

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Hal Cato to Receive Highest Honor at Nashville Public Education Foundation's 2023 Public Schools Hall of Fame

*Metro Nashville Public Schools graduates Prince, Love, and Rebrovick also to be named Distinguished Alumni at annual showcase of excellence in public education*

**NASHVILLE, TENN. – April 20, 2023** – The Nashville Public Education Foundation's (NPEF) Public Schools Hall of Fame will honor the CEO of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Hal Cato, with NPEF's highest recognition for distinguished service. Additionally, Metro Nashville Public Schools alumni André Prince, Representative Harold Love, Jr., and Linda Eskind Rebrovick will join the community of remarkable Metro Nashville Public Schools graduates as distinguished MNPS alumni. The event, presented by First Horizon Foundation is scheduled for September 27, 2023, at the Music City Center.

"The Distinguished Service Award, named after NPEF's founder Nelson C. Andrews, recognizes individuals who have devoted their lives to serving others. It is an honor to recognize Hal Cato with this award for his relentless commitment to making Nashville a better city for all," said **Katie Cour, Nashville Public Education Foundation President & CEO**. "In addition, this remarkable slate of Distinguished Alumni once again show us how incredibly accomplished and impactful MNPS alumni are for the city of Nashville."

NPEF will honor **Hal Cato**, the CEO of the Community Foundation of Middle TN with the Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award, presented by Vanderbilt University. The event's highest honor, the award is given to a leader in the Nashville community who advocates 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.

Cato has been a fierce advocate for Nashville's community for over 30 years. He currently serves as the CEO of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee where he is responsible for ensuring the foundation serves as a catalyst for philanthropic activity and a connector for local civic efforts that will lead to a stronger community. He has also served as the CEO of Thistle Farms, a nonprofit that employs women survivors of prostitution, and the Oasis Center, a nonprofit that advances youth wellbeing in Nashville. He has also had a hand in building and founding mission-driven organizations including Bright Horizons Childcare and Hands on Nashville.

Additionally, three MNPS graduates will be honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award, presented by Belmont University. The award 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 2023 Distinguished Alumni are:

- **André Prince**, a graduate of Pearl High School, is the owner of the legendary Prince's Hot Chicken, Nashville's original hot chicken restaurant. Founded by Prince's family nearly a century ago, Prince's Hot Chicken has become a community staple for both locals and tourists from across the globe.
- **Harold Love, Jr.**, a graduate of Whites Creek High School, is a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives for the 58th District. He is the House Democratic assistant leader and president-elect of The National Black Caucus of State Legislators. He is also a pastor at Lee Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Nashville.
- **Linda Eskind Rebrovick**, a graduate of Hillwood High School, is the president of Impact Corporate Consulting. Experienced entrepreneur and board member, Rebrovick currently serves as a Board Director for HealthStream and Guidehouse and as president of the Leadership Nashville Board of Trustees. Rebrovick was a founding board member of the Nashville Entrepreneur Center and continues to serve on the board and executive committee.

For 19 years, NPEF has honored Nashville individuals and organizations committed to supporting the city's public schools and students during the annual Public Schools Hall of Fame. This year's event is co-chaired by **Michelle Gaskin Brown**, the senior manager of public policy at Amazon who also serves on the NPEF board of directors, and **Dr. Alex Jahangir**, a 2021 Hall of Fame Distinguished Alumni honoree and director of the division of orthopaedic trauma at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

All are welcome to join NPEF to celebrate the Public Schools Hall of Fame and its honorees. More information about this year's event can be found online at <https://nashvillepef.org/hall-of-fame/>.

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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 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](https://nashvillepef.org).

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