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Public Education Foundation Celebrates 25 Years

PEF honors three outstanding board chairs; emphasizes the importance of great teachers and leaders in public schools

CHATTANOOGA, October 23, 2014 – For the past 25 years, Public Education Foundation (PEF) has worked collaboratively with the Hamilton County Department of Education and other partners to provide training, research, and resources to teachers, principals, and schools. On Wednesday at a luncheon hosted at the Chattanooga, over 400 educators and community members gathered to honor the PEF board leadership and listen to national education expert Professor Joe Martin.

The keynote speaker, Professor Joe Martin, led the crowd in chanting, “It’s worth it!” to invest in students and teachers. Raised by an abusive, alcoholic mother, Professor Martin credits his success to Mrs. G, an influential 7th grade teacher who believed in him. “It’s worth it to invest in teachers. Our students are worth it,” he said.

In addition to the keynote speech, PEF honored their three board chairs, Bo Sudderth, Ruth Holmberg, and Jim Hill. “Bo, Ruth, and Jim have provided PEF with wisdom and untold support. Their example-- prominent leaders in our community who are deeply committed to public education -- remind citizens and leaders across our community just how important our public schools are. It is a powerful statement when the CEO of a large bank, the publisher of a major newspaper, and the head of a community’s largest manufacturing plant agree to chair the board of a non-profit organization,” stated PEF President Dan Challenger in his remarks. “Today, we want to honor and thank Bo and Ruth and Jim for their leadership and their commitment to public education.”

“PEF works every day to improve opportunities for teachers, principals, and most importantly, students. I think there is no greater work that can be done to impact the Chattanooga community,” said current PEF Board Chair Jim Hill. “I am proud to play a role in transforming public education.”

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About PEF

PEF is transforming public education. We are an advocate for the region and Hamilton County schools and its teachers, leaders, and students. For 25 years, we have worked in partnership with Hamilton County schools and provide training, research, and resources to teachers, principals, and schools. Our mission is to increase student achievement so all our students succeed in learning and in life. PEF has helped to bring more than \$60 million in supplemental, philanthropic funding to the school system to help achieve that mission. Learn more at pefchattanooga.org