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Rocky Mountain PBS Names Durango Regional Innovation Center After Bliss Bruen to Honor the Late Public Media Champion

DENVER — January 14, 2019 — [Rocky Mountain Public Media](#), Colorado’s largest statewide, member-supported, multimedia organization and parent of Rocky Mountain PBS and KUVU radio, announced it is naming its Regional Innovation Center in Durango after Bliss Bruen, a longtime volunteer and local public media champion who died in September.

“Bliss Bruen brought a tireless focus and passion for cultivating a collaborative environment for public media in Durango,” said Amanda Mountain, president and CEO of Rocky Mountain Public Media. “As a volunteer, Bliss inspired those around her to see greater possibilities through partnerships. As a colleague, she helped us refine our statewide Regional Innovation Center (RIC) strategy by showing us how we could have a greater impact through the creation of more local content.”

In 2017, Rocky Mountain PBS announced its partnership with Fort Lewis College to create an innovation center in Durango, an effort supported by Bruen’s leadership and diligence over several years. Housed in the Ballantine Media Center on the Fort Lewis College campus, the Durango Regional Innovation Center enables students to work with RMPBS producer-in-residence Carol Fleisher to tell the important stories of the region.

By renaming the Regional Innovation Center after Bruen, RMPBS is recognizing her work as a connector of people and ideas.

“Bliss helped us launch our campaign to raise \$450,000 for the creation of a highly-collaborative journalism ecosystem through the development of staff, students and equipment in Durango,” Mountain said. “She embodied the mission of Rocky Mountain Public Media to strengthen the civic fabric of Colorado, and her legacy will continue to inspire others to support public media in the region.”

Gifts in Bruen’s memory to support the Bliss Bruen Regional Innovation Center can be made at blissbruen.org.

About Rocky Mountain Public Media

Rocky Mountain Public Media is Colorado’s largest statewide, member-supported, multimedia organization and the parent company of Rocky Mountain PBS and KUVU Jazz. Rocky Mountain Public Media has more than 85,000 members representing every county in Colorado and reaches 98% of the

state's citizens through television, radio and digital platforms. A non-commercial media organization by and for the people of Colorado, we create high quality local and multimedia content through Regional Innovation Centers in Denver, Colorado Springs, Durango, Grand Junction and Pueblo. Our enriching journalism, educational and cultural programming connects and engages citizens for lifelong impact. RMPBS, started in Denver in 1956 as Colorado's first public television station, is now a statewide television network, with stations in Denver (KRMA), Pueblo/Colorado Springs (KTSC), Steamboat Springs (KRMZ), Grand Junction (KRMJ) and Durango (KRMU). Visit us at www.rmpbs.org.

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