

**Rob Watson from The EdRedesign Lab at Harvard Graduate School of Education
Selected as 2024 Presidential Leadership Scholar**

Joins a unique network of leaders making a difference in the world; will learn from the presidential leadership examples of George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson

[CAMBRIDGE, MA – January 31, 2024] Rob Watson, Deputy Director of The EdRedesign Lab (EdRedesign) at Harvard Graduate School of Education is one of 60 Scholars who will form the Presidential Leadership Scholars' (PLS) ninth class. For nearly a decade, PLS has served as a catalyst for a diverse network of leaders brought together to collaborate and create meaningful change in the United States and around the world as they learn about leadership through the lens of the presidential experiences of George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson and their administrations.

The class was selected after a rigorous application and review process. Scholars were chosen based on their leadership growth potential and the strength of their personal leadership projects aimed at improving civic engagement or social good by addressing a problem or need in their community, the country, or the world.

Watson is Deputy Director at EdRedesign and Lecturer on Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. At EdRedesign, he leads the organization's talent development programming and its By All Means Communities of Practice initiative, supporting communities across the U.S. to develop cradle-to-career systems of opportunity.

"It is the honor of a lifetime to have the opportunity to be a part of the 2024 Class of Presidential Leadership Scholars. I am eager to unpack defining lessons of presidential leadership to bridge divides and reinvigorate democratic life. I'm also thrilled to learn from a transformative group of peers and civic leaders from across the nation working to advance the public good," said Watson.

During the six-month program, Watson's project will focus on advancing a new national movement for "Promise Cities" that aim to establish place-based public-private partnerships to eliminate intergenerational poverty and set young people and families on pathways to upward mobility and civic leadership. He will develop this project in partnership with local leaders across the nation and from his hometown of Poughkeepsie, New York.

“My colleagues and I at EdRedesign are immensely proud of Rob Watson and his selection as a member of the prestigious Presidential Leadership Scholars Class of 2024. Rob's appointment to this select group is a testament to his unwavering commitment to equity, justice, and opportunity for all, his many contributions to civil society, and his bold leadership and optimism,” said Paul Reville, Founder and Director at EdRedesign and the Francis Keppel Professor of Practice of Educational Policy and Administration at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Over the course of the program, Scholars will travel to each participating presidential center to learn from key former administration officials, business and civic leaders, and leading academics. They will study and put into practice varying approaches to leadership and exchange ideas to help strengthen their impact in the communities they serve.

Scholars have consistently reported remarkable growth in skills, responsibilities, and opportunities for impact since the program began in 2015. For example, 91% of Scholars said their confidence in how they lead social change has improved as a result of the PLS program.

The 2024 program kicked off on January 24 in Washington, D.C.

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About Presidential Leadership Scholars:

The Presidential Leadership Scholars program is a partnership among the presidential centers of George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson. To learn more, visit www.presidentialleadershipscholars.org. For updates about the Presidential Leadership Scholars, use #PLScholars and follow @PLSprogram on Twitter and Instagram.

About EdRedesign:

Founded in 2014 by Paul Reville, Francis Keppel Professor of Practice of Educational Policy and Administration at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, EdRedesign provides catalytic support to the cradle-to-career place-based field to drive systems-level change and open personalized pathways to well-being, educational attainment, civic engagement, and upward mobility. To support this growing field to effect transformational change that serves the needs and talents of individual children and youth, our work focuses on talent development, actionable research, our Institute for Success Planning, and our By All Means initiatives. Our mission is to ensure the social, emotional, physical, and academic development and well-being of all children and youth, especially those affected by racism and poverty.