



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Nashville Chamber and Nashville Public Education Foundation Announce Fifth Annual Leadership Public Education Cohort**

### ***Nashville Area Chamber Partners with NPEF to Announce 2024 Leadership Public Education Cohort***

**NASHVILLE, TENN. – Feb. 7, 2024** – The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) is proud to announce the selection of its 2024 Leadership Public Education cohort. This diverse group of dynamic individuals represents the fifth class of the annual six-month leadership development program, dedicated to enhancing public education within the Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) system.

The 2024 cohort, comprising leaders from various sectors across Nashville, was chosen for their commitment and passion towards educational excellence. Over the next six months, these fellows will engage in comprehensive learning and discussions on the structures and challenges impacting MNPS. They will hear from experts in public education and organizational development and delve into research and data to understand the critical issues facing Nashville's public schools. The curriculum includes a deep dive into topics such as the History of MNPS, Law and Policy, the Budget Process, Teacher and Principal Talent, and School Options.

Upon completion, each fellow will commit to a role impacting MNPS, ranging from participation in parent-teacher organizations, advisory councils, and nonprofit and other boards and commissions. The program, jointly managed by the Nashville Chamber and NPEF, is an independent initiative, not affiliated with or governed by MNPS.

Stephanie Coleman, Chief Talent Development Officer at the Nashville Chamber, said "These fellows are pivotal contributors to the educational fabric of our city. We look forward to seeing their growth and impact."

"We are thrilled to welcome this new cohort of leaders," added Katie Cour, CEO of NPEF. "Their diverse perspectives and dedication are crucial for the advancement of public education in Nashville."

The 2024 Leadership Public Education Cohort includes:

- **Christiane Buggs**, President and CEO, PENCIL
- **Bethany Burney**, Program Director, Corner to Corner
- **Margaret Anne Byerly**, Director of Communications and Engagement, Enterprise Solutions

- **Alan Calhoun**, Magistrate- Metro Student Attendance Center, Davidson County Juvenile Court
- **Brandon Hill**, Head of Community Engagement, Nashville Soccer Club
- **Nicole Keefe**, Attorney, Burr & Forman LLP
- **Tamara Kelly**, General Manager, Prince's Hot Chicken
- **Mary Matthews Coffey**, Program Director, Diverse Learners Cooperative
- **Jennie McCabe**, Workforce Development Consultant, Department of Economic and Community Development, State of Tennessee
- **Miranda McDonald**, Director of Community Programs, Tennessee Titans
- **Ryan Parker**, Director of Donor Relations and Programs, Nashville State Community College Foundation
- **Marc Pearson**, Senior Principal, Stantec
- **Jazmin Ramirez**, Advocacy & Partnership Manager, The Education Trust - Tennessee
- **Eno Richardson**, Founder & CEO, Eno Richardson Consulting, LLC
- **Whitney Slovick**, Coordinator of Community Achieves, Metro Nashville Public Schools
- **Sonya Smith**, Director, Meharry Medical College
- **Meredith Benton**, CEO, Communities in Schools TN
- **Celia Bowman-Jeffries**, 4th grade ESL Teacher, Thomas A. Edison Elementary School, Metro Nashville Public Schools
- **Corey Burton**, Director of Enrollment and Family Engagement, LEAD Public Schools
- **Laura Varela**, Director of United4Hope, Operation Andrew Group

For more information on Leadership Public Education, visit

<https://www.nashvillechamber.com/economic-development/talent-development/leadership-public-education/overview>.

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#### **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).*

#### **About the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce**

*The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce is Middle Tennessee's largest business federation, representing more than 1,800 member companies. *Belong, engage, lead, prosper* embodies the Chamber's focus on creating economic prosperity by facilitating community leadership. Established in 1990 as an economic development and community enhancement initiative of the Chamber, Partnership 2030 is a regional cooperative dedicated to making Middle Tennessee among the nation's best places to live, work and do business. Partnership 2030 is supported by a diverse group of public and private companies as well as governmental agencies from the organization's 10-county service area. The work of the Chamber is supported by its members, Partnership 2030 investors and sponsors; the Chamber's Pivotal Partners (a partnership at the highest level for all Chamber programs and events) are BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Community Health Systems, Gresham Smith and Regions. For more information, visit [www.nashvillechamber.com](http://www.nashvillechamber.com).*

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