



NASHVILLE PUBLIC EDUCATION

FOUNDATION

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NASHVILLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION NAMES NEW PRESIDENT

Well-known education reform leader moves to Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Natasha Kamrani, a former teacher, attorney, school board member and foundation executive has been named the new president of the Nashville Public Education Foundation, it was announced today.

Kamrani recently moved to Nashville from Houston, Texas, with her husband, Chris Barbic, who now serves as superintendent of the Achievement School District for the state of Tennessee and her two children, both of whom are Metropolitan Nashville Public School students.

“When we began the search for the leader of the Foundation, we had no idea that someone of Natasha’s ability would be available, much less have recently moved to Nashville,” said Margaret Dolan, chairwoman of the Foundation. “She knows the work of education at the classroom level, at the school board level and at the national foundation level. And she’s been a leader at each of those levels. We are extremely fortunate to have her join the Foundation as president.”

Kamrani graduated from Miami University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and a minor in political science. Following college, she went to work as a Teach For America (TFA) corps member, teaching English as a second language to recent immigrants in Houston’s public school system, before becoming the executive director of Teach For America’s Houston office. In 2000, she received a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Houston Law Center.

After several years practicing law, she was elected to the Houston Independent School District Board of Education, where she worked with her colleagues to enact several important policies concerning teacher effectiveness. Later, she served as the executive director of the Arnold Family Foundation, based in Houston, with a national focus on reform of the public school system.

“Public schools are our city’s top priority, and the Nashville Public Education Foundation is an important partner for our public schools,” said Mayor Karl Dean. “The Foundation provides private resources that will help make possible the programs we need to help our students succeed. Having someone of Ms. Kamrani’s talents at the helm of the organization promises great things for this partnership going forward.”

“Natasha Kamrani has a great combination of skills and experience in both education and philanthropy,” said Metro Schools Director Dr. Jesse Register. “We are working to make Metro Schools the first choice for Nashville’s families and we look forward to working with her as we accelerate student achievement.”

“I could not possibly be more excited to be in Nashville at a time when there is such an incredible amount of energy, enthusiasm and commitment from the community focused on positive change in our city’s public education system. Nashville already feels like home, and I am very much looking forward to tackling the challenges and embracing the opportunities ahead as I work with my community to ensure a quality education for all Nashville’s children,” said Kamrani.

About Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF)

The Nashville Public Education Foundation is a local nonprofit organization that exists to identify opportunities for private investment in public education initiatives that will result in transformative, systemwide improvements in educational outcomes for Nashville’s students. Formerly the Nashville Alliance for Public Education, NPEF has redefined its role, and has placed a greater emphasis on gaining national recognition and funds in order to have a more profound impact on Nashville’s public schools.

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