

**FOR RELEASE ON FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

## Nashville Public Education Foundation Bringing Together Nashville Leaders, Non-profits, and Educators for 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Schools Hall of Fame

*Dr. Alex Jahangir and Michelle Gaskin Brown to chair event celebrating  
excellence in public education on September 27, 2023*

NASHVILLE, TENN. – February 14, 2023 – [The Nashville Public Education Foundation](#)'s (NPEF) annual [Public Schools Hall of Fame](#) event will convene community, business, and education leaders in support of Nashville's public schools during a luncheon at the Music City Center on September 27, 2023. For the 6th year, [First Horizon Foundation](#) has renewed its commitment to public schools as the event's presenting sponsor.

Leading the awards ceremony as event chairs are **Dr. Alex Jahangir**, a 2021 Hall of Fame Distinguished Alumni honoree and director of the division of orthopaedic trauma at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and **Michelle Gaskin Brown**, the manager of public policy at Amazon, who serves on the NPEF board of directors.

"Each year, we look forward to recognizing the members of our community working tirelessly to advance student success and change lives," said **Katie Cour**, President and CEO, Nashville Public Education Foundation. "We're proud to bring together partners like First Horizon and community leaders like Dr. Alex Jahangir and Michelle Gaskin Brown to showcase the great work in and around our public schools."

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. Since 2005, the event has grown to serve as a catalyst for advancing conversations that center public schools and students in Nashville.

"The Public Schools Hall of Fame celebrates the incredible talent supporting Nashville's public schools," said event co-chair **Michelle Gaskin Brown**. "I'm happy to

be a part of an event working to hold up the best of our city and inspire innovation to benefit its students.”

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 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 is given to an organization or program that exemplifies NPEF's commitment to bringing bold, innovative strategies to make a difference for Nashville's community and public schools. The award includes a \$10,000 grant.
- The Annette Eskind Inspiring Educator Award 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.
- The Inspiring Leader Award, introduced in 2022, is given to an educational leader in MNPS who demonstrates exemplary achievements in public education at the district or school level. The award provides a grant to the winner’s school to further their work.

The Nashville Public Education Foundation is currently [accepting nominations](#) for the Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award. The foundation is seeking community input on leaders championing youth and exemplary Metro Nashville Public Schools graduates doing great things in their career and for their community.

“The Hall of Fame provides an opportunity for Nashville to support and celebrate the individuals and organizations contributing to the success of our public schools,” said event co-chair **Dr. Alex Jahangir**. “As a Metro Nashville Public Schools graduate, I’m proud to help showcase excellence in our district.”

All are welcome to join NPEF to celebrate and attend the Public Schools Hall of Fame. More information can be found online at <https://nashvillepef.org/hall-of-fame/>. Nominate an award recipient using [this form](#). Organizations interested in sponsoring this year's Public Schools Hall of Fame can contact [Melinda Judd](#), the Vice President of Development and Outreach 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 thought partner 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](https://nashvillepef.org).

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