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24 Philadelphia Principals Selected to Participate in the Prestigious Neubauer Fellowship in Educational Leadership, Aimed at Driving Systemic Change and Results for Philadelphia’s Schools and Students

PHILADELPHIA, PA (May 5, 2022) – The [Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders](#) (School Leaders) today announced that 24 Philadelphia principals have been selected to join the seventh cohort of [Neubauer Fellows in Educational Leadership](#) (Neubauer Fellows). The addition of this new cohort, the first since 2020, brings the total number of Neubauer Fellows to 152 since 2015 and reflects service to nearly 100,000 students in Philadelphia. This cohort welcomes outstanding principals from 19 schools in the School District of Philadelphia, four charter schools, and one faith-based school. It also reflects the growing diversity of Philadelphia, with 63% people of color and 71% women.

The Neubauer Fellowship is the flagship experience for School Leaders and continues to accelerate student achievement, academic growth, and attendance in Philadelphia schools. It provides proven principals with the resources and guidance to sharpen their leadership capacities. The Fellowship is a transformative two-year engagement that develops critical leadership skills needed to elevate school performance and student outcomes in principals’ schools and across the city. Fellows receive best-in-class professional development and build relationships with a network of outstanding peers who share strategies and problem-solve with one another.

“Philadelphia’s principals transform students’ lives, and the Neubauer Fellowship provides these change agents with the leadership tools, skills, and networks to accelerate student outcomes and sustain success in Philadelphia schools,” said Tracy Breslin, Executive Director of School Leaders. “Neubauer Fellows are committed to serving students *in* Philadelphia, and 96 percent of Neubauer Fellows annually remain in educational leadership positions in the city. We welcome our seventh cohort of Fellows and look forward to partnering with these talented principals to build on this solid foundation of success.”

The following principals have named 2022 Neubauer Fellows (*listed alphabetically by last name*):

- KaTiedra Argro, Commodore John Barry Elementary School
- Tiffani Joi Blunt, Grover Washington, Jr. Middle School
- Andrew Brooking, Thomas G. Morton Elementary School
- David Cohen, Tanner G. Duckrey Public School

- Nimet Eren, Kensington Health Sciences Academy
- Erica M.Green, Russell H. Conwell Middle Magnet School
- DolletteJohns-Smith, Morton McMichael School
- Kahlila S. Johnson, Overbrook High School
- Rodney Johnson, John Moffet Elementary School
- Amanda Jones, The Honorable Luis Munoz-Marin Elementary School
- Mary Libby, Chester A. Arthur School
- David Lon, The Jules E. Mastbaum Area Vocational/Technical School
- Tangelma McClam, Lewis C. Cassidy Academics Plus School
- David McDonough, St. James School
- Leigh McLinden, George W. Sharswood Elementary School
- Maggie McMillan, One Bright Ray Community High School
- Brian Meadows, Thurgood Marshall School
- Christie Parfitt, Jay Cooke Elementary School
- Nichole Polk, Potter-Thomas School
- Heather Scheg, Mastery Charter – Clymer Elementary
- Naeemah Seward, Mastery Charter – Hardy Williams High
- Wendy Sharpe, Franklin S. Edmonds Elementary School
- Shoshana Tyler, Global Leadership Academy Charter School West
- Isaiah Walker, KIPP Philadelphia Preparatory Academy

“Each of the 24 principals selected for this cohort of Neubauer Fellows brings outstanding experiences and a strong track record of driving student outcomes,” said Latanya Barrett, Program Director overseeing the Neubauer Fellowship and a Neubauer Fellow herself. “Over these next two years, our principals will have unique opportunities to build relationships with one another and strengthen their skills in critical ways. This leadership development work will allow Philadelphia families to have greater access to high-performing schools that prepare all students for college, career, and life.”

In 2021-22 academic year, 89 Neubauer Fellows serve as principals and 27 serve as education system leaders in Philadelphia (e.g., assistant superintendent, charter CEO). On average, schools led by Neubauer Fellows improved more than three times as much as other schools in elementary and middle school Math and English Language Arts (ELA) and improved student attendance more than twice as much. In addition, Neubauer Fellows led nine (9) of 12 Philadelphia schools receiving the prestigious National Blue Ribbon distinction in the last six years. Including this new cohort, 37 Neubauer Fellows have been recognized with the respected Lindback Award for Distinguished Principals, now representing 75% of all Lindback award recipients in the last five years.

“The Neubauer Fellowship views principals as the CEOs of their schools, which is why leadership development is core to our mission,” said Joseph Neubauer, Board Chair, School Leaders. “Simply put, there are no great schools without great principals. For student success to meaningfully increase in Philadelphia, we must invest in our principals as leaders first, providing them with the necessary tools and experiences to make data-driven decisions and deliver measurable outcomes. We are proud of how all our Fellows continue to evolve and expand their leadership capacity, and we look forward to supporting our newest Fellows as they begin this journey.”

For more information regarding the Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders and the Neubauer Fellowship, please visit www.phillyschoolleaders.org or follow the organization on [Twitter](#).

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About the Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders:

The Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders (School Leaders) is a nonprofit organization that develops, engages, and retains principals and system leaders who transform schools, dramatically improve student outcomes, and drive systemic change to prepare all Philadelphia students for college, career, and life. Recognizing that principals are the catalyst for change, School Leaders launched in 2015 to serve as a critical partner and cross-sector leadership development resource. School Leaders trains and supports principals and school system leaders across district, charter, and faith-based schools in Philadelphia. The organization's results-driven, evidence-based approach provides leaders with the necessary tools, skills, and networks to elevate their performance and improve school and student outcomes.

About the Neubauer Fellowship in Educational Leadership:

The Neubauer Fellowship in Educational Leadership, School Leaders' flagship program, identifies the city's proven principals in district, charter, and faith-based schools and elevates their performance by developing the leadership skills vital to improving student outcomes. Using a unique cross-sector, cohort-based approach, Fellows build deep relationships with a network of outstanding peers who share expertise and resources. Local and national practitioners, authors, and researchers facilitate a curriculum that supports Fellows to produce measurable, meaningful results. The Neubauer Fellowship is competitive and selective: the rigorous competency-based selection process includes an application, interviews, instructional analysis, data reviews, and school visits. Including this new cohort, the Fellowship serves 152 Philadelphia principals and system leaders who serve 100,000 students.