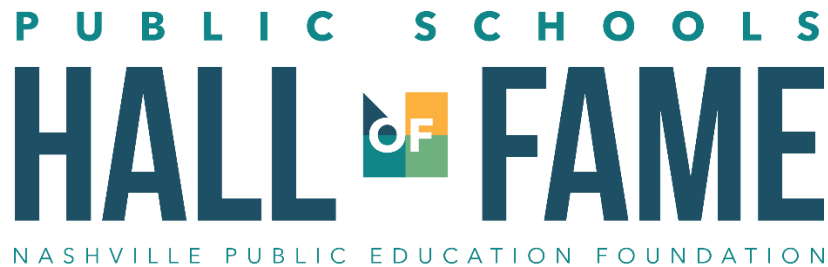


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nashville's 2022 Public Schools Hall of Fame Awards Set for In-person Event Following Recent Virtual Celebrations



PRESENTED BY  **FIRST HORIZON**
FOUNDATION

Nashville Public Education Foundation will celebrate Nashville leaders, city non-profits, and local educators during annual event on September 8, 2022

NASHVILLE, TENN. – January 25, 2022 – [The Nashville Public Education Foundation's](#) (NPEF) annual [Public Schools Hall of Fame](#) event is returning in-person and will again bring together the community, businesses, leaders, and educators supporting Nashville's public schools during a luncheon at the Music City Center on September 8, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. For the 5th year, [First Horizon Foundation](#) has renewed its commitment to public schools as the event's presenting sponsor.

Providing leadership to the awards ceremony as co-chairs in its 18th year, NPEF named **Lisa Ferrelli**, a 2021 Hall of Fame Distinguished Alumni honoree and a Senior Vice President with the Mid South Global Commercial Banking Team at Bank of America, and **Alfonzo Alexander**, the Chief Ethics and Diversity Officer of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA), who serves on the NPEF board of directors.



“A very important part of NPEF’s work is recognizing and rewarding excellence as well as spotlighting successful strategies that are helping to advance student success,” said **Katie Cour**, President and CEO, Nashville Public Education Foundation. “We’re proud to have great support from businesses like First Horizon and community leaders like Lisa Ferrelli and Alfonzo Alexander. And we are very excited to convene in person after two years of digital celebrations.”

Each year, NPEF’s Public Schools Hall of Fame honors individuals and organizations that demonstrate exceptional dedication and commitment to Nashville’s public schools and students. Over the past 18 years, the event has grown to serve as a catalyst for community awareness and conversations about public education

in Nashville. In 2020 and 2021, NPEF hosted the Hall of Fame in a virtual celebration due to the pandemic but expects the return to an in-person event to generate added pride and excitement to honorees, sponsors and attendees.



“By celebrating our city’s leaders in education, business and beyond, the Public Schools Hall of Fame exists to hold up the best of Nashville and inspire others to contribute to bettering our public schools,” said event co-chair **Lisa Ferrelli**. “I’m happy to be a part and give my time as so many businesses and leaders do each year. We hope that this year will be the largest turn out yet.”

The award categories included in NPEF’s annual Public Schools Hall of Fame are:

- The Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award is given to a leader in the Nashville community who is an advocate for children and youth, has had a significant impact on making Nashville a city that works for everyone, and inspires others to lead and serve. The award is named after the late co-founder of the Nashville Public Education Foundation, Nelson C. Andrews, who was a fierce advocate for Nashville’s public schools.
- The Distinguished Alumni Award presented by [Belmont University](#) is a celebration of graduates of Metro Nashville Public Schools who have displayed leadership in their professions, have made significant civic, business, and/or community contributions, and have positively impacted the lives of others
- The Thomas J. Sherrard Inspiring Innovation Award presented by [Nissan](#) is given to an organization or program that exemplifies NPEF’s commitment to bringing bold, innovative strategies to make a difference for Nashville’s public schools. The award serves to showcase the people doing work to move the needle and find success for Nashville students. The winner also receives a \$10,000 grant.
- The Annette Eskind Inspiring Educator Award presented by [UBS](#) is given to a Metro Nashville Public Schools teacher with innovative practices or ideas that inspire students of all backgrounds to fall in love with learning while achieving academic success. The award provides grant funds of \$10,000 to support teachers’ innovative practices and reach more students in need.

“It’s been a very challenging couple of years for public schools. The pandemic has challenged our leaders, educators, and students in so many ways,” said event co-chair **Alfonzo Alexander**. “Our city has achieved great work amidst adversity, and I’m proud to help showcase it.”

All are welcome to join NPEF to celebrate and attend the Public Schools Hall of Fame. More information about supporting NPEF and details about sponsorship can be found online at <https://nashvillepef.org/hall-of-fame/>. Organizations interested in sponsoring this year’s Public Schools Hall of Fame can contact [Melinda Judd](#), the Vice President of outreach and development at NPEF.



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About the Nashville Public Education Foundation

The Nashville Public Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization that works to remove the barriers to educational experiences by highlighting success, 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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