

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Teachers Named to Tackle Inequities and Harness Innovation in Nashville

*Supported by the Nashville Public Education Foundation and Amazon, Teacherpreneur Cohort of 12 Aim to Develop Prototype Solutions to Create Thriving Schools*

**NASHVILLE, TENN. – Dec. 8, 2021** – The Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) announced its inaugural [Teacherpreneur cohort](#), with support from the program’s founding partner, Amazon. The cohort, made up of twelve Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) educators, will be designing solutions to systemic challenges in education, such as access to parent involvement initiatives, access to quality teaching, and access to gifted and talented programs for underrepresented students.

The inaugural cohort includes the following educators:

- Quanita Adams, Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet High School
- Addison Barrack, Margaret Allen Middle School
- Nikki Hendricks-Bolling, Shwab Elementary School
- Alyssa Janco, Eagle View Elementary School
- Justin Montenegro, Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet School
- David Myers, J.T. Moore Middle School
- Daven Oglesby, Lakeview Elementary Design Center
- Dyetra Olige, LEAD Southeast High School
- Paula Pendergrass, Robertson Academy
- Chriseni Pulse, Cumberland Elementary School
- LaKesha Rayford, Glencliff STEAM Magnet Elementary School
- Nita Smith, I.T. Creswell Middle School of the Arts

“The inaugural Teacherpreneur cohort represents an incredible group of teachers who have proposed some innovative and strategic ideas that could lead to some game-changing solutions for students,” said **Katie Cour, President and CEO of the Nashville Public Education Foundation**. “We are thrilled to begin their journey of taking their solutions from the concept phase to prototypes in a way that showcases the creativity, expertise, and compassion these educators possess.”

The cohort will participate in a series of design sessions in early 2022 to help them conceptualize and develop their prototypes. The experience will culminate in a prototype pitch event judged by a panel of experts. Top concepts will be awarded cash prizes and seed funding totaling over \$25,000, generously supported by Amazon, the founding partner for the new initiative.

“We are thrilled to invest in these amazing educators as they explore solutions to some of our toughest challenges in school,” said **Courtney Ross, Amazon’s senior manager of external affairs in Nashville**. “Amazon is excited for Teacherpreneur to harness educator talent and innovation and provide funding to help effect positive change in our public schools.”

The program is based on other successful models across the country that bring entrepreneurialism into the education space to give teachers the opportunity to pitch and potentially scale their idea for major systems-level change.

The Nashville Public Education Foundation invites the community to follow along with the cohort's experience [online](#) and through [social media](#), as participants develop their concepts from ideas to prototypes. The prototype pitch event will take place on February 24, 2022.

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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](http://nashvillepef.org).

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