

Rob Watson Named Executive Director of EdRedesign; Tauheedah Jackson to Assume Deputy Director Role

June 12, 2024 (Cambridge, MA) – Prof. Paul Reville, Founder and Faculty Director of The EdRedesign Lab at Harvard Graduate School of Education, today announced several key appointments and promotions within the leadership team at EdRedesign. Rob Watson will become the inaugural Executive Director, Tauheedah Jackson will become Deputy Director, and Bridget Rodriguez will become Senior Advisor. “I am delighted to recognize the superb contributions made by this extraordinary team and to promote Rob and Tauheedah to new roles that will enable them to provide the inspirational leadership for EdRedesign’s future.”

Rob Watson, who currently serves as Deputy Director, has been appointed EdRedesign’s inaugural Executive Director. Watson is a national leader in the field of cradle-to-career place-based partnerships and brings a wealth of lived, academic, and practitioner experiences to his new leadership role. His extensive work history spans the domains of civic engagement, cross-sector collaboration, and socioeconomic mobility in the U.S., Latin America, and Africa. He is a Lecturer on Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE). Watson joined EdRedesign in 2019 and was named Deputy Director in June 2023. In his time with EdRedesign, he has grown EdRedesign’s strategic partnerships with national intermediaries, Harvard centers and organizations, and communities across the U.S. Among his many leadership roles, Watson is a 2024 Presidential Leadership Scholar, Board Member for the Children’s Funding Project, and Co-founder and Board Chair of the Poughkeepsie Children’s Cabinet, a collective impact organization based in his hometown of Poughkeepsie, New York. Additionally, Watson is a former Peace Corps Volunteer and graduate of Harvard College, Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Harvard Kennedy School. He is a proud former student of Reville whose collaborative action course at HGSE inspired him to pursue a career in the cross-sector field. You can read Watson’s full bio [here](#).

Tauheedah Jackson, Director of EdRedesign’s Institute for Success Planning, will also assume the role of Deputy Director, while continuing to serve in her current role. Jackson brings nearly 24 years of experience working in youth development, local government, philanthropy, school districts, and out-of-school time programs to her role. She is regularly invited to speak at convenings and serve as an advisor

nationally given her deep expertise in building, scaling, and sustaining cross-sector collaborative systems at both the local and national levels, including the Full-Service Communities Schools strategy. In her role as Director of the Institute for Success Planning, Jackson has grown the Success Planning Community of Practice and fueled the adoption of the strategy in local communities across the country. Jackson currently also serves as a Board Member of the national Institute for Educational Leadership as well as for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hartford, CT. Jackson was Reville's advisee while she earned her Master's degree in education policy and management from Harvard Graduate School of Education and has provided expertise and support to his classes and others on campus. You can read Jackson's full bio [here](#).

As part of this planned leadership transition, [Bridget Rodriguez](#), who has served as EdRedesign's Managing Director, is delighted to pass the torch to Watson and Jackson. Rodriguez will remain with EdRedesign as a Senior Advisor to support the leadership transition. Rodriguez has been a part of EdRedesign since its inception. She and Lynne Sacks were founding staff members who established EdRedesign alongside Paul Reville. Rodriguez has been—and continues to be—a champion of EdRedesign's new leaders, Watson and Jackson. "We are extraordinarily grateful to Bridget for the consistent, thoughtful leadership she has provided to EdRedesign for the last ten years. She will be sorely missed. We are grateful for her support through this transition," said Reville.

[Paul Reville](#) will continue as EdRedesign's Faculty Director. Reville's many years of educational policy experience, as well as his work on the design of 21st-century learning systems, braiding schooling, health/social supports, and enrichments to close learning gaps support every aspect of EdRedesign's operations. He will continue to focus on strategy, development, policy initiatives, and movement-building in collaboration with EdRedesign's many national partners. His work in Boston and Massachusetts will also continue.

Reville went on to say, "EdRedesign is at a pivotal moment of growth and development. We are energized and enthusiastic about our bright future and proud to have the perfect team to take us there. We look forward to serving and growing our cradle-to-career place-based partnership field in even deeper and more impactful ways in the years to come."

About The EdRedesign Lab

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.