

## **EdRedesign Launches Visiting Fellowship for Cradle-to-Career Partnership Leaders from Across the U.S.**

April 1, 2024 – [CAMBRIDGE, MA] [The EdRedesign Lab](#) (EdRedesign) at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) has announced the launch of their new Fellowship for Cradle-to-Career Partnership Leaders, a tuition-free, 18-month visiting Fellowship for senior leaders working in the cradle-to-career place-based partnership field.

Children and families in communities across the country experience complex, multi-generational, and substantial disparities in education, health, well-being, income, and intergenerational mobility. Solutions to address the long-term impacts of racism, poverty, and disinvestment require residents and organizations from all sectors to come together toward shared goals.

Place-based partnerships combine forces from multiple sectors and elevate the voices and lived experience of residents to solve complex problems in geographically defined places (neighborhoods, towns, cities, or counties). By aligning opportunities and supports, these partnerships work to meet local needs. They build on individual and community assets to create cradle-to-career pathways that allow more young people to reach their full potential.

The Fellowship will provide a unique opportunity for up-and-coming community partnership leaders to join a network of inspiring change-makers, to sharpen their cross-sector skills, and apply new tools, connections, and approaches to improve measurable outcomes for children and families in their communities.

The Fellowship is grounded in real-world applications across a variety of partnership models and was developed by EdRedesign and a working group of national field network leaders — [Partners for Rural Impact](#), [Purpose Built Communities](#), [StriveTogether](#), and [William Julius Wilson Institute at Harlem Children's Zone](#).

“Across the nation, there is a growing movement of leaders and communities deeply committed to the power of place. They are working in their neighborhoods, towns, cities, and regions to break down silos between programs and systems to achieve population-level change for young people and families from cradle to career. These local efforts are bolstered by an emergent field of national organizations committed to eliminating intergenerational poverty, forging pathways to socioeconomic mobility and transforming the fabric of our democracy. This new Fellowship aims to bring together cutting-edge local leaders and leading national partners to accelerate the impact of place-based partnerships and strengthen the talent pipeline of our emergent field,” said Rob Watson, Deputy Director at EdRedesign.

Thanks to a recent \$2.5 million implementation grant from [Ballmer Group](#), additional support from the HGSE Dean’s Impact Fund and The Annie E. Casey Foundation, planning grants from Ballmer Group, Barr Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Schwartz Family Foundation, and general operating support from The Linda G. Hammett Ory & Andrew Ory Charitable Trust and the Schwartz Family Foundation, EdRedesign established this new initiative to help the next generation of leaders dedicated to equity and place-based work from across the nation.

“We are proud to be launching a unique program aimed at cultivating a robust, national talent pipeline of leaders for the rapidly growing field of cradle-to-career place-based systems. We are enormously grateful to our partners and funders who have supported us in bringing this big idea to life. The EdRedesign Fellowship for Cradle-to-Career Partnership Leaders is the first-of-its-kind program that embodies our commitment to providing the requisite tools and network for community leaders to create impactful, cross-sector pathways to mobility for families and children,” said Paul Reville, Founder and Director at EdRedesign.

Eshauna Smith, Director of Community Impact at Ballmer Group, emphasized the significance of this Fellowship, stating, “The EdRedesign Fellowship for Cradle-to-Career Partnership Leaders exemplifies Ballmer Group’s commitment to strengthening leadership pipelines for proximate leaders working to advance social and economic mobility in America. By supporting this program and investing in

these leaders, Ballmer Group is empowering cradle-to-career place-based partnerships to tackle complex issues and achieve tangible, sustainable results for children, youth, and families. EdRedesign's proven track record of developing community leadership talent and shared commitment to our goals and values make them an outstanding partner.”

In the coming months, EdRedesign expects to announce the selection of 20 fellows who, over the course of the following 18 months through 2026, will participate in convenings, learning sessions, executive coaching, and a community project — a curriculum designed to accelerate their capability to run effective, equitable, cross-sector partnerships. More specifically, the program will help fellows advance cradle-to-career cross-sector partnerships, make decisions grounded in data, center youth and family voice in their work, and lead without formal authority toward shared goals. Upon completion of the program, fellows will receive a Harvard-credentialed certificate.

**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 partnership 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. Learn more at [edredesign.org](https://edredesign.org)

**About Ballmer Group:** Ballmer Group is committed to improving economic mobility for children and families in the United States, funding leaders and organizations that have demonstrated the ability to reshape opportunity and reduce systemic inequities. We focus on multiple impact areas and systems that can impact economic mobility - such as early learning, K-12 education, college and

career pathways, housing, behavioral health, and criminal justice - and we support leaders and organizations that focus on undoing systemic racism and the barriers it has created. Ballmer Group is both a national and regional funder – we have a presence and invest deeply in southeast Michigan, Washington state, and Los Angeles County. Ballmer Group was co-founded by philanthropist Connie Ballmer and her husband Steve Ballmer, former CEO of Microsoft, founder of USAFacts, and chairman of the Los Angeles Clippers. Learn more at [www.ballmergroup.org](http://www.ballmergroup.org)

**About Partners for Rural Impact:** Partners for Rural Impact (PRI) is a leading national organization working to ensure that all rural youth ages 0-24 years are on a path to upward mobility. Using a cradle to career and place-based approach, we operate at the local, state, and national levels to accelerate outcomes for the 14 million children and youth living in rural America. To learn more visit [partnersrural.org](http://partnersrural.org).

**About Purpose Built Communities:** Purpose Built Communities is a national nonprofit that empowers local organizations to revitalize neighborhoods through pro-bono coaching and support, aiming for greater racial equity, improved health and wellness, and increased upward mobility. Each local organization, or Purpose Built Network Member, fosters high-capacity, collaborative efforts for community-led projects that include mixed-income housing, excellent schools, inclusive spaces for health and belonging, and a vibrant local economy. Every project supports the vision of longtime residents, ensuring their legacy and aspirations are central to neighborhood development. To learn more, visit [purposebuiltcommunities.org](http://purposebuiltcommunities.org).

**About StriveTogether:** StriveTogether is a national movement with a clear purpose: help every child succeed in school and in life from cradle to career, regardless of race, ethnicity, zip code or circumstance. In partnership with more than 70 communities across the country, StriveTogether provides resources, best practices, and processes to give every child every chance for success. The StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network reaches about 14 million young people,

including 8 million children of color and 5 million children experiencing poverty. Learn more at [StriveTogether.org](https://www.strivetogether.org).

**About William Julius Wilson Institute at Harlem Children’s Zone:** William Julius Wilson Institute (WJWI) at Harlem Children’s Zone (HCZ) is the leading authority on and resource for place-based, people-focused solutions that close opportunity gaps nationwide. Led by Geoffrey Canada — founder and president of HCZ — and guided by a generation of evidence, WJWI delivers insights, influence, and impact by tailoring solutions locally and scaling results nationally. Together with on-the-ground collaborators and national place-based partners, WJWI opens pathways to social and economic mobility in neighborhoods across America. It is named in honor of one of the nation’s most prolific African American scholars on poverty and inequality. To learn more, visit [hcz.org/william-julius-wilson-institute/](https://hcz.org/william-julius-wilson-institute/).