



**The Museum of Discovery and Science Partners with  
AIDS Healthcare Foundation to Offer *Wise Bodies*,  
a FREE Virtual HIV/AIDS Prevention and Wellness Curriculum for Students**

**FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA (November 30, 2020)** – The Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) is proud to partner with AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) to provide high school and middle school students with *Wise Bodies*, a 12-video series and educator guide that provides critical information on awareness, prevention and neutralizing stigmas related to HIV/AIDS.

*Wise Bodies, presented by AHF*, activates MODS' health and wellness strategic pillar and supports AHF's mission to provide cutting-edge medicine and advocacy, regardless of ability to pay. The initiative addresses the critical issue of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections in South Florida and beyond and with an actionable, factual and relevant education curriculum.

“Through *Wise Bodies*, MODS connects students with HIV/AIDS experts and compelling STEM demonstrations to uncover the science behind infectious diseases, empowering students to advance their personal wellness status and debunking stigmas surrounding HIV and AIDS,” said Joseph P. Cox, president and CEO of MODS. “The curriculum is free from judgment, full of hope and encouragement, and aims to leave no question unanswered for students.”

The program champions learner empowerment through guided, open-minded discussions, science demonstrations and empathy-building activities. *Wise Bodies* also inspires students to pursue careers in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.)

“We looked to MODS as a trusted partner in science to energize and intercept students at a young age to help fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic and strive for zero new cases in the future,” said Ebonni N. Chrispin, AHF legislative affairs and community engagement manager. “Fort Lauderdale and Miami have among the highest new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in the United States. By making sure pre-teens and teenagers are educated about the epidemic, we are encouraging students to know their status and share in the community responsibility to end stigmas.”

Endorsed by Broward County Public Schools (BCPS), *Wise Bodies* was initially taught on site to thousands of students and has now been expanded to a virtual platform in response to COVID-19. With support from AHF, the impact will be further amplified to reach and inspire many more young minds.

“With this important curriculum in our school system, we are proactively engaging students in classrooms, whether virtual, in-person or hybrid, with essential health and science education,” said BCPS Superintendent Robert W. Runcie. “We appreciate the ongoing collaboration with MODS for the benefit of our students. Through this initiative, innovative science connects students to HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention with the opportunity to debate the issues and dissolve stigma.”

The *Wise Bodies* curriculum aligns with Florida State Standards. Concepts and skills that students will master include understanding the infectious nature of a virus, analyzing and applying strategies for prevention, detection and treatment of communicable diseases and debunking stigma.

Wise Bodies is a FREE program and will be accessible by BCPS students via Canvas and on the MODS website, [mods.org/wisebodies](https://mods.org/wisebodies).

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#### **ABOUT AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF):**

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), the largest global AIDS organization, currently provides medical care and/or services to over 1,000,000 individuals in 44 countries worldwide in the US, Africa, Latin America/Caribbean, the Asia/Pacific Region and Eastern Europe. To learn more about AHF, please visit our website: [aidshealth.org](https://aidshealth.org), find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/aidshealth](https://facebook.com/aidshealth) and follow us on Twitter: @aidshealthcare and Instagram: @aidshealthcare

#### **ABOUT BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS:**

***“Committed to educating all students to reach their highest potential.”***

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is the sixth-largest school district in the nation and the second largest in the state of Florida. The District is Florida’s first fully accredited school system since 1962 and has nearly 261,000 pre-K-12th grade students and approximately 110,000 adult students in 241 schools, centers, and technical colleges, and 92 charter schools. BCPS serves a diverse student population, representing 170 different countries and 147 different languages. To connect with BCPS, visit [browardschools.com](https://browardschools.com), follow on Twitter [@browardschools](https://twitter.com/browardschools) and Facebook at [facebook.com/browardschools](https://facebook.com/browardschools), and download the free BCPS mobile app.

## **ABOUT MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE (MODS):**

Founded in 1976 as the Discovery Center, today MODS is at the forefront of science education, innovation and exploration. The Museum's daily visiting hours are temporarily suspended. MODS is currently offering virtual and offsite programming, which allows us to continue connecting people around the globe to inspiring science - whether at home or in virtual classrooms. The Museum showcases more than 300 interactive exhibits, immersive films, experiential programs and an aviation-themed Makerspace. MODS currently offers virtual and offsite programs including boredom-busting experiences for children, families and adults - whether at home or in virtual classrooms. Families can enjoy super science shows and demonstrations, wild Creature Feature animal encounters, awesome avatar tours and private experiences, mind-blowing Makerspace labs, cool camps, unforgettable birthday parties, engaging field trips and STEM curricula, professional development workshops for educators, distinguished speakers, and more.

The Museum celebrates diversity and welcomes visitors from all walks of life. Hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. beginning December 5 until December 27 and will reopen for normal business hours on December 31. The hours will be Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. MODS is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum, please visit [mods.org](https://mods.org) or call 954.467.MODS (6637).

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