

A SPECIAL, *Virtual* CELEBRATION

P U B L I C S C H O O L S
HALL *of* FAME

NASHVILLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

PRESENTED BY



FIRST HORIZON
FOUNDATION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

EVENT CO-CHAIRS

Meg Harris and Harry Allen

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Janet Miller and Ron Corbin



The Nashville Public Education Foundation supports teachers and leaders to build schools where all kids thrive.

To fulfill our mission, we help recruit, develop, and retain great teachers and school leaders, highlight successes and innovation, and advocate to eliminate inequities for Nashville's students. With your help, we work to solve the most intractable problems in public education.

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Katie Cour, *NPEF President and CEO*

MUSICAL CELEBRATION “WE ARE NASHVILLE”

Nashville Symphony and MNPS Students

WELCOMING REMARKS

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PRESENTED BY BELMONT UNIVERSITY

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THOMAS J. SHERRARD INSPIRING INNOVATION PRESENTED BY NISSAN NORTH AMERICA

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PRESENTED BY VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

ABOUT THE NASHVILLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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Meg Harris and Harry Allen, *Event Co-Chairs*

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2020 PUBLIC SCHOOLS HALL OF FAME

..... ***Award Winners***

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD



Gini Pupo-Walker

State Director, Education Trust
in Tennessee

HILLWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 1983

Gini Pupo-Walker has spent her life as an educator and advocate for students and families. After earning two degrees at Indiana University and her teaching certificate at Belmont University, Gini started her career teaching Spanish in Seattle. She moved with her family back to Nashville in 2004 and began teaching at Overton High School, where she implemented the district's first Spanish heritage classes. She would eventually move to Glencliff High School, where Gini would lean on her expertise in problem solving and community building as the Community School Coordinator, a position that seeks to strengthen the relationship between the

community and school and holistically address the needs of students and families.

Her success at Glencliff led to her promotion to Executive Director of Family and Community Partnerships for MNPS, a post she held for four years. Gini has spent the last five years working as an advocate in education in both Nashville and Tennessee. At Conexión Américas, as the Senior Director of Education Policy and Programs, Gini led Conexión Américas' education programs in Nashville schools, as well as its Migrant Education Program serving children of migrant farmworkers across the state.

Gini currently works as the State Director for Tennessee for the Education Trust, a national nonprofit that works to close opportunity gaps for students of color and students from low-income families. In this role, she works to draw attention to inequities in education and provide resources and supports for community advocacy and empowerment.

In 2018, Gini was elected to the Metro Nashville Public Schools Board of Education. Perhaps what's most remarkable about Gini is her ability to identify creative and actionable solutions for some of Nashville's most challenging issues. This year, in addition to being named to the Public Schools Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumni, Gini was also recognized by the YWCA as a 2020 Academy of Women of Achievement honoree.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD



Clint Gray

Co-Founder and Chief Marketing Officer, Slim & Husky's

HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL,
CLASS OF 2003



Derrick Moore

Co-Founder and President, Slim & Husky's

MAPLEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL,
CLASS OF 2003



E.J. Reed

Co-Founder and Chief Financial Officer, Slim & Husky's

MAPLEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL,
CLASS OF 2003

Three friends since high school, Clint Gray, Derrick Moore, and E.J. Reed, have long had an entrepreneurial spirit, ambitious goals, and generosity of spirit driving their success. Though graduating from two different high schools, the three friends went on to Tennessee State University and began envisioning a future that focused on making the world a better place through unique and transformational business models.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration and an MBA in supply

chain management, both from TSU, Clint teamed up with Derrick and E.J. to start the Green Truck Moving & Storage Company, a successful eco-friendly company that grew exponentially under their leadership. Following that success, the three went on to start Slim & Husky's – a fast-casual and gourmet pizza restaurant.

The restaurant aims to invigorate often-overlooked and -underserved areas by providing employment opportunities and accessible, high-quality dining options. The three have been

able to help communities in Nashville, Atlanta, and now Sacramento through their impactful business model and commitment to Black neighborhoods. Clint, who serves as Chief Marketing Officer for Slim & Husky's, counts the opening of the first Slim & Husky's in his North Nashville neighborhood as one of his biggest accomplishments.

Derrick serves as the seasoned President for Slim & Husky's. For Derrick, the ability to provide a substantial number of jobs to his North Nashville neighborhood and beyond is the most critical part of their mission with Slim & Husky's. Derrick graduated from TSU with a bachelor's degree in political science and studied at the Nashville School of Law.

E.J. is the CFO of Slim & Husky's. An experienced financial analyst and the "man behind the numbers" at Slim & Husky's, E.J. completed his BBA degree in economics and finance before acquiring an MBA degree from Belmont University's Jack C. Massey Graduate School of Business.

Slim & Husky's has allowed these three honorees to live out their dream of providing an impact to underserved communities near and far, and Nashville is far better because of it.



— ANNETTE S. ESKIND —
INSPIRING EDUCATOR AWARD

The Annette S. Eskind Inspiring Educator Award recognizes teachers who have gone above and beyond for their students.



Amanda Dardy ANTIOCH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Amanda Dardy is the GEAR UP coordinator for the Cane Ridge Cluster, serving Antioch Middle School and all Class of 2024 and 2025 Cane Ridge High School students. Prior to joining the GEAR UP Nashville team, she served the students of Stratford STEM Magnet, first as an Exceptional Education teacher for four years, and later as an academic adviser for nearly two years with the TRIO Program at Tennessee State University. Relationships are key for Amanda, as she values the time spent with students outside the classroom as much as the academic supports her GEAR UP program provides. From hallway check-ins between classes to table talks in the cafeteria, or parent meet-and-greets in the car rider loop to occasional door-to-door visits in the neighborhood, Amanda is always seeking creative ways to maintain connection with her students and their families. A native of Milwaukee, Wis., Amanda came to Nashville to attend Fisk University and later earned her B.A. degree from Cardinal Stritch University. Amanda is committed to being a mentor to her students and a partner to their parents through high school and into their first year of the college or career of their choice.



Nicole Healy EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Nicole (Nikki) Healy, an MNPS Blue Ribbon Teacher and Teacher of the Year Award winner, has been passionately serving the students of MNPS Early College High School for the past six years as their lead English instructor; she also serves as an adjunct teacher for MNPS Virtual School. Nikki is a devoted advocate for building community through student voice, choice, and culturally sustaining literature within the classroom. Nikki has served in various teacher-leadership roles, most notably her work with Project LIT Community. Originally from southern New Jersey, she received dual B.A.(s) from Rowan University and her M.Ed. from Western Governors University. Nikki is committed to empowering young people as readers, writers, and leaders – both in and out of the classroom. Her greatest accomplishment as a teacher can be summed up in an anonymous note left on her desk: “Mrs. H, I didn’t know how much I was worth until you became my teacher. I love you!”

— THOMAS J. SHERRARD —
INSPIRING INNOVATION AWARD

The Thomas J. Sherrard Inspiring Innovation Award recognizes individuals or organizations that are making a difference for Nashville students.

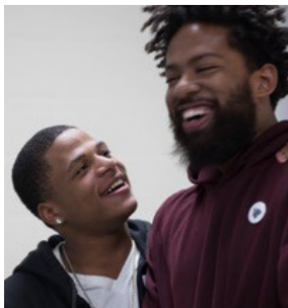


Gideon's Army

Self-proclaimed “violence interrupters,” Gideon’s Army works tirelessly to build resilient kids and healthy communities in Nashville. Founded by former Eakin Elementary and Carter Lawrence Elementary teacher Rasheedat Fetuga and her student Michelrica Hughes, whose brother was killed by gun violence, the organization uses restorative justice programs to support children and youth.

Gideon’s Army operates multiple programs, including the Zone, a restorative alternative to suspension and expulsion; Creative Outlet, an after-school rites of passage program; Woke Camp, a summer camp for students; and several student and family support groups and mentorship opportunities.

“A unified force for children,” Gideon’s Army finds ways to support children, youth, and their families to ensure a more equitable and just Nashville for all. When North Nashville was critically affected by this year’s tornadoes, Gideon’s Army galvanized community support and secured significant disaster relief for the community. Gideon’s Army is a truly incredible example of a community-led initiative that both empowers and inspires those it seeks to serve. Nashville is a more equitable and just city because of Gideon’s Army.



— NELSON C. ANDREWS —
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Tom Ward

President and CEO, Oasis Center

HUMBLE. INSPIRING. GENEROUS.

Three words that come up again and again about Tom from his former students, his colleagues, his friends and family. From his early days as a teacher and principal to his work supporting other school leaders, to his most recent role as President and CEO of Oasis Center, Tom has spent his entire life in service of children and youth.

To stay in work that connects me with helping families and young people is the best decision I ever made.

At Oasis Center, Tom provides support for nearly 4,000 youth and families in Nashville every year through a wide range of services, including crisis intervention, youth leadership programs, and college and career access. The programs and services at Oasis are grounded in four areas for youth success – safety, belonging, empowerment, and generosity. Every day, Tom leans into his uncanny ability to build relationships and community to support some of Nashville's most vulnerable youth and families.



Teacher and Girls' Basketball Coach at Cameron Middle School.



Principal at Hume-Fogg Magnet High School.



Vanderbilt Principals Leadership Academy, Guangzhou, China.

Prior to his work at Oasis Center, Tom led the Principal Leadership Academy of Nashville at Vanderbilt University and was a longtime and much-lauded principal in MNPS at Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet High School, East Literature Magnet School, and Meigs Middle School. He started his career in Metro Nashville Public Schools in 1974 teaching science and social studies.

Perhaps most importantly, Tom values the actions others take to empower and support youth and communities and supports those efforts generously. He doesn't seek the limelight, doesn't care about recognition. He wants what's best for kids first and always. And he is drawn to people who want the same thing. Put simply, he is a tireless advocate for youth success.

When asked about the best career decision he ever made, Tom responded, "To stay in work that connects me with helping families and young people. I almost left teaching and education-related work on two occasions. In both cases, I found that my internal compass guided me back to what gave me meaning, fulfillment, and satisfaction." As a community, Tom, we are so very thankful you did.



Oasis Field Day.



Simon woodworking with PopPop.



Tom with family, grandchildren ranging in age from 2 to 21.



Oasis volunteering in the community.



PAST HONOREES

NELSON C. ANDREWS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

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Judge Sheila Calloway
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THOMAS J. SHERRARD INSPIRING INNOVATION AWARD

Restorative Student Leaders
UniCycle

The Educators' Cooperative

Nashville Public Library's Limitless Libraries program
The Nashville Newcomer Academy

ANNETTE S. ESKIND INSPIRING EDUCATOR AWARD

Crystal Hicks
Mary Jane Manley
Jarred Amato

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

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William P. Lawrence
H. Jackson Brown



Nashville
Public Education
FOUNDATION

The Nashville Public Education Foundation works to support teachers and leaders to build schools where all kids thrive. We are a nonprofit organization that raises private dollars to attract and retain great educators, champion successes, and advocate for change for Metro Nashville Public Schools. For 16 years, your support of the Public Schools Hall of Fame has made our work possible. On behalf of all of the students you have supported over the years, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

**Because of you, we are climbing closer toward our goal
of every child thriving in every school every day.**

Learn more at nashvillepef.org.

