



*Contact:* Sydney Rogers  
Alignment Nashville  
Phone: 615.585.5164  
e-Mail: [sydney@alignmentnashville.org](mailto:sydney@alignmentnashville.org)

Olivia Brown  
Metro Nashville Public Schools  
Phone: 615.259.8506  
e-Mail: [Olivia.brown@mnps.org](mailto:Olivia.brown@mnps.org)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Nashville Named One of Seven Ford Next Generation Learning Hubs**

**Nashville, Tenn.** (March 1, 2011) - Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, today announced that Nashville has been named a Ford Next Generation Learning (Ford NGL) Hub, one of only seven in the country. With this prestigious designation, Nashville will offer professional development as well as coaching and mentoring for other communities around the region seeking to develop a master plan for education transformation and local educational, community and business leader engagement.

“There is a dramatic transformation happening in Metro Nashville’s high schools and we are excited our work is attracting national attention. It is an honor to be named a Ford Next Generation Learning Hub,” said Jay Steele, associate superintendent for high schools.

Ford has a long history of supporting educational and other organizations in the Nashville community. Over the last four years Ford has collaborated with Metro Nashville Public Schools, Alignment Nashville, the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and the PENCIL Foundation to create and launch a district-wide high school redesign model. The Ford NGL Essential Practices have served as the foundation for the district’s five-year master plan for high school improvement. More than 100 businesses, including Ford Motor Credit Company, have pledged to support and engage with the Academies of Nashville initiative.

The vision of Ford NGL is to mobilize educators, employers, and community leaders to educate and empower a new generation of students who graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to compete in the 21st century economy. Ford NGL focuses on:

- Transforming Teaching and Learning
- Redesigning High Schools
- Building Sustainability through Business and Civic Leadership.

“Our founder, Henry Ford, built an entire industry from his relentless focus on innovation,” said Cheryl Carrier, Ford NGL program director with the Ford Motor Company Fund. “Over 15 communities across the country have adopted the Ford NGL Framework and have committed to redesign their high schools and take American ingenuity to the next level. We are excited to deepen our partnership with the Nashville community and look forward to expanding the innovative work that is taking place in Nashville.”

As part of this announcement, Ford and its Nashville area dealers are investing \$10,000 to support the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and Alignment Nashville in their new role as a Ford NGL Hub. The funds will be used for planning, training, and preparation for the continued development of the academies. This investment follows other major investments in the Nashville area including support of the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Nashville Zoo and Hands On Nashville. Since 2003 Ford and its dealers have invested more than \$6 million in the Nashville community.

###

#### **About Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services**

Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services works with community partners to advance driving safety, education and American heritage and community life. The Ford Motor Company Fund has operated for more than 60 years with ongoing funding from Ford Motor Company. The award-winning Ford Driving Skills for Life program teaches new drivers through a variety of hands-on and interactive methods. Innovation in education is encouraged through national programs that enhance high school learning and provide college scholarships and university grants. Through the Ford Volunteer Corps, more than 20,000 Ford employees and retirees work on projects that better their communities in dozens of countries. For more information, visit [www.community.ford.com](http://www.community.ford.com)

## **About Alignment Nashville**

Alignment Nashville was established in 2005 as a nonprofit organization that seeks to align the services, programs and resources of community organizations to positively impact the Nashville community by helping our public schools succeed and our youth live healthier lives. To accomplish this goal, Alignment Nashville has developed a unique model of collaboration that pairs the leaders of the Nashville school system with the leaders of nonprofits to strategically identify the city's most pressing educational and health-related needs and to develop the collaborative tactical protocol to most effectively address those needs.

Much of Alignment's work is conducted via committees that are each focused on a particular stage of education or aspect of health-related issues. In the area of education, the committees include Pre-Kindergarten, Elementary Grades, Middle Grades, Small Learning Communities in high schools, Developing Community Leaders in high schools, 16-to-24-year-olds Out of School/Out of work, Parent University, Pathways to Postsecondary Education and P-16 Council for Davidson County, Refugee and Immigrant Support Services. Concerning health, the committees include Healthy Starts, Primary Care and Vaccines, HEAL (Healthy Eating & Active Living), Adolescent Sexual Responsibility, School Nutrition, and Behavioral Health.

## **About Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools**

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools serve nearly 78,000 students with the goal of being the first choice for families in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit [www.mnps.org](http://www.mnps.org).

###