

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Hal Cato, André Prince, Harold Love Jr., and Linda Eskind Rebrovick inducted into Public Schools Hall of Fame

***Director of Schools Dr. Adrienne Battle calls on community to continue to come together in support of Nashville's public schools***

**NASHVILLE, TENN. – Sept. 27, 2023** – Today, the [Nashville Public Education Foundation](#) (NPEF) hosted its annual Public Schools Hall of Fame luncheon to honor trailblazing alumni from Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), alongside visionary leaders and educators who are making a difference every day for the city's students. Nine exceptional honorees, comprising seven extraordinary individuals and two groundbreaking organizations, were recognized at the Hall of Fame because of their dedication to better student outcomes and empowering teachers, families, and students across Nashville's public schools.

Additionally, the event served as the first opportunity for newly elected **Mayor Freddie O'Connell** to share his vision for Nashville's students, families, and teachers. And, Director of Schools, Dr. Adrienne Battle reiterated the progress the district has shown over the past few years, including being named a Level 5 district – the highest possible rating – in the state accountability system for two years in a row.

"We are very proud of the progress we have made in Metro Schools thanks to the dedication of our amazing teachers, staff, families, and students," said **Dr. Adrienne Battle, MNPS Director of Schools**. "It is crucial to have strong community partners to support our work, and the Nashville Public Education Foundation is great at lifting up our best and brightest. I'm so happy to see several of our educators, graduates, and community partners being honored for their work, their accomplishments, and everything they represent."

Presented by First Horizon Foundation for the sixth consecutive year, the event took place at the Music City Center and was attended by nearly 700 people including Mayor O'Connell, Dr. Battle, Metro Council Members, Tennessee legislators, School Board Members, parents, educators, and community and business leaders.

"Each year, the Hall of Fame serves as an occasion to celebrate progress and recognize individuals and organizations who tirelessly strive to enhance learning experiences and student achievement in our public schools," said **Katie Cour, Nashville Public Education Foundation President & CEO**. "Our goal is to ensure every child can thrive in our city's public schools and we are proud that the Hall of Fame has evolved into an important platform, not only for recognizing impactful figures and organizations, but also for raising vital issues and sparking conversations that ignite change."

In its 19<sup>th</sup> year, the [NPEF Public Schools Hall of Fame](#) has become an annual milestone for community leaders to gather and celebrate the great work and successes happening in Nashville's schools and to inspire solutions to pressing challenges in education. Joining notable professionals

and exemplary Nashvillians honored before them, the 2023 Public Schools Hall of Fame Honorees are:

*Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award presented by Vanderbilt University*

- **Hal Cato**, CEO of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee of Nashville.

*Distinguished Alumni Award presented by Belmont University*

- **André Prince**, owner Prince's Hot Chicken and graduate of Pearl High School;
- **Harold Love, Jr.**, a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives for the 58th District and graduate of Whites Creek High School;
- **Linda Eskind Rebrovick**, president of Impact Corporate Consulting and graduate of Hillwood High School.

*Annette S. Eskind Inspiring Educator Award presented by UBS*

- **Dr. Jessica Abarquez-New**, a lead teacher for the Academy of Health and Hospitality and teacher of English Learners at Glenclyff High School;
- **Lauren Binkley**, teacher of English Learners and Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE) at Eagle View Elementary School.

*Thomas J. Sherrard Inspiring Innovation Award presented by Nissan*

- **Voces de Nashville**, a member-owned cooperative that helps Nashvillians learn Spanish and build connections across the Nashville community;
- **Water Walkers**, a watersports and adventure-based youth tutoring and mentoring program.

*Inspiring Leader Award presented by Lipscomb University*

- **Dr. Brian Mells**, principal of Whites Creek High School.

NPEF also announced its Inspiring Leader Award will now be named after **Ronald L. Corbin** to honor his decades of dedication to ensuring equitable access to high-quality public schools for all students. This year's event was 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 and director of the division of orthopaedic trauma at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

### **About the Nashville Public Education Foundation**

The Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring every child can thrive in Nashville's public schools. NPEF works to improve student outcomes in Nashville's public schools by identifying challenges and advancing evidence-based solutions. Since 2002, NPEF's role as a catalyst for transformation has yielded tangible results in areas such as teacher professional development, teacher compensation, principal quality, and college access. Learn more at [nashvillepef.org](http://nashvillepef.org).

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