and help Molly's friends on their adventures.

Melissa: Our informational text cur-

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riculum is supported by Dr. Nell Duke; and Alaskan Native content producers and advisors have been part of every stage of development.

Bill: And, even though we're in lockdown, we're still continuing to produce new content including new games about animals and gardening, and even a forthcoming snowboarding game.

Together: So, we'd like to thank you once again and wish you all very well.

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For more information about the Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media Award, visit http://bit.ly/EELDM.