NINTH ANNUAL UC DAVIS EQUITY SUMMIT

RITUALS OF RESISTANCE

Tuesday, February 19, 2019 | UC Davis Conference Center | Davis, CA
Social justice does not just live in our heads, but also in our hearts—and most definitely in our hands and feet. In other words, it is not merely what is conceived that is revolutionary, but what is achieved. 

—Dr. Vajra Watson
Dearest Colleagues,

I want to welcome you to the Ninth Annual Equity Summit and Social Justice Awards Celebration! It is an honor to have you with us this evening.

Tonight’s theme is Rituals of Resistance. This focus touches upon the ways people defy oppressive forces. It was inspired by conversations between Myles Horton and Paulo Freire that to embody a liberatory education we must “make the road by walking.” Building on this sentiment, there are many trailblazers among us—those who pave new paths and swim upstream. However, resistance to the status quo can feel daunting and isolating. Meanwhile, something spectacular and sacred happens when we start gathering together to join forces. Taking a note from nature, we know that uncharted spaces, when walked upon collectively over long periods of time, can start to form their own legacies. Paths—when trotted upon long enough—can turn into causeways of possibility.

When practiced consistently, our Rituals of Resistance develop their own rhythms, cultural nuances and identifiers. These are not merely symbolic of a shift, but reorient our habits and ways of being.

Since change and growth are inevitable, the question is really about our route, role, and direction: Who are we becoming? How are we belonging to ourselves, each other, and the world? Personally, and professionally, I am pondering our legacy. I envision our children’s children and wonder about the impact of this moment. Over the past nine years of organizing the Equity Summit, I have witnessed what happens when amazing people from disparate positions not only connect on a practical level, but experience social justice together. We are the literal link—the bridge—between yesterday and tomorrow. What we do in the present carries with it tremendous privilege and responsibility. Our words and our work matter. As the SAYS Poet-Mentor Educator, Dre-T teaches, “courage is contagious, just like fear.” So, may we be bold in our approach and take a quantum leap in our creative imaginations. The future is calling us forward.

I applaud this network of change agents for your beauty and power. There are no strangers here. And if for nothing else, I want tonight to feel like a reprieve from the daily grind. I want us to feel revivified in our quest to embody something new.

Please enjoy yourself and make connections that seed hope in our lives and grow love for generations.

In Community,

Vajra Watson

Dr. Vajra Watson
Director of Research and Policy for Equity
Founder of Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS)
University of California, Davis

#UCDoesEquity  #EquityWarriors  #TransformSchools

Three I’s of a Framework for SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

INDIVIDUAL (self)
INSTITUTIONAL (system)
INTERPERSONAL (culture)
AGENDA

“...I just want to be there in love and in justice and in truth and in commitment to others, so that we can make of this old world a new world.”
—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

4–4:30 PM  Doors Open
Registration and Check-in

4:30–5 PM  Mix-and-Mingle
Saging, Social Justice Pop-up Bookstore, Appetizers and Cash Bar

5–5:10 PM  Opening Ceremony
Spiritual and Lyrical Libations

5:10–5:20 PM  Welcome
Joining Together in Joy and Justice

5:20–5:30 PM  Poetic Possibilities
Writing and Table Talk Circles

5:30–6 PM  Please get your dinner and drink and return to your table

6–6:15 PM  Griot Performance by Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS) Slam Team

6:15–7 PM  Social Justice Awards
Honoring our Heroes and Sheroes

7–8 PM  Keynote Address with Dr. Bettina L. Love
Associate Professor, Department of Educational Theory and Practice in the College of Education at the University of Georgia

8–8:30 PM  Closing with/in Hope
Community of Commitments

8:30–9 PM  Mix-and-Mingle
Book-signing with Dr. Bettina L. Love, Social Justice Pop-up Bookstore, Music, Dessert and Cash Bar

Reminders:
- Complete and submit your Equity Summit survey before you leave.
- The eldest person at the table receives the flowers (with the vase) to take home.
- The youngest person at the table receives the hero/shero justice table card.
Dr. Love is an Associate Professor at the University of Georgia and the award-winning author of *Hip Hop’s Li’l Sistas Speak: Negotiating Hip Hop Identities and Politics in the New South*. She is the founder of Real Talk: Hip Hop Education for Social Justice, an after school initiative aimed at teaching elementary students the history and elements of Hip Hop for social justice through project-based learning. Her latest book, *We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom*, draws on personal stories, research, and historical events and offers a vision of educational justice inspired by the rebellious spirit and methods of abolitionists.

**Dr. Love’s works include:**

**Books**

- *Black Feminism in Education: Black Women Speak Back, Up, and Out*
- *Hip Hop’s Li’l Sistas Speak: Negotiating Hip Hop Identities and Politics in the New South*
- *We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom*

**Research and Curriculum**

- *Hip Hop Civics Education*
- *Real Talk: Hip Hop Education for Social Justice (Real Talk)*
“Education can’t save us. We have to save education.”

—Dr. Bettina L. Love
2019 AWARD WINNERS

Award for Community-engaged Scholarship and Activism

Jeanelle K. Hope
Cultural Studies, Ph.D. Candidate
UC Davis

Kaozong Mouavangsou
School of Education, Ph.D. Candidate
UC Davis

Award for Seeding Improvements in Education Policy and Practice

Dr. Margarita Berta-Avila
Professor of Education
Sacramento State University

Nicole Anderson
Educational Equity Consultant
Nicole Anderson Consulting

Ubuntu Award for Inspiring Social Change

Sandy Holman
Director
Culture C.O.-O.P. and United in Unity

Raquel E. Aldana
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Diversity
Professor of Law
UC Davis

Brandon Harrison
Youth Leader and Youth Organizing Award

Valentín Sierra
Evaluation Assistant
Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc.

Lifetime Achievement Award for Embodying Equity and Diversity

Rahim Reed
Associate Executive Vice Chancellor, and Interim Lead of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
UC Davis
PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

2014-2018

Ronda Adams
Assistant Superintendent
Education Services, Yolo County Office of Education

Rick Ayers
Assistant Professor
University of San Francisco

Marlene Bell
Assistant Executive Director
Region 2, The California Teachers Association

Dr. Patrick Camangian
Associate Professor
University of San Francisco

Matt Cervantes
Senior Program Officer
Sierra Health Foundation

Chris Chatmon
Deputy Chief of Equity
Oakland Unified School District

LaShawn R. Chatmon
Executive Director
The National Equity Project

Roger Viet Chung
Asian Prisoner Support Committee

Laroiyn Davis
Educator and Co-Founder
Young Gifted and Black

Dr. Natalia Deeb-Sossa
UC Davis

Sammy Gensaw Jr.
Nature Rights Council and Ancestral Guard

Dr. Malik Henfield
University of San Francisco

Dr. Roneka Muhammad
Graduate Student
UC Davis Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing

Sammy Nunez
Executive Director
Fathers and Families of San Joaquin Valley

Dr. Jesse Ortiz
Superintendent of Schools
Yolo County Office of Education

Farima Pour-Khorshid
Assistant Professor
University of San Francisco

LaShawn R. Chatmon
Executive Director
The National Equity Project

Patrice Hill
Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS)

James Kass
Founder and Executive Director
Youth Speaks, Inc.

Herb Kohl
Author, Educator and Outspoken Progressive

Dr. Leilani Kupo
Past Director
UC Davis Women's Resources and Research Center

Nicole Martinez
Teacher-Activist and Community Organizer

Dr. Lina Mendez
UC Davis

Daniel Mendoza
Student
UC Davis

Dr. Micia Mosely
The Black Teacher Project

Roger Viet Chung
Asian Prisoner Support Committee

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Sammy Gensaw Jr.
Nature Rights Council and Ancestral Guard

Dr. Malik Henfield
University of San Francisco

José Quiñonez
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Mission Asset Fund

Sandi Redenbach
Author, Educator and Life Coach

Estella Sanchez
Founder and Executive Director
Sol Collective

Phil Serna
District 1 Supervisor
Sacramento County

Join the Conversation
Tweet, tag and snap your thoughts to extend the discussion.
#UCDoesEquity #EquityWarriors #TransformSchools

“It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains.”
—Assata Shakur
ACTION PLANNING

PART I: Background
WHY: It is through “naming”, “problematizing” and “action” that we can transform our world. (Freire, 1970)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAMING</th>
<th>Giving voice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We have to name the problem and give voice through telling the story of the injustice. (Data and statistics can tell us the severity of the problem.)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEMATIZING</th>
<th>Building critical consciousness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By reflecting on the critical aspects of the problem, engaging in courageous dialogue and gaining a critical understanding, we can begin to better understand and see the effects of the problem (dialogue and reflection).</td>
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<th>ACTION</th>
<th>The act of becoming an ally or building alliances to change our reality</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We all are members of the “Target Group” or “Non-Target Group,” each somehow impacting and affecting the hurts and mistreatments that keep us from liberating ourselves from the institutionalization of the “isms” that impact oppression. Liberation occurs through deconstruction of inequities by being an ally or gaining allies who take ongoing ACTION, REFLECTION AND ACTION AGAIN.</td>
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PART II: Developing the action plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAMING THE PROBLEM</th>
<th>Three ways to name it</th>
<th>Description of the problem:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giving voice</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Describe a problem or issue and “name, give voice” to it by describing the problem:</td>
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### PROBLEMATIZING
Building critical consciousness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are the barriers, obstacles and challenges you see and why?</th>
<th>Reflection, Analysis and Synthesis</th>
<th>Notes to connect and make sense of your thinking about the problem:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reflection:</td>
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<td>Analysis:</td>
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<td>Synthesis:</td>
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</table>

### ACTION
Building alliance

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<tr>
<th>As a member of the “Target” or “Non-Target” group, what should be done to deconstruct the problem?</th>
<th>Alliance/Action</th>
<th>Notes on how I will take action:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Action:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Being an ally:</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gaining allies:</td>
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</tbody>
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### PART III: Next steps
What next steps do you suggest?

For more information on Paulo Freire, check out his book, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*.

Adapted from Dr. Edgar Lampkin’s work at the Yolo County Office of Education.
Radical Healing in Times of Trauma
Saturday, March 14, 2015
UC Davis Conference Center • Davis, California

Equity, Education & Incarceration: What is California’s Future?
Saturday, March 24, 2012
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
UC Davis Conference Center
University of California, Davis

Opportunities for Equity
October 19, 2013
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
UC Davis Conference Center
Davis, California

The Beautiful Struggle
Tuesday, March 21, 2017
UC Davis Conference Center
Davis, California

A LOOK BACK WHILE MOVING FORWARD