

DR. VAJRA M. WATSON

CURRICULUM VITAE

Research Areas: educational equity, racial justice, urban school reform, community-university-school partnerships, sociology of education, critical pedagogy, critical race theory, social justice youth development, community-based scholarship, qualitative methods, and portraiture.

Fields of Specialization: As a campus administrator and scholar, my work focuses on access, equity, and belonging. I support social 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.

Contact Information:

Office of Research and Policy for Equity: equity.ucdavis.edu
One Shields Ave., 183 Mrak Hall, Davis, CA 95616
University of California, Davis
vmwatson@ucdavis.edu

CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

2008–present

Director of the UC Davis Office of Research and Policy for Equity

- *Effective administrator able to advance educational equity (P-20).*
- *Award-winning scholar of racial justice and culturally sustaining pedagogies.*
- *Strategic extramural fundraising, partnership development, and large-scale project management.*

- Founder/Director: UC Davis Office of Research and Policy for Equity, equity.ucdavis.edu
- Founder: Equity Summit and Social Justice Awards Celebration
- Founder: Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS), says.ucdavis.edu
- Co-Founder: Campus-wide Equity Task Force
- Design interdisciplinary research projects across multiple centers
- Develop fee-for-service model for recruitment, outreach, and retention efforts
- PI large-scale mix-method research projects
- Teach courses on educational equity and community-engaged scholarship
- Designed campus-wide open mic nights
- Manage UC Davis Social Justice Outreach Center in Sacramento, CA
- Manage, fiscal oversight, and annual reporting of contracts and grants
- Staff supervision and development
- Lead UC Davis internship and training program to support work in local schools and community-based organizations
- Conduct various trainings on educational equity and culturally responsive teaching strategies
- Serve as Campus Liaison on various community-university-school initiatives, such as: Boys and Men of Color, My Brother's Keeper, King's Mentorship Initiative
- UC Office of the President's P-20 Council
- Serve on multiple Board of Directors locally and nationally
- Advise undergraduate and graduate students

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 "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
- Undergraduate Honors Thesis: *Holistic Human Rights: Using a Critical Multicultural Approach to Human Rights Education in Secondary Schools*
- 1999** **Michigan State University, Department of Linguistics, African Studies Center**
 Summer Intensive Language Study (Amharic)
- 1997–1998** **Meiji Gakuin University, Department of Economics, Yokohama, Japan**
 Study abroad for partial fulfillment of B.A. degree
- 1997** **University of the West Indies, School of Education, Cave Hill, Barbados**
 Study abroad for partial fulfillment of B.A. degree
- 1992–1996** **Berkeley High School**
 Valedictorian
- 1994–1995** **Berkeley High School-Yurok Exchange Program (one semester)**
 Studied with Yurok First Nation on the Klamath River

PUBLICATIONS

Solo-Authored Books:

Watson, V. (2018). *Transformative Schooling: Towards Racial Equity in Education*. New York: Routledge.

Book Review:

- *Transformative Schooling* reviewed by Hall, Maureen (2019). *Journal of Transformative Education*, Vol. 17(3) 287-291.

Watson, V. (2012). *Learning to Liberate: Community-Based Solutions to the Crisis in Urban Education*. New York: Routledge (Michael Apple Series, Critical Social Thought).

Book Reviews:

- *Learning to Liberate* reviewed by Rosa, R. (2014 January 8) in *Education Review*, 17(1). <http://www.edrev.info/essays/v17n1.pdf>
- *Learning to Liberate* reviewed by Becker, S. (2013) in *Contemporary Sociology* 42 (4): 628-530.
- *Learning to Liberate* reviewed by Pezone, M. (2012) in *Open Journal Systems-Great Ideas*: <http://ojs.great-ideas.org/index.php/ENC/article/viewFile/901/988>

Solo-Authored Articles/Book Chapters:

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). "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. (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). "Artistic Resistance: Creating a Transformative Teaching Praxis Through Hip-Hop." In *Hawai'i Review*. <http://hawaiireview.org/hr-educational-materials/2018/2/16/dr-vajra-watson-artistic-resistance-creating-a-transformative-teaching-praxis-through-hip-hop>

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 Sonrise: 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. (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. (2003). "Reflections on the Juvenile In-justice System." *Community Justice Network For Youth* newsletter.

Watson, V. (1999). "Lighthead in Starvation." In *We are the ones we have been Waiting for*, J. Jordan (Ed.). Berkeley: University of California Press.

Collaborative Articles/Book Chapters:

Hope, J. and **Watson, V.** (2019). "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. Information Age Press.

Oliver, K., Hall, M. P., Dalton, J., Jones, L. F., **Watson, V.**, Hoyser, C. & Santavicca, N. (2019), "Drawing out the soul: Contemporary arts integration." In *International Journal of Education Through Art*, 15:2, pp. 165–81, doi: 10.1386/eta.15.2.165_1

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

EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS AND DEVELOPMENT (sample)

Principal Investigator. **\$50,000.** Federal housing grant to examine drop-out prevention strategies (2018-present; renewable).

Principal Investigator (with Co-PI, Maisha Winn and Lawrence Winn). **\$25,000.** Seed funding from Provost Hexter to support the Quarter at Aggie Square (2019-present; renewable).

Principal Investigator. **\$250,000.** Awarded by the City of Sacramento Office of Violence Prevention. (2015-present; renewable).

Principal Investigator. **\$210,000.** Awarded by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission. (2017-present; renewable).

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

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

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

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

Principal Investigator. **\$300,000**. 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. (2014-2017).

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

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

Principal Investigator (with Co-PI, Christopher Thaiss). **\$1,000,000**. 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. (2010-2014).

Ongoing event sponsorships from: *The Sacramento Kings, The California Endowment, Sacramento State Centers for Diversity and Inclusion, Sierra Health Foundation, multiple units on campus, and local school districts, community colleges, and county offices of education.*

KEYNOTE SPEAKING & PEER-REVIEWED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS (sample)

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*. University of California Office of the President Division of Academic Affairs, 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 Book Session: *Transformative Schooling: Towards Racial Equity in Education*. 25th Anniversary Multicultural Education Conference, California State University, Sacramento.

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. Featured Book Panel: *Lift Us Up! Don't Push Us Out! Voices from the Frontlines of the Educational Justice Movement*. University of California, Berkeley.

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). *Transforming School from the Outside-In: Families and Communities as School Activists*. Chair and discussant at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, New York.
- Watson, V. (2018). *Perspectives on Urban Student-Driven Pedagogy*. Chair and discussant at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, New York.
- Watson, V. (2018). *International Approaches to Teacher Education Program Reform*. Chair and discussant 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). *Counternarratives/Testimonios/Mestizaje Epistemologies*. Chair and discussant at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- 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. (2017). *Artistic Resistance: Creating a Transformative Teaching Praxis Through Hip-Hop*. Paper presented 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). Research Presentation. *The Black Sunrise: Oakland Unified School District's Commitment to Address and Eliminate Institutionalized Racism*. African American & African Studies Program (AAAS) Brown Bag Lecture Series. University of California, Davis.
- 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, Building Healthy Youth in Merced County: 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.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING & K12 EXPERIENCE

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| 2016-present | University of California, Davis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Mic Check: Race, Place, and Power within and Beyond the Ivory Tower</i> ▪ <i>Scholar Activism: the more you know, the more you owe</i> ▪ <i>Decolonizing Methodologies: the art, science, and soul of portraiture</i> ▪ <i>Racial Justice: schooling and educational equity</i> |
| 2005–2008 | Project Pipeline, California Alternative Credential Program, Alameda, CA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Foundations of Teaching as a Profession</i> ▪ <i>Evaluation and Assessment</i> |

- 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, African-American History, 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).

SERVICE

Service to the Academy

- Editorial Board Member for *Journal of Urban Learning, Teaching, and Research* (2013-present)
- Reviewer for *Equity and Excellence in Education* (2012; 2019)
- Reviewer for *Berkeley Review of Education* (2014)
- Reviewer for *Journal of Juvenile Justice* (2014)
- Proposal Reviewer: Grassroots Community and Youth Organizing SIG / American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (2011, 2012)
- Proposal Reviewer: Research Presentation Proposals, UC Davis Equity Summit (2010-present)
- Book Reviewer: McGraw-Hill, *Teaching to Change the World* (2005)
- Proposal Reviewer: Research Presentation Proposals, Harvard University Student Research Conference (2000-2002)

Service to the Community

- Board President, *United Playaz*, San Francisco, CA (2011-present)
- Board Member, *Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning* with the National Council of Teachers of English (2016-present)
- Board Member, *Fathers and Families of San Joaquin Valley*, Stockton, CA (2013-present)
- Board Member, *The Urban Education and Teacher Unionism Policy Project*, New Jersey City University. (2016-present)
- Board Member, *Kingmakers of Oakland* (2018-present)
- Board Member, *Elite Charter School System* in Vallejo, CA (2018-present)
- Board Member, *Sol Collective*, Sacramento, CA (2014-present)
- Chair, African American Students into Higher Education (AASHE), Yolo County Office of Education Task Force (2014-2016)
- 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)

Service to Graduate Students

- Thesis Committee Member, Kristen Coates. Title: *Quantitative study of social emotional learning practices at a high-poverty high-achieving urban middle school.* (Graduated, 2014—University of California, Davis)
- Thesis Committee Member, Michelle Seijas. Title: *The Systemic Devaluation of Latino Students in a Rural Setting.* (Graduated, 2014—University of California, Davis)
- Thesis Committee Member, Sophia Gonfiotti. Title: *An examination of the racial and ethnic identity formation of Chinese children adopted into white families.* (Graduated, 2015—University of California, Davis)
- Thesis Committee Member, Ijeoma Ononuju. Title: *Living blind, dreaming in color: social malignancy and African American male health and achievement.* (Graduated, 2016—University of California, Davis).
- Thesis Committee Member, Kenya Mitchell. Title: *Beyond the writing process: using explicit, trans-textual pedagogies to improve diverse undergraduate students' writing skills.* (Graduated, 2016—University of California, Davis)
- Thesis Committee Member, Mari Gray. Title: *The role of school resource officers in the school-to-prison pipeline.* (Graduated, 2016—University of California, Davis)
- Thesis Committee Member, Lorraine Wilkins. Title: *Counter-narratives from outside the hood: case studies of African American students' schooling experiences in suburbia.* (Graduated, 2017—University of California, Davis)
- Thesis Committee Member, Jennifer DeBarros. Title: *Remembering Malcolm: The Culture of Memory, Police Shootings & Public Pedagogy.* (Graduated, 2019—University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth)

AWARDS

Professional Awards

- *Woman of the Year Award*, 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

- American Educational Research Association *Social Justice Leadership Award* (2018)
- American Educational Research Association *Social Impact Award* (2016)
- Healthy Youth/Healthy Regions Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Center for Regional Change at UC Davis (2008, declined)
- 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 potential and achievement (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

National News Features (sample)

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-manhood-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/>

2015 Featured commentator on Rachel Dolezal case for HLN: <http://www.hlnv.com/video/2015/06/17/watch-rachel-dolezal-cultural-thief>

2015 SAYS featured on KTVN in Reno: <http://www.ktvn.com/story/28154407/washoe-area-youth-speaks-program>

- 2014 “They Didn’t Like School. School Didn’t Like Them, Until Something Incredible Stepped Right In.”
Upworthy feature on SAYS. <http://www.upworthy.com/they-didnt-like-school-school-didnt-like-them-until-something-incredible-stepped-right-in?c=apstream>

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Urban Research-Based Action Network (URBAN)
- Imagining America
- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
- National Writing Project
- Teachers for Social Justice