

VAJRA M. WATSON, ED.D.*
CURRICULUM VITAE (ABBREVIATED)

Leadership: Dynamic and visionary executive with over two decades of experience driving strategic growth and operational excellence for prestigious educational institutions and organizations. Nationally recognized leader adept at managing multifaceted teams and fostering collaborative partnerships to achieve organizational goals. Proven track record of success in building programs, strategic planning, marketing, communications, and board management. Gifted facilitator able to work across systems and stakeholder groups to create data-driven impacts. Award-winning solutionary with a focus on equity, justice, and belonging.

Scholarship: As a full tenured Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, my work focuses on access, equity, and belonging. I support racial justice as a daily practice inside classrooms (micro-level) as well as at the institutional level (macro-structural). I purposefully aim to disrupt and dismantle narratives of underachievement and inequality by uncovering how to make school systems (P-20) socially just, democratic sanctuaries of revitalization and community empowerment. I strive and am deeply committed to use research in service of social change.

Research Areas: transformative leadership, educational equity and racial justice, community-university-school partnerships, sociology of education, critical pedagogy, community-based/rooted scholarship, scholar activism, qualitative methods, and portraiture.

EDUCATION

- 2001–2008** **Harvard University, Graduate School of Education**
Doctorate in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy with a focus on Communities and Schools
- **Dissertation:** *Risking Change: Portraits of Four Community-Based Educators Successfully Reaching and Teaching so-called "High-Risk" Youth*, June 2008.
 - **Committee Members:** Pedro Noguera, Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, and Mark Warren
- 2001–2002** **Harvard University, Graduate School of Education**
Ed.M. in Learning and Teaching
- 2000–2001** **Harvard University, Graduate School of Education**
Ed.M. in International Education
- 1996–1999** **University of California, Berkeley, College of Letters and Science**
- B.A. in Political Science/International Relations and Education
 - Dean's Honors List, Summa cum laude
 - **Meiji Gakuin University, Department of Economics, Yokohama, Japan** (Study Abroad)
 - **University of the West Indies, School of Education, Cave Hill, Barbados** (Study Abroad)
 - **Undergraduate Honors Thesis:** *Holistic Human Rights: Using a Critical Multicultural Approach to Human Rights Education in Secondary Schools*
- 1992–1996** **Berkeley High School – Valedictorian**
- Berkeley High School-Yurok Exchange Program (one semester) – Studied with the Yurok First Nation on the Klamath River

*Please note: Harvard's Ed.D. degree has been the only research-based education degree offered at Harvard University for cohorts entering from 1976 to 2013. In Fall 2014, HGSE transitioned this into the Ph.D. The Ph.D. in Education replaced the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree to better signal the research emphasis that has always been the basis of the Ed.D. program.

RECENT CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

Senior Associate Vice President of the Placer Campus – Sacramento State University (2023-present)

- Inaugural/Interim Senior AVP of the Sacramento State Placer Satellite Campus
- Chief Academic and Executive Officer for Placer development (301-acres)
- Led the campus to receive unanimous support from the CSU Board of Trustees for Placer: <https://www.csus.edu/news/newsroom/stories/2024/1/placer-center-plans-approved.html>
- Oversee Phase 1 of development (\$200 million dollars)
- Facilitate and design academic vision for the Placer Campus
- Work alongside deans of each college to launch faculty workgroups on interdisciplinary campus goals
- Align with community colleges to create a “communiversity” model to increase student enrollment based on dual and concurrent enrollment systems
- Liaison with elected officials, local schools (K12), and industry partners
- Direct donor development, extramural fundraising, and grant applications
- Serve on presidential cabinet and advise on overall campus direction

Faculty Director of the Doctorate in Educational Leadership – Sacramento State University (2020-2023)

- Led the EDD Program to receive #2 EDD Program in the Nation
 - Best Accredited Colleges, 2023
- Launched the “[Leading with Justice Speaker Series](#)” with over 2,500 participants from multiple countries
- Facilitated faculty governance process, including developing full consensus to revise the Qualifying Exam
- Quadrupled applications to the Doctoral Program
- Tripled the enrollment of African American and Native American Students
- Responsible for monitoring program quality and adherence to accreditation standards
- Collaboratively led course and program revisions
- Developed the “Pay-It-Forward” Scholarship Campaign
- Managed \$1.2 million dollar annual budget
- Directed multiple faculty searches and secured two new tenure-track positions with a focus on Anti-Racist Leadership
- Led admissions process, including directing new process for utilizing Cal State Apply and OnBase to construct modified course scheduling for each cohort
- Direct activities of and supervise 2 staff positions
- Participate in statewide EDD Director’s group and host meetings
- Facilitate monthly faculty meetings and develop agenda items, timeline, and goals
- Year-round support to current doctoral students
- Year-round recruitment of future doctoral students (increase to over 120 applicants per year for 20 slots)
- Year-round support of the EDD Alumni Connection
- Year-round support of the DELSA EDD Student Group
- While also serving as the Faculty Director, filled temporary role as the Graduate Coordinator (2020-2021; 2022-2023)
- While also serving as the Faculty Director, filled temporary role as the Associate Director (2022-2023)

Founder and Director of the Office of Research and Policy for Equity – UC Davis (2008-2020)

- Developed a fully-functional self-sustaining academic center with 12 staff and faculty fellows <http://equity.ucdavis.edu>
- Created and managed the annual Equity Summit and Social Justice Awards Gala: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=UqhkhvNRJ3Q&feature=emb_logo
- Founded and successfully built Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS) <https://www.says.ucdavis.edu/>
- Secured grants and school contracts exceeding \$9 million dollars

EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS & PROJECTS (SAMPLE)

Warren, M. (Principal Investigator) with **Watson, V.** (Co-PI). Spencer Foundation, Research-Practice Partnership: *Intersectional Organizing: Strategies for Cross-issue Solidarity in Educational and Social Justice Movements*. **\$374,467.00**. Funded October, 2021.

Watson, V. (Sponsorships). Launched *Leading with Justice Speaker Series*. Secured **\$17,500** in sponsorships. (2020 & 2021). <https://www.csus.edu/college/education/doctorate-educational-leadership/leading-with-justice/leading-with-justice.html>

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). Federal housing grant to examine drop-out prevention strategies. **\$50,000**. (2018-2020).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator with Co-PI, Maisha Winn and Lawrence Winn). Seed funding from Provost Hexter to support our *Transformative Justice* course sequence as part of the *Quarter at Aggie Square*. **\$25,000**. (2019-2020).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). Awarded by the *City of Sacramento Office of Violence Prevention*. **\$250,000**. (2015-2019).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). Awarded by the *Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission*. **\$210,000**. (2017-2019).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). Research grant to examine statewide academic retention program (Umoja) that supports African American community college students to/through higher education. **\$40,000**. (2016-2018).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator) with Co-PI, Maisha Winn and Lawrence Winn. Mixed-methods evaluation of *The Black Child Legacy Campaign*, a city-wide violence prevention initiative in Sacramento, CA. **\$110,000**. (2017-2019).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). *Sacramento City Unified School District* contract for programming in after-school programs throughout the district. **\$750,000**. (2009-2018).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). *Twin Rivers Unified School District* contract for professional development and classroom residencies. **\$120,000**. (2009-2015).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). Awarded funding from *Youth Speaks, Inc.* to participate in the National Brave New Voices Network Initiative. Grant supports building a sustainable field of literary arts organizations. **\$300,000**. (2014-2017).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). *Yolo County Office of Education* contract for programming in juvenile hall. **\$65,000.** (2015-2017).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). Awarded to *SAYS* by *AT&T*. **\$100,000.** (2016-2017).

Watson, V. (Principal Investigator). *California Postsecondary Education Commission Improving Teacher Quality* grant. A culturally responsive professional development and research program for middle and high school teachers in a high-poverty district. **\$1,000,000.** (2010-2014).

PUBLICATIONS (SAMPLE)

Watson, V. (2024). "Ending the Delusion of White Supremacy." In *Disrupting Racism in US School: Transcending the (un)Civil War*. Editors: Amy Murray & Rose Borunda. Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.

Ononuju, I., De Vera, S. & **Watson, V.** (2024). "Living Hip Hop: The Community-based Organization as a Space for Educational Liberation." In the *Bloomsbury Handbook of Hip Hop Pedagogy*. Editors: Lauren Kelly & Daren Graves. London: Bloomsbury Publishing House.

Winn, L. & **Watson, V.**, Winn, M. (Ed.) (2023). *Faith Made Flesh: Every Black Child Deserves a Legacy*. New York: Cornell University Press.

Keator, M. & **Watson, V.** (2022). *The Soul of Learning: rituals of awakening, magnetic pedagogy, and living justice*. New York: Routledge.

Watson, V., Ononuju, I., de Vera, S., & Kier, A. (August, 2022). *Equity-In-Motion: An Evaluation of the SAYS Partnership with San Juan Unified School District*. A report prepared for the Equity and Student Achievement Department, San Juan Unified School District, Carmichael, CA. [Report](#)

Leslie, A., **Watson, V.**, Borunda, R., Bosworth, K., and Grant, T. (2021). "Towards abolition: Undoing the colonized curriculum." In *Journal of Curriculum Studies Research* 3 (1), 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.46303/jcsr.2021.5>

Winn, L.T., **Watson, V.**, & Winn, M.T., (2020). *Transformative Justice Community: A Countywide Evaluation of the Black Child Legacy Campaign*. Prepared for Sacramento's Steering Committee on Reduction of African American Child Death, Sacramento, CA. [Report](#)

Hope, J. and **Watson, V.** (2020). "Hood Civics: Intergenerational Healing and the Quest for Educational Justice for/with Black Girl Activists." In *Black Girl Civics: Expanding and Navigating the Boundaries of Civic Engagement*. Editors: Ginnie Logan & Janiece Mackey. North Carolina: Information Age Press.

Watson, V. (2019). "Embodied Justice: We are the Divine Text." In *The Whole Person: Lectio Divina as Transformative Practice in Teaching and Learning*. Editors: Jane Dalton and Maureen Hall. Rowman & Littlefield.

Watson, V. (2019). "Liberating Methodologies: Reclaiming Research as a Site for Radical Inquiry and Transformation." In *Community-Based Participatory Research: Testimonios from Chicana/o Studies*. Editor: Natalia Deeb-Sossa. The University of Arizona Press.

- Watson, V.** (2018). *Transformative Schooling: Towards Racial Equity in Education*. New York: Routledge.
- Chatmon, C. and **Watson, V.** (2018). "Decolonizing School Systems: Racial Justice, Radical Healing, and Educational Equity inside Oakland Unified School District," *Voices in Urban Education*, 48. Online access, https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/scmsAdmin/media/users/emj309/vue48/02-VUE_48_Chatmon_0.pdf
- Watson, V.** (2018). "#schoolismyhustle: A youth movement to transform education." In *Lift Us Up! Don't Push Us Out! Voices from the Frontlines of the Educational Justice Movement*. Editors: Mark Warren and David Goodman. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Watson, V.** (2018). "Cultural Keepers as Movement Makers: Towards the Alignment of Artists, Activists, and Academics." *Public: A Journal of Imagining America*. Volume 5, Issue 1. Online Journal, <http://public.imaginingamerica.org/blog/article/cultural-keepers-as-movement-makers-towards-the-alignment-of-artists-activists-and-academics/>.
- Watson, V.** (2017). "Life as Primary Text: English Classrooms as Sites for Soulful Learning." Invited submission for *The Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning*, an affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English.
- Watson, V.** (2016). "Literacy is a Civil Write: The Art, Science and Soul of Transformative Classrooms." In Papa, R., Eadens, D. M., & Eadens, D. M. (Eds), *Social Justice Instruction: Empowerment on the Chalkboard*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing. (Book Series on Education, Equity and the Economy).
- Watson, V.** (2014). *The Black Sunrise: Oakland Unified School District's Commitment to Address and Eliminate Institutionalized Racism*. Final evaluation report submitted to Oakland Unified School District's Office of African American Male Achievement. <http://www.ousd.org/Page/12267>
- Watson, V.** (2013). "Censoring Freedom: Community-Based Professional Development and the Politics of Profanity." In *Equity & Excellence in Education*, 46:3, 387-410.
- Watson, V.** (2012). *Learning to Liberate: Community-Based Solutions to the Crisis in Urban Education*. New York: Routledge (Michael Apple Series, Critical Social Thought).
- Watson, V.** (2008). *Risking Change: Portraits of Four Community-Based Educators Successfully Reaching and Teaching "High-Risk" Youth*. Dissertation, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA.
- Watson, V.** (2004). *It's bigger than hip-hop: Rappers educating educators about the purpose of school*. Qualifying Paper, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA.
- Watson, V.** (1999). "Lighthouse in Starvation." In *We are the ones we have been Waiting for*, J. Jordan (Ed.). Berkeley: University of California Press.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING & K12 EXPERIENCE

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|--------------|--|
| 2020-present | California State University, Sacramento <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>EDD 600: Transformative Leadership</i> |
| 2016-2020 | University of California, Davis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Mic Check: Race, Place, and Power within and Beyond the Ivory Tower</i> |

- *Scholar Activism: the more you know, the more you owe*
 - *Decolonizing Methodologies: the art, science, and soul of portraiture*
- 2005–2008 Project Pipeline, California Alternative Credential Program, Alameda, CA
 - *Foundations of Teaching as a Profession*
 - *Evaluation and Assessment*
- 2004–2007 Department of Teacher Education
University of San Francisco School of Education, San Francisco, CA
 - *Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice*
 - *Learning and Teaching*
- 2003–2004 Director of Environmental Prevention Training and Youth Development Programs
Youth Leadership Institute, San Francisco, CA
- 2001–2003 Teaching Assistant for Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot
Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA
 - *Sociology of Education*
- 2001–2003 Research Assistant for Pedro Noguera
Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA
 - *Pathways to Success*, an examination of student aspirations and achievement within small schools.
- 2001–2002 Teaching Assistant for Pedro Noguera
Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA
 - *Urban Education*
- 2000–2002 Project Coordinator
Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA
 - *Youth Empowerment Project (YEP)*, a CD project in which young people used hip-hop to voice their perceptions about Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School.
- 1999–2000 Dean of Curriculum and Instruction
Making Waves, Ross, CA
- 1996–1999 Teacher
Berkeley High School, Berkeley, CA
 - *Ethnic Studies and World History*
- 1996–1999 Student Participatory Action Research Coordinator
UC Berkeley Graduate School of Education, Berkeley, CA
 - *The Diversity Project*, a study to examine educational equity at Berkeley High School. Findings were later published in the book, *Unfinished Business* (Noguera & Wing, 2006).

KEYNOTES, LECTURES, & PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS (SAMPLE)

Watson, V. (June, 2024). Interactive Research Presentation: “Equity Starts with Autobiography” at the A.S.E. Institute on Activism, Sports, and Equity. NBA-Sponsored Training. Golden 1 Arena. Sacramento, CA.

- Watson, V.**, Bland, D., & Hill, P. (October, 2022). Research Presentation: “Rituals of Repair: Poetry as Public Pedagogy” at the *Imagining America: Artists + Scholars in Public Life Annual Conference* at Tulane University. New Orleans, Louisiana. <https://imaginingamerica.org>
- Warren, M., **Watson, V.**, Muhammad, L., Stitch, J. (October, 2022). Research Presentation: “Willful Defiance: Activist Scholarship as a Tool for Movement Building” at the *URBAN Research and Action National Network Conference* sponsored by the Institute for Social Transformation. University of California, Santa Cruz. <https://transform.ucsc.edu/all-in-conference-agenda/>
- Watson, V.** (September, 2022). Keynote Address for the *People’s Think Tank*. “Intersectional Organizing: An Exploration of Research as Relational, Spiritual, and Intentional.” National Convening via zoom. <http://peplesthinktank.us>
- Watson, V.** (June, 2022). Keynote Speaker at the *11th Annual UC Davis Equity Summit*. “An Invitation to the Future of Education.” Davis, CA.
- Watson, V.** (June, 2022). Guest Lecture in doctoral course: *Race and Whiteness in US Schools and Society* at Northern Arizona University, College of Education, Department of Educational Leadership.
- Watson, V.** (May, 2022). Keynote Speaker for *Transformative Conversations: Promoting Equity and Inclusion in Education and Beyond* at California State University, Stanislaus.
- Watson, V.**, Ononuju, I., & De Vera, S. (April, 2022). Symposium for the Critical Educators for Social Justice SIG: “Justice as Pedagogy: Community-Based Organizations Connect Learning and Liberation.” AERA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- De Vera, S., **Watson, V.** & Baldrige, B. (April, 2022). Presidential Session on “Educational Resistance: Fugitive Pedagogy and Community-Based Educators as Freedom Fighters.” AERA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- Watson, V.** (February, 2022). *Liberation in Praxis: Whiteness, Accountability, & Shifting from Ally to Co-Conspiratorship*. Co-Presenter with Dr. Andrea Terry. Sacramento State Convocation. February 14, 2022.
- Watson, V.**, Cooksy, L. Montgomery-Block, K., Winn, T. (2021). “Implementing and Evaluating a Campaign to Reduce Disparities and Transform Communities” at the *Six Annual International Conference on the Center for Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment*. September 30, 2021.
- Watson, V.** (2021). *Community-based methodologies and scholar activism*. Guest Lecture for CHI 241: Community-Based Participatory Research. University of California, Davis. April 27, 2021.
- Watson, V.** (2021). *Portraiture: An Exploration*. Keynote Address for the University of Pittsburgh School of Education’s Shifting Power Community-University Collaborative. April 12, 2021.
- Watson, V.** (2021). *A talk to white teachers: Moving from white fragility to white accountability in education*. Community lecture for Elite Public Schools in Vallejo, CA. March 12, 2021.
- Leslie, A, **Watson, V.**, Borunda, R., Grant, T., Bosworth, K. (2021). *Towards Abolition: Undoing the Colonized Curriculum* [Symposium] California Teachers Association 2021, Equity & Human Rights Conference. February 26, 2021.

- Watson, V.** (2021). Presidential Session Panelist: “From the Margins to the Center: Interrogating the Precarity and Possibility of Community-based Youth Work in Challenging Times” at the 2021 AERA Virtual Annual Meeting.
- Watson, V.** (2020) *Living Justice: Reflections on Scholar Activism* [Symposium]. AERA Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA <http://tinyurl.com/slde4dp>
- Watson, V.** (2019). *Leveraging Collaborative Strength to Develop District Racial Equity Leadership*, Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada.
- Watson, V.** (2019). *Artivism as Holistic Praxis*, Symposium for the Holistic Education SIG at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada.
- Watson, V.** (2019). Featured Research Talk: *Community-based Scholarship: Reimagining Higher Education in the Lives of Young People*. UC Office of the President, Oakland, CA.
- Watson, V.** (2019). Featured Book Panel: *Lift Us Up! Don't Push Us Out! Voices from the Frontlines of the Educational Justice Movement*. The University of Utah.
- Watson, V.** (2019). Featured Lecture. *Radical Pursuits: Towards Systems Change for Social Justice*. University of California, Santa Barbara (co-sponsored by the Departments of Sociology and Education).
- Watson, V.** (2019). Featured Lecture. *Transformative Schooling: Racial Justice and Educational Equity in the 21st Century*. University of California, Los Angeles (sponsored by the School of Education).
- Watson, V.** (2019). Featured Lecture. *The 3 Keys of Social Transformation*. University of California, Merced (sponsored by the Office of the Vice Chancellor & Provost).
- Watson, V.** (2018). Keynote Speaker. *Towards Educational Equity*. Power of I Conference, Elk Grove Unified School District. Sacramento, CA.
- Watson, V.** (2018). *Liberating Methodologies: Reclaiming Research as a Site for Radical Inquiry and Transformation*. Research presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, New York.
- Watson, V.** (2018). *School is my Hustle: A youth movement to transform education*. Symposium at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, New York.
- Watson, V.** (2017). Keynote Speaker. *Power, Privilege, and Pedagogy*. 2nd Annual Building a Resilient Yolo Summit. Woodland, CA.
- Watson, V.** (2017). Research Presentation. *Transforming Schooling in the P-20 Educational System*. The Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies, UC Davis School of Law. Davis, CA.
- Watson, V.** (2017). Keynote Speaker. *Write to Heal: Addressing Intergenerational Trauma with Critical Literacy and Social Justice*. National Parent-Teacher Conference. Sacramento, CA.
- Watson, V.** (2017). *Expanding Educational Opportunities for Black and Latino Male Students: Lessons From Four Urban School Districts*. Symposium at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

- Watson, V.** (2017). *mythologies of white supremacy*. Symposium at the National Council of Teachers of English, St. Louis, MO.
- Watson, V.** (2017). *Deep Living: The Art, Science, and Soul of Transformative Classrooms*. Symposium at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Watson, V.** (2017). *Strategies and Outcomes of Grassroots Organizing*. Discussant at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Watson, V.** (2016). Featured Speaker as a *Changemaker Fellow*. TEDx Sacramento.
- Watson, V.** (2016). Keynote Speaker. *Literacy is a Civil Write: Teaching Tools For Social Resistance Within And Beyond The Walls Of Schools* at the English Learner Leadership Conference. Sonoma County Office of Education, CA.
- Watson, V.** (2015). Keynote Speaker. *The Pedagogy Of Our Lives: Teaching Tools For Social Resistance Within And Beyond The Walls Of Schools* at the Transformative Researchers and Educators for Democracy Conference. University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.
- Watson, V.** (2015). Keynote Address. *Education for Liberation* at the 16th Annual Transfer Conference at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.
- Watson, V.** (2012). Research Presentation. *Results from an Innovative Literacy Program in Urban Special Education Support Classes*. Council for Exceptional Children Convention. Denver, CO.
- Watson, V.** (2011). Keynote Address. *Grassroots Empowerment for the Next Generation: Moving Marginalized Youth to the Center of Community Change*. UC Merced's Community Engagement Conference: Community Engagement and Scholarship. UC Merced, Merced, CA.
- Watson, V.** (2011). Keynote Address. *Building Community for Educational Improvements*. Stockton Unified School District Honoring Educators Forum for Teachers, Administrators, and Staff. Stockton, CA.
- Watson, V.** (2011). *Grassroots pedagogy: Community-based classrooms for social change*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Watson, V.** (2010). Invited Research Symposium. *Gangstas, Gunshots, and Grades: Effectively Responding to "Present" Traumatic Stress Disorder Among Today's Urban Youth*. San Francisco General Hospital in partnership with the University of California, San Francisco. San Francisco, CA.

SERVICE

- Chaired **10** Dissertations at Sacramento State University
- Served on **21** Dissertation Committees

Service to the Discipline

- **AERA Chair:** *The Committee on Excellence in Media Reporting on Education* (2022-2024)
- **Book Review and Back Cover Endorsement:** *Reauthoring Savage Inequalities*, Edited by Lori D. Patton, Ishwanzya D. Rivers, Raquel L. Farmer-Hinton, and Joi D. Lewis. (SUNY Press, 2022)
- **Book Review and Back Cover Endorsement:** *Liberation Pedagogy: Elijah Muhammad and the Art of Soul Crafting* by Abul Pitre. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2022)

- **Book Review:** *Fighting the Good Fight: Narrative of the African American Principalship*. By: Isaac Carrier and Aaron Griffen. (Word & Deed Publishing Incorporated, 2022)
- **Editorial Board Member:** *Journal of Bilingual Review/La Revista Bilingüe* (2022-2023)
- **Editorial Board Member:** *Journal of Urban Learning, Teaching, and Research* (2013-2022)
- **Reviewer** for *Equity and Excellence in Education* (2012; 2019)
- **Reviewer** for *Berkeley Review of Education* (2014)
- **Reviewer** for *Journal of Juvenile Justice* (2014)
- **Book Reviewer:** *Teaching to Change the World* by Jeannie Oakes & Martin Lipton (McGraw-Hill, 2005)

Service to the Community

- **Expert Witness**, *High profile civil rights case*, Law Office of Steve Whitworth (2022)
- **Expert Witness**, *AB 2598*, Legislation on Restorative Justice Practices (2022)
- **Board Member**, UC Davis *Sacramento Area Youth Speaks* (2008-present)
- **Founding Board Member and Board President**, *United Playaz*, San Francisco, CA (2011-present)
- **Founding Board Member and Board Co-Chair**, *Kingmakers of Oakland* (2018-present)
- **Board Member**, *The People's Think Tank*, (2018-present)
- **Founding Board Member**, *Elite Charter School System* in Vallejo, CA (2018-2023)
- **Board Member**, *Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning* with the National Council of Teachers of English (2016-2022)
- **Board Member**, *The Urban Education Justice Project*, (2016-2022)
- **Board Member**, *Fathers and Families of San Joaquin Valley*, Stockton, CA (2013-2020)
- **Chair**, African American Students into Higher Education (AASHE), Yolo County Office of Education Task Force (2014-2016)
- **Advisory Member**, Social Justice Education Coalition, UC Davis Graduate and Faculty group (2013-2017)
- **Co-Chair**, *Grassroots Community and Youth Organizing SIG* / American Educational Research Association (2011-2013)
- **Education Advisor**, *Youth Speaks, Inc.*, San Francisco, CA (2008-2011)
- **Co-Founder and Board Member**, *The Urban Root Community Center*, Berkeley, CA (1995-1999)

AWARDS

Professional Awards

- *Award for Exemplary Leadership - Enhancing Racial Equity & Economic Opportunities*, Mutual Assistance Network (2024)
- *Woman of the Year Award* from the United States Congress (2019)
- *Woman of Inspiration Award* from the Sacramento Kings (2019)
- *Early Career Award*, UC Davis, (2013) <http://www.ucdavis.edu/one/stories/staff/watson.html>
- *40 Under 40 Award* for exemplary achievement in the region, Sacramento Business Journal (2011)
- *Diversity and Principals of Community Soaring to New Heights Individual Achievement Award* from the UC Davis Chancellor's Office (2011)

Academic Awards and Distinctions

- The California Educational Research Association's *Annual Research Award* (2019)
- American Educational Research Association *Social Justice Leadership Award* (2018)
- American Educational Research Association *Social Impact Award* (2016)
- Harvard Graduate School of Education Recognition for *Outstanding Commitment to Students* for coordinating multicultural activities (2000–2001)
- Phi Beta Kappa, UC Berkeley (1996–1999)
- Dean's Honors List, UC Berkeley (1996–1999)
- Golden Key Honor Society, UC Berkeley (1996–1999)

Academic Scholarships

- Harvard Graduate School of Education award and funding for highly-ranked doctoral student (2002–2004)
- Harvard Graduate School of Education merit-based scholarship for academic achievements (2001)
- Multicultural Alliance of Teachers Education Award (2000)
- AmeriCorps Education Award and Scholarship Recipient (1999–2000)
- National Security Education Program Grant Recipient (1999)
- Alumni Scholarship for Outstanding Leadership, UC Berkeley (1998–1999)
- Fullwood Academic Scholarship, UC Berkeley (1996-1999)

MEDIA COVERAGE

CSUS News Features:

- “CSU Trustees approve plans for Sac State off-campus center in Placer County:”
<https://www.csus.edu/news/newsroom/stories/2024/1/placer-center-plans-approved.html>
- “EDD Hires faculty that focus on Anti-Racist Leadership.” Sacramento State Newsroom: <https://www.csus.edu/news/newsroom/stories/2021/8/antiracist-edd-faculty.html>.
- “Study shows how partnering with communities, using key resources improves Black children's lives.” Sacramento State Newsroom: <https://www.csus.edu/news/newsroom/stories/2021/2/bclc-study-results.html>.
 - CSUS Reported Article Audience Reach: **301,879** (as of Feb. 25, 2021)

National Features:

- Featured in the feature-length documentary, *Rigged*. This documentary examines how the higher education system grows the disparity between rich and poor and thereby undermines the future of American Democracy. <https://riggeddocumentary.com/index.html>
- National Media Attention for my report, *The Black Sonrise: Oakland Unified School District’s Commitment to Address and Eliminate Institutionalized Racism*:
 - **New York Times**, *Courses in Manhood for African-American Boys* by Patricia Brown: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/07/education/edlife/in-oakland-building-boys-into-men.html?_r=0
 - **Huffington Post Live Webcam** with Marc Lamont Hill: <http://huff.lv/17HxRGq>
 - **Essence Magazine**: <http://m.essence.com/2015/02/17/oakland-schools-tackle-racism-get-results>
 - **Huffington Post Article**: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/17/oakland-manhoo-d-development-program_n_6665806.html
 - **Diverse Issues in Higher Education**: <http://diverseeducation.com/article/69243/>
 - **Atlantic Black Star**: <http://atlantablackstar.com/2015/02/19/oakland-schools-taking-simple-effective-approach-helping-black-male-students-excel/>

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- Education for Liberation National Network
- Abolitionist Teaching Network (ATN)
- Imagining America: Scholars and Artists in Public Life
- National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
- Teachers for Social Justice
- The People’s Think Tank
- University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA)
- Urban Research-Based Action Network (URBAN)