

Harvard's EdRedesign Names Rob Watson Deputy Director; Appoints Inaugural Cohort of *By All Means* Senior Fellows

[CAMBRIDGE, MA –July 11, 2023] [EdRedesign](#), based at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), has named [Rob Watson](#) to the newly created position of Deputy Director to support EdRedesign's expanding footprint in the cradle-to-career place-based partnership field. Watson had served as EdRedesign's Director for Partnerships and Community Impact since June 2021. Watson is also a Secondary Lecturer in Education at HGSE. Watson leads EdRedesign's [By All Means initiative](#), forging partnerships in the field with communities, national intermediaries, and exemplary leaders working to redefine education and youth development to scale impact. Through community-based collaborations, Watson supports the cradle-to-career place-based partnership field to drive expanded, equitable opportunities for upward mobility for all children, youth, and families.

"We are blessed to have Rob Watson on our team. This promotion is timely recognition for all that Rob has done to expand the reach and impact of EdRedesign's work. We are proud to signal to the field that Rob is a senior EdRedesign leader who will play a central role in shaping our future," said Paul Reville, Francis Keppel Professor of Practice of Educational Policy and Administration at HGSE and Founding Director at EdRedesign.

EdRedesign also announced the establishment of its [By All Means Senior Fellowship](#), a visiting fellowship initiative led by Watson for exemplary senior leaders of place-based collaborative action. The Fellows bring diverse expertise and experiences in cross-sector partnerships, politics, policymaking, school district leadership, community organizing, and public service for the challenges facing children, youth, and families today. The Fellowship aims to facilitate new opportunities for collaboration between the Harvard community and leaders at the forefront of social innovations advancing educational equity, upward mobility, and racial justice. Fellows will spend the year working with EdRedesign on signature projects that aim to amplify the impact of their work and the field of place-based collaborative action on the national stage.

The initial cohort (2023-2024) of Senior Fellows includes:

- Dr. Russell Booker – CEO, Spartanburg Academic Movement,
- Alan Cohen – Founder and CEO, Child Poverty Action Lab,
- Sonali Nijhawan – Director, AmeriCorps State & National,
- Richard Raya – Chief Strategy Officer, Mission Economic Development Agency, and
- Libby Schaaf – 50th Mayor, City of Oakland.

"At a time when our nation's Supreme Court is stripping us of tools to advance access to opportunity for all, the Harvard EdRedesign Lab's mission is more important than ever. I'm excited to work alongside this distinguished class of *By All Means* Senior Fellows to expand the

impact of place-based cradle-to-career systems until all children and communities enjoy unlimited educational attainment and economic well-being", said Schaaf.

"We are thrilled to welcome our inaugural cohort of *By All Means* Senior Fellows. Each Fellow is a nationally relevant practitioner pushing our society to reimagine our social contract and advance educational equity, upward mobility, and racial justice for and with children, youth, and families. Together, they embody the type of community-driven leadership that we're eager to learn from at EdRedesign. We look forward to the transformative contributions they'll make to our university community." said Watson.

About EdRedesign: *EdRedesign champions a broad, holistic model of developmental and educational opportunity for all children and youth, especially those affected by racism and poverty. We serve as a catalyst, through research, advocacy, and collaborative action, advancing the cradle-to-career field by promoting cross-sector community-based systems of support and opportunity to provide all children clear and accessible pathways to well-being, educational attainment, and upward mobility. We strive for a society characterized by racial, economic, and social justice.*

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