

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nashville Public Education Foundation Inducts Nine New Honorees into Public Schools Hall of Fame

21st Hall of Fame event the first with Diarese George, Ed.D as Foundation's new President and CEO

NASHVILLE, TENN. – Sept. 30, 2025 – Today, the [Nashville Public Education Foundation](#) (NPEF) celebrated its 21st Public Schools Hall of Fame luncheon by honoring Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) alumni, visionary leaders, and educators who have made a lasting impact on Nashville's students and families. Nine remarkable honorees were inducted, including Janet Miller, Martesha Johnson Moore, Marlene Eskind Moses, Tom Parrish, Addison Barrack and Montrell Williams, Chris Plummer, Ed.D, as well as the Adroit and Nashville Tools for Schools organizations. Their work continues to expand opportunities for young people by improving student outcomes and breaking down barriers to public education. Today also marked the first Public Schools Hall of Fame celebration led by Diarese George, Ed.D in his role as the Foundation's new President and CEO.

"This year's Public Schools Hall of Fame is a powerful reminder of what makes our district so remarkable," said **Dr. George**. "Our honorees have helped open doors for students and created lasting opportunities for their learning and growth. I am especially honored to be part of this event in my first year as President and CEO of the Foundation and to witness firsthand the excellence, collaboration and innovation that fuel our schools. Events like this show how, together, we can empower every student to reach their full potential."

The 21st annual Public Schools Hall of Fame, presented by First Horizon Foundation for the eighth year, brought together more than **700** attendees at the Music City Center in downtown Nashville. Guests included Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell, MNPS Superintendent Dr. Adrienne Battle, Metropolitan Nashville Council members, members of the Tennessee General Assembly, Metropolitan Nashville Board of Public Education representatives, and leaders from across the mid-state's business and civic community. The event also featured a special performance of "[I Belong](#)," an original song created and performed by MNPS student artists as part of the MNPS Songwriting Summit.

"We're deeply grateful to the Nashville Public Education Foundation for spotlighting the community partners, educators, and alumni who have made a profound impact on Nashville's students and families through education, service, and innovation," said **Dr. Battle**. "This year's nine honorees, just like our outstanding student performers, showcase the remarkable talent and dedication within our district, and it's inspiring to see how they advance our mission of making Every Student Known. We know we can't do this work alone, and we appreciate everything our partners contribute year after year."

The 2025 Public Schools Hall of Fame honorees are:

Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award presented by Vanderbilt University

- **Janet Miller**, Vice Chairman and Principal, and former Chief Executive Officer and Market Leader of Colliers Nashville.

Distinguished Alumni Award presented by Belmont University

- **Martasha Johnson Moore**, Nashville Metropolitan Chief Public Defender and graduate of Whites Creek High School.
- **Marlene Eskind Moses**, internationally recognized family law attorney at GSRM Law and graduate of Hillsboro High School.
- **Tom Parrish**, Chief Operating Officer of the Scarlett Family Foundation and graduate of Hillwood High School, now known as James Lawson High School.

Annette Eskind Inspiring Educator Award presented by UBS

- **Addison Barrack**, a Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE) educator at Antioch High School.
- **Montrell Williams**, an Integrated Mathematics 1 teacher at Whites Creek High School.

Thomas J. Sherrard Inspiring Innovation Award presented by Nissan

- **Adroit**, an organization dedicated to expanding equitable access to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education for students of all backgrounds.
- **Nashville Tools for Schools**, an organization working to “build for our children’s future” by building custom furniture, shelving and storage cabinets, and outdoor items for MNPS schools.

Ronald L. Corbin Inspiring Leader Award presented by Lipscomb University

- **Dr. Chris Plummer**, Executive Principal of Cane Ridge Elementary School.

The ceremony was led by event chairs **Candice Storey Lee**, Vice Chancellor for Athletics and University Affairs and Athletic Director at Vanderbilt University, and **Brandon Corbin**, Regional Chief Information Officer (CIO) for Ascension Saint Thomas.

Building on the celebration of the 20th Public Schools Hall of Fame, the 21st event honored the growth and achievement across Nashville’s public schools. Since its inception in 2005, the Public Schools Hall of Fame has sparked productive conversations and actions around the role of public education in Nashville. This year’s celebration was grounded in the power of public education and highlighted the community’s ongoing commitment to advancing outcomes and opportunities for all students.

PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS



Caption: MNPS Superintendent Dr. Adrienne Battle celebrates student success in MNPS at the Nashville Public Education Foundation's 21st Public Schools Hall of Fame.

Pictured: Dr. Adrienne Battle



Caption: Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell emphasizes the significance of public education and how continued community investment in public schools is important to Nashville's success.

Pictured: Mayor Freddie O'Connell



Caption: Janet Miller accepts the Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award from Nathan Green, Vice Chancellor for Government and Community Relations at Vanderbilt University. The award was presented by Vanderbilt University, at the Public Schools Hall of Fame on September 30, 2025. Miller is the Vice Chairman, Market Leader and former CEO of Colliers Nashville.

Pictured: Janet Miller



Caption: Nashville Public Education Foundation's Public Schools Hall of Fame Distinguished Alumni Award recipients were chosen for their contributions to Nashville's community and public schools.

Pictured, from left to right: Dr. Susan West, Executive Vice President, Administration and Chief of Staff, Belmont University; Marlene Eskind Moses; Tom Parrish; Martesha Johnson Moore.



Caption: The Annette Eskind Inspiring Educator Award, presented by UBS, recognizes two MNPS educators transforming the lives of students in the classroom and beyond. Each Inspiring Educator receives \$5,000 to support their work.

Pictured, from left to right: Montrell Williams; Scott Brisson, Executive Director and Site Lead, UBS Nashville; Addison Barrack.



Caption: The Thomas J. Sherrard Inspiring Innovation Award, presented by Nissan, honors organizations going above and beyond to make a difference for Nashville's students. Each Inspiring Innovation honoree is awarded a \$5,000 grant to further their missions.

Pictured, from left to right: Ben Dodd, Nashville Tools for Schools; Ali Tonn, Executive Director, Nissan Foundation; Shun Ahmed, Adroit.



Caption: The Ronald L. Corbin Inspiring Leader Award, presented by Lipscomb University, is given to a school leader in MNPS who demonstrates exemplary achievements in public education. The award includes a \$5,000 grant to the honoree and their school.

Pictured, from left to right: Candice McQueen, President, Lipscomb University; Dr. Chris Plummer.



Caption: Nashville Public Education Foundation President and CEO Dr. Diarese George encourages attendees to find their role as a supporter and advocate of Nashville's public schools.

Pictured: Dr. Diarese George



Caption: MNPS students perform a song from their album, “I Believe I Belong.”

Pictured: MNPS Songwriting Summit Student Artists, accompanied by Warner Arts Magnet Elementary Choir.

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.

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Access to high resolution photos/B-roll: [OneDrive](#)