

## EdRedesign's Rob Watson Joins StriveTogether Board of Directors

CAMBRIDGE, MA, Jan. 13, 2025 — Rob Watson, Inaugural Executive Director of [The EdRedesign Lab](#) at Harvard Graduate School of Education, has joined the [StriveTogether](#) Board of Directors.

StriveTogether is a network of 70 community organizations that joins together neighbors, including youth and families, nonprofits, businesses, schools and more, to work toward a future where youth can thrive in their shared communities.

Watson brings extensive experience and expertise to the StriveTogether board. At EdRedesign, Watson leads an interdisciplinary team of staff, fellows, consultants, research affiliates, and students supporting communities across the U.S. to develop cradle-to-career systems of opportunity. Prior to leading EdRedesign, his career centered on promoting civic engagement, community development, and educational equity in the U.S., Latin America, and Africa. His extensive experience includes consulting for organizations like the World Bank, The Obama Foundation, and Harlem Children's Zone, while also co-founding multiple civil society organizations in Paraguay. A former Peace Corps volunteer and winner of the [Peace Corps' 2023 Franklin H. Williams Award](#), Watson co-founded the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet and Poughkeepsie Service Accelerator (PSA), initiatives aimed at fostering community collaboration and nurturing local talent.

"Joining the StriveTogether Board of Directors is an incredible honor and an opportunity to contribute to an organization advancing economic mobility and racial equity in more than 70 communities across the nation," said Watson. "Through my work at the Harvard EdRedesign Lab, I've had the privilege of partnering with incredible colleagues at StriveTogether on major national initiatives, including the [EdRedesign Fellowship for Cradle-to-Career Partnership Leaders](#) and the [Policy Implementation Community of Practice](#). I also have the pleasure of serving as the founding board chair of the [Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet](#), a StriveTogether network member in my hometown of Poughkeepsie, New York. Taking this next step with the organization is a natural extension of years of collaboration, and I couldn't be more excited to continue learning from and building with remarkable colleagues across the network."

The EdRedesign Lab, founded in 2014 by Paul Reville, serves as a catalyst in the cradle-to-career partnership field to drive systemic change and address inequities

in opportunities for children and youth. By fostering cross-sector place-based collaboration and providing personalized opportunities and supports through [Success Plans](#), EdRedesign aims to tackle factors outside of school, such as structural racism and economic inequity, to help all children and youth thrive.

“Our board members share StriveTogether’s belief that every child — regardless of race, ethnicity or zip code — should have every opportunity to succeed,” StriveTogether President and CEO Jennifer Blatz said. “We are thrilled to welcome Rob Watson to our board. His deep knowledge of cradle-to-career systems and community development will strengthen StriveTogether’s work to put more young people on the path to economic mobility.”

In addition to accepting a three-year term on the StriveTogether Board of Directors, Watson is a member of the Board of Directors of the Children's Funding Project, a former World Economic Forum Global Shaper, and a former Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Millennium Scholar. In January 2024, Watson was selected as a Presidential Leadership Scholar.

### **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, poverty, and disinvestment.

### **About StriveTogether**

StriveTogether is a national network of 70 communities working to build a future where a child’s potential is not dictated by race, ethnicity, zip code or circumstance. The organization provides coaching, resources and rigorous approaches to create opportunities and eliminate inequities in education, housing and more. Together, the StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network reaches 14 million youth — including 8 million children of color and one in five children experiencing poverty. For more information about StriveTogether, visit [StriveTogether.org](https://StriveTogether.org).