



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nashville Public Education Foundation Reveals the Five Inspiring Award Honorees for the 22nd Public Schools Hall of Fame Luncheon

The inspiring honorees represent two educators, one leader, and two organizations.

NASHVILLE, TENN. – May 5, 2026 — The [Nashville Public Education Foundation](#) has revealed the final round of honorees for its 22nd Public Schools Hall of Fame Luncheon, categorized by Inspiring Educator, Inspiring Leader, and Inspiring Innovation. The honorees are Quanita Adams, Kevin Stevens, Dr. Michael Pratt, DYMON in the Rough (Dynamic Young Minorities of Nashville), and Girls Write Nashville. The signature celebration will recognize educators, influential community members, and non-profit organizations that reflect the guiding principles of Metro Nashville Public Schools.

Presented by UBS, the 2026 Annette Eskind Inspiring Educator Award honorees are:

- **Quanita Adams** is a Computer Science and Mathematics educator at Stratford STEM Magnet High School, where she advances equitable access to high-quality STEM education. Her contributions to the Computer Science Instructional Design Team help shape innovative and effective learning experiences for students. Quanita is an instructor for the NPEF and MNPS program, Tech Goes Home; serves as a board member of the Tennessee Education Association; is the inaugural NPEF Teacherpreneur first place winner; and is a two-time Teacher of the Year.
- **Kevin Stevens** is a middle grades Math teacher and Instructional Leader at Head Magnet Middle School, whose reputation reflects a drive for exceptional student growth, cultivates student confidence, and fosters a love of learning. As a leader and culture builder in his school community, he co-founded the Spirit Committee and is a successful volleyball coach. The 2025-2026 Head Magnet Teacher of the Year also ranks in the Top 5 in Tennessee for student growth and achievement in math.

Presented by Lipscomb University, the 2026 Ronald L. Corbin Inspiring Leader honoree is:

- **Dr. Michael Pratt** is the Executive Principal of Stratford STEM Magnet High School and the 2025-2026 MNPS High School Principal of the Year. Under his leadership, students achieved Level 5 (exemplary) academic growth on state assessments, moving from Level 1 to Level 5 in one academic year. His expansion of dual enrollment, Cambridge, and Advanced Placement

opportunities has positioned students to earn full academic scholarships to Harvard, Vanderbilt, Belmont, and Fisk Universities. Dr. Pratt is the founder of Fatherhood Friday MENToring.

Presented by Nissan, the 2026 Thomas J. Sherrard Inspiring Innovation Award honorees are:

- **DYMON in the Rough (Dynamic Young Minorities of Nashville)** is a trusted, community model, youth development nonprofit organization that has empowered girls, equipped leaders, and elevated communities across Nashville and Middle Tennessee for 14 years. Through strategic partnerships with MNPS, Nashville After Zone Alliance, and philanthropic supporters, it delivers transformative programs, including innovative in-school, after school, and summer programming centering mentorship, leadership development, social-emotional learning, academic enrichment, wellness, entrepreneurship, and family engagement.
- **Girls Write Nashville** is a creative youth development program that empowers teen artists through songwriting, music production, mentorship, and community. It creates trauma-informed spaces where teen artists can access their voice, identity, and sense of belonging. The organization operates as a hybrid model of modern music education and social-emotional learning. More than 300 students are served annually through the organization's 5,500+ hours of free programming in partnership with MNPS.

“As bold supporters of Nashville’s public education system, it is essential to recognize the courageous individuals who champion students, enhance academic settings, strengthen our communities, and cultivate a better future for generations to come,” expressed **Wanda Lyle, NPEF Board Chair**. “We are thrilled to welcome attendees to the Hall of Fame in August and share in an afternoon of inspiration.”

The NPEF Hall of Fame luncheon will take place on **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.

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. More information is available at <https://nashvillepef.org/hall-of-fame/>.

###

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.

Media Contact: Director of Communications, Tereva Parham, comms@nashvillepef.org