



Nashville  
Public Education  
FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Nashville Public Education Foundation Announces  
22nd Public Schools Hall of Fame Distinguished Honorees:  
Rodger Dinwiddie, Johari Matthews, Rod McDaniel, and Evette White**

***Dinwiddie will receive the Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award; Matthews, McDaniel, and White will each receive the MNPS Distinguished Alumni Award.***

**NASHVILLE, TENN. – March 31, 2026** — The [Nashville Public Education Foundation](#) is proud to announce the four distinguished honorees for the 22nd Public Schools Hall of Fame Luncheon. Initiated by nominations received from the public, the legendary midday event will recognize Rodger Dinwiddie with the Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award, presented by Vanderbilt University, and Johari Matthews, Rod McDaniel, and Evette White with the Metro Nashville Public Schools Distinguished Alumni Award, presented by Belmont University.

- **Rodger Dinwiddie** is the CEO of STARS Nashville, a nationally recognized nonprofit organization addressing substance misuse, school-based mental health supports, violence and bullying prevention training, and adolescent intensive outpatient treatment services. He is a former president of the International Bullying Prevention Association, former president of the National Student Assistance Association, and a Rotarian who enjoys reading to students as part of the Book'em youth literacy program.
- **Johari Matthews** is the Vice President and Executive Director of ONE Community and the Tennessee Titans Foundation, leading the way in philanthropy and corporate social responsibility. Before working with the Titans, she dedicated nearly two decades to the nonprofit sector, serving organizations, including the YMCA of Middle Tennessee and the Northwest Family YMCA. She has been a driving force in building strategic private-public partnerships by uniting corporate sponsors, nonprofit organizations, and government entities. Matthews is a graduate of Glencliff High School.
- **Rod McDaniel** is the CEO of S3 Recycling Solutions, a nationally recognized IT asset disposition company serving clients across North America. His professional successes include being named the 2024 EY Entrepreneur of the Year and leading S3 to five consecutive appearances on the Inc. 5000 list of fastest growing companies. He strongly believes that business success should create opportunities for others, and since 2016, S3 has donated nearly 10,000 computers to

underserved individuals and organizations. McDaniel is a graduate of McGavock High School.

- **Evette White** is the Executive Director of Leadership Nashville, an executive program that strengthens Nashville through deep connections formed among diverse leaders. Her extensive career in entrepreneurship and corporate environments includes a self-founded marketing agency, Ascension Saint Thomas, Executive Selection, and board involvement, including Delta Dental of Tennessee, Studio Bank, TransPerfect Music City Bowl, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Business Advisory Council. White is a graduate of Hillwood High School (now called James Lawson High School).

**Dr. Diarese George, NPEF president and CEO**, reflected, “We appreciate the community’s role in helping nominate an impressive selection of individuals for this year’s distinguished honoree categories. It is a testament to the richness of Nashville’s public education system and the impact made on communities, industries, and networks by everyday people who intentionally give back, while paving the way forward.”

NPEF’s Hall of Fame recognizes Metro Nashville Public Schools educators and alumni who exemplify the best of public education through their personal and professional endeavors, as well as community members and leaders. The luncheon will take place **Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 11:30 a.m., at the Music City Center**, and is presented in sponsorship by First Horizon Foundation for the ninth year. Last year’s luncheon gathered 700 attendees, including local and state elected officials, corporate executives, business leaders, non-profit champions, and education supporters.

The Inspiring Leader, Inspiring Educator, and Inspiring Innovation awards honorees will be announced later this spring. Tickets for the 2026 Public Schools Hall of Fame will be available for purchase beginning in June. Sponsorships are available by contacting Melinda Judd at [melinda.judd@nashvillepef.org](mailto:melinda.judd@nashvillepef.org). More information is available at <https://nashvillepef.org/hall-of-fame/>.

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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).

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