

Nashville Teachers Tapped to Design Innovative Solutions to Address Systemic Challenges in Public Education

Supported by the Nashville Public Education Foundation and Amazon, Teacherpreneur Cohort Will Pitch Ideas for a Chance to Win \$10,000

NASHVILLE, TENN. – Dec. 1, 2022 – The Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) announced its second [Teacherpreneur cohort](#), with renewed support from the program’s founding partner, Amazon. The cohort of eleven Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) educators will design solutions to systemic challenges in education, such as ensuring equitable access to afterschool programs, reducing language barriers for students’ families, and providing academically challenging curriculum for students with disabilities. The cohort experience will culminate in a pitch event, where teachers will present their ideas for a chance to win cash prizes totaling \$25,000 as well as funding to support implementation.

This year’s cohort includes the following educators:

- Tabatha Barner, Glencliff Entrepreneurship STEAM Magnet Elementary School
- Anna Bernstein, Bellevue Middle School
- Taylor Edens, Early College High School
- Nathan Fields, Hillsboro High School
- Kellee Hill, Whites Creek High School
- Jennifer Love, East Nashville Magnet High School
- Sarai Ovalle, Antioch Middle School
- Jonathan Parrish, W.A. Bass Alternative Learning Center High School
- Christopher Reid, Cole Elementary School
- Samantha Singer, Glencliff High School
- Kate Sundell, LEAD Academy High School

“No one better understands the challenges faced by students than our teachers in the classroom. We are so grateful to have access to such creative and compassionate educators in our district to form this cohort,” said **Katie Cour, President and CEO of the Nashville Public Education Foundation**. “We look forward to supporting them in designing solutions that showcase their expertise and promote equity and innovation in Nashville’s schools.”

The cohort will participate in a series of design sessions beginning in December to help them conceptualize and develop their ideas in preparation for a public community pitch event judged by a panel of experts. The public showcase will aim to celebrate the innovative work of Nashville’s teachers, shed light on the inequities students encounter in schools, and demonstrate what’s possible for creating positive change.

The new cohort builds on last year’s inaugural Teacherpreneur class, which included winning ideas focused on (1) a network of supports for novice teachers in schools that experience high teacher turnover; (2) a program to support special education students in developing independent living skills in

the elementary school classroom; and (3) a flexible school environment for students who need to work to support themselves and attend school simultaneously. These concepts, along with the Community Favorite Award winner, were awarded with \$25,000 in prize money.

“We are thrilled to invest in these inspiring educators as they design solutions to some of the toughest challenges in education,” said **Courtney Ross, Amazon’s senior manager of external affairs in Nashville**. “Amazon is proud to support Teacherpreneur in harnessing educator leadership, talent, and innovation to effect positive change in our public schools.”

The program is based on successful models across the country that bring entrepreneurialism into the education space to give teachers the opportunity to pitch and potentially scale their creative ideas.

The Nashville Public Education Foundation encourages 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 community will have a chance to vote for their favorite teacher-developed solution online and in-person at the prototype pitch event, set to take place in March 2023.

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Supporting Metro Nashville Public Schools for 20 Years

For two decades, the Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) has consistently prioritized the needs of students and schools in a rapidly evolving city. With an unwavering focus on helping to shape a future where every student thrives, NPEF has proven that bold change is best achieved with an informed and united community of educators and business and civic leaders.

Since its founding in 2002, NPEF has fostered data-driven solutions that have led to tangible results in professional learning for teachers, school funding, teacher pay, principal quality, and more. To learn about the milestones of NPEF’s support of Metro Nashville Public Schools and its students, visit nashvillepef.org/history.

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 strategic thought partner to Metro Nashville Public Schools, convening stakeholders, and advocating for change so all students can thrive in school. Since its founding in 2002, NPEF has fostered data-driven solutions that have led to tangible results in professional learning for teachers, teacher pay, principal quality, college access and success, and more. To learn about NPEF’s support of Metro Nashville Public Schools and its students, visit nashvillepef.org.

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