

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amazon and Nashville Public Education Foundation Partner to Bolster Educator Innovation with New Teacherpreneur Program

Program Coming Fall 2021 Will Highlight Educator-Driven Solutions, Galvanize Community Enthusiasm and Support for Public School Teachers

NASHVILLE, TENN. – August 10, 2021– Today the [Nashville Public Education Foundation \(NPEF\)](#) announced Amazon will be the founding partner for a new initiative elevating out-of-the-box and innovative teacher-driven solutions for some of education’s toughest challenges. Amazon’s \$150,000 investment will fund the Teacherpreneur program, a teacher-leadership opportunity aiming to highlight innovation in Metro Nashville Public Schools while helping teachers operationalize and scale their concepts in a way that does not require them to leave the classroom.

Set to launch Fall 2021, Teacherpreneur will help selected applicants refine their concepts in a series of incubator sessions in preparation for a public community event. Top concepts will be awarded cash prizes and start-up funding. The public showcase will aim to both celebrate the innovative work and solutions of Nashville’s teachers, as well as pull back the curtain for the community on the teaching profession itself, examining the challenges our schools face and the types of creative solutions possible for solving them.

“An important part of our work at NPEF is to promote the excellence and innovation currently happening in our schools,” said **Katie Cour, President and CEO of NPEF**. “The Teacherpreneur program allows us to elevate teacher voice in meaningful ways, rewarding teacher innovation and helping students thrive, and we are grateful for Amazon’s generous support to make this happen.”

“Amazon is committed to ensuring teachers in our community have access to creative programs that benefit students and offer innovative solutions for our schools,” said **Courtney Ross, Amazon’s senior manager of external affairs in Nashville**. “Through Teacherpreneur, NPEF is harnessing existing talent in our schools, while connecting the business community to public education in a way that provides teachers an opportunity to take their ideas to the next level.”

The new program has also garnered support from local policymakers invested in the wellbeing and success of teachers and students. “Across Nashville, teachers are coming up with innovative ways to help our children learn and grow. The Teacherpreneur program will give teachers the opportunity to share their best ideas while remaining focused on students’ educational and emotional development. I am thankful to NPEF and Amazon for their investment in the success of our teachers and classrooms,” said **Metro Council Member Colby Sledge (District 17)**.

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This will be the first year of the Teacherpreneur program, set to be an annual teacher development opportunity and community celebration of top educator talent and ideas. The Nashville Public Education Foundation will begin actively recruiting applicants early Fall 2021.

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About the Nashville Public Education Foundation

The Nashville Public Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization that works to remove barriers for students by promoting excellence, serving as a critical friend to Metro Nashville Public Schools, convening stakeholders, and advocating for change so all students can thrive in school. More information is available at nashvillepef.org.

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