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| Board Office Use: Legislative File Info. | |
| File ID Number: | 14-1225 |
| Introduction Date: | 06/25/2014 |
| Enactment Number: | |
| Enactment Date: | |



Memo

To: Board of Education

From: GARY YEE, EdD, ACTING SUPERINTENDENT; By: MARIA SANTOS, Deputy Superintendent

Board Meeting Date: 06/25/2014

Subject: Professional Service Contract

Contractor: Vajra Watson of Davis, CA

Services for: 922-FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Board Action Requested and Recommendation: Ratification by the Board of Education of a Professional Services Contract between the District and Vajra Watson, Davis, CA, for the latter to provide: Consultant will provide an Impact Report building on data already collected over the duration of the program, create a Manhood Development Program Impact Report for multiple audiences, including executive summaries for funders, teachers/educators, parents, and a Portrait of African-American Male Achievement to conduct a study of AAMA over the last 4 years and the ways the group has helped shift the culture of achievement and expectations for Black youth, address structural racism, and navigate the politics of urban school district reform. This aspect of the evaluation will tell the overarching story that can inform other districts across the country interested in creating systems, structures, and spaces for African American student success. for the period of 05/01/2014 through 06/30/2014 in an amount not to exceed \$40,500.00.

Background:
(A one paragraph explanation of why the consultant's services are needed.)

All independent evaluators are required by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Grant to create the analysis and report about program.

Discussion:
(QUANTIFY what is being purchased.)

Consultant will provide an Impact Report building on data already collected over the duration of the program, create a Manhood Development Program Impact Report for multiple audiences, including executive summaries for funders, teachers/educators, parents, and a Portrait of African-American Male Achievement to conduct a study of AAMA over the last 4 years and the ways the group has helped shift the culture of achievement and expectations for Black youth, address structural racism, and navigate the politics of urban school district reform. This aspect of the evaluation will tell the overarching story that can inform other districts across the country interested in creating systems, structures, and spaces for African American student success.

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Fiscal Impact: Funding resources below not to exceed \$40,500.00

\$40,500.00 W K Kellogg Foundation

Attachments: Professional Services Contract including Scope of Work
Waiver Summary
Resume / Statement of Qualifications
EPLS Search Results Page
Insurance Certification (if no Waiver was granted)

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OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT 2013-2014

This Agreement is entered into between Vajra Watson
(CONTRACTOR) and Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). OUSD is authorized by Government Code Section 53060 to contract for the furnishing of special services and advice in financial, economic, accounting, engineering, legal, and administrative matters with persons specially trained, experienced, and competent to perform such services. CONTRACTOR warrants it is specially trained, experienced, and competent to provide such services. The parties agree as follows:

- Services:** CONTRACTOR shall provide the ("Services" or "Work") as described in **Exhibit "A,"** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
- Terms:** CONTRACTOR shall commence work on 05/01/2014, or the day immediately following approval by the Superintendent if the aggregate amount CONTRACTOR has contracted with the District is below \$84,100.00 in the current fiscal year; or, approval by the Board of Education if the total contract(s) exceed \$84,100.00, whichever is later. The work shall be completed no later than 06/30/2014.
- Compensation:** OUSD agrees to pay CONTRACTOR for services satisfactorily rendered pursuant to this Agreement. The compensation under this Contract shall not exceed Forty Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$40,500.00) [per fiscal year], at an hourly billing rate not to exceed _____ per hour. This sum shall be for full performance of this Agreement and includes all fees, costs, and expenses incurred by Contractor including, but not limited to, labor, materials, taxes, profit, overhead, travel, insurance, subcontractor costs, and other costs.

If CONTRACTOR will be compensated hourly for services provided under this Contract, CONTRACTOR shall describe in Exhibit "A," attached hereto, the specific scope of services to be delivered on an hourly basis to OUSD.

OUSD shall not be liable to CONTRACTOR for any costs or expenses paid or incurred by CONTRACTOR in performing services for OUSD, except as follows: No Reimbursements.

Payment for Work shall be made for all undisputed amounts in monthly installment payments within forty-five (45) days after CONTRACTOR submits an invoice to OUSD for Work actually completed and after OUSD's written approval of the Work, or the portion of the Work for which payment is to be made.

The granting of any payment by OUSD, or the receipt thereof by CONTRACTOR, shall in no way lessen the liability of CONTRACTOR to correct unsatisfactory work, although the unsatisfactory character of that work may not have been apparent or detected at the time a payment was made. Work, which does not conform to the requirements of this Agreement, may be rejected by the District and in that case must be replaced by CONTRACTOR without delay.

- Equipment and Materials:** CONTRACTOR shall provide all equipment, materials, and supplies necessary for the performance of this Agreement *except:* NONE, which shall not exceed a total cost of \$0.00.
- CONTRACTOR Qualifications / Performance of Services:**
CONTRACTOR Qualifications: CONTRACTOR warrants it is specially trained, experienced, competent and fully licensed to provide the Services required by this Agreement in conformity with the laws and regulations of the State of California, the United States of America, and all local laws, ordinances and/or regulations, as they may apply.
Standard of Care: CONTRACTOR warrants that CONTRACTOR has the qualifications and ability to perform the Services in a professional manner, without the advice, control, or supervision of OUSD. CONTRACTOR's services will be performed, findings obtained, reports and recommendations prepared in accordance with generally and currently accepted principles and practices of its profession for services to California school districts.
- Invoicing:** Invoices furnished by CONTRACTOR under this Agreement must be in a form acceptable to OUSD. All amounts paid by OUSD shall be subject to audit by OUSD. Invoices shall include, but not be limited to: Contractor name, Contractor address, invoice date, invoice number, purchase order number, name of school or department service was provided to, period of service, name of the person performing the service, date service was rendered, brief description of services provided, number of hours of service, hourly rate, total payment requested.
- Notices:** All notices and invoices provided for under this Agreement shall be in writing and either personally delivered during normal business hours or sent by U.S. Mail (certified, return receipt requested) with postage prepaid to the other party at the address set forth below:

OUSD Representative:

Name: CURTISS SARIKEY
Site /Dept.: 922-FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
Address: 746 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610
Phone: 510-273-1575

CONTRACTOR:

Name: Vajra Watson
Title: Owner
Address: 1402 Santander Court
Davis, CA 95618
Phone: 530-370-2889

Notice shall be effective when received if personally served or, if mailed, three days after mailing. Either party must give written notice of a change of address.

8. **Status of Contractor:** This is not an employment contract. CONTRACTOR, in the performance of this Agreement, shall be and act as an independent contractor. CONTRACTOR understands and agrees that it and all of its employees shall not be considered officers, employees, agents, partner, or joint venture of OUSD, and are not entitled to benefits of any kind or nature normally provided employees of OUSD and/or to which OUSD's employees are normally entitled, including, but not limited to, State Unemployment Compensation or Worker's Compensation. CONTRACTOR shall assume full responsibility for payment of all Federal, State, and local taxes or contributions, including unemployment insurance, social security and income taxes with respect to CONTRACTOR's employees. In the performance of the work herein contemplated, CONTRACTOR is an independent contractor or business entity, with the sole authority for controlling and directing the performance of the details of the work, OUSD being interested only in the results obtained.

9. **Insurance:**

1. Unless specifically waived by OUSD, the following insurance is required:

i. If CONTRACTOR employs any person to perform work in connection with this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall procure and maintain at all times during the performance of such work, Workers' Compensation Insurance in conformance with the laws of the State of California and Federal laws when applicable. Employers' Liability Insurance shall not be less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per accident or disease.

Check one of the boxes below:

CONTRACTOR is aware of the provisions of Section 3700 of the Labor Code which require every employer to be insured against liability for workers' compensation or to undertake self-insurance in accordance with the provisions of that code, and will comply with such provisions before commencing the performance of the Work of this Contract.

CONTRACTOR does not employ anyone in the manner subject to the workers' compensation laws of California.

ii. CONTRACTOR shall maintain Commercial General Liability insurance, including automobile coverage with limits of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage. The coverage shall be primary as to OUSD and shall name OUSD as an additional insured. Evidence of insurance must be attached. Endorsement of OUSD as an additional insured shall not affect OUSD's rights to any claim, demand, suit or judgment made, brought or recovered against CONTRACTOR. The policy shall protect CONTRACTOR and OUSD in the same manner as though each were separately issued. Nothing in said policy shall operate to increase the Insurer's liability as set forth in the policy beyond the amount or amounts shown or to which the Insurer would have been liable if only one interest were named as an insured.

iii. If CONTRACTOR is offering OUSD professional advice under this Contract, CONTRACTOR shall maintain Errors and Omissions insurance or Professional Liability insurance with coverage limits of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per claim.

OR

iv. CONTRACTOR is not required to maintain any insurance under this agreement. (Completed and approved Waiver of Insurance Form is required.) Waiver of insurance does not release CONTRACTOR from responsibility for any claim or demand.

10. **Licenses and Permits:** CONTRACTOR shall obtain and keep in force all licenses, permits, and certificates necessary for the performance of this Agreement.

11. **Assignment:** The obligations of CONTRACTOR under this Agreement shall not be assigned by CONTRACTOR without the express prior written consent of OUSD.

12. **Non-Discrimination:** It is the policy of OUSD that in connection with all work performed under Contracts there be no discrimination because of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religious creed, physical disability, medical condition, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, or age; therefore, CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with applicable Federal and California laws including, but not limited to, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act beginning with Government Code Section 12900 and Labor Code Section 1735 and OUSD policy. In addition, CONTRACTOR agrees to require like compliance by all its subcontractor(s). CONTRACTOR shall not engage in unlawful discrimination in employment on the basis of actual or perceived; race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, age, marital status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition, veteran status, gender, sex or sexual orientation.

13. **Drug-Free / Smoke Free Policy:** No drugs, alcohol, and/or smoking are allowed at any time in any buildings and/or grounds on OUSD property. No students, staff, visitors, CONTRACTORS, or subcontractors are to use controlled substances, alcohol or tobacco on these sites.
14. **Indemnification:** CONTRACTOR agrees to hold harmless, indemnify, and defend OUSD and its officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims or losses accruing or resulting from injury, damage, or death of any person, firm, or corporation in connection with the performance of this Agreement. CONTRACTOR also agrees to hold harmless, indemnify, and defend OUSD and its elective board, officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims or losses incurred by any supplier, contractor, or subcontractor furnishing work, services, or materials to CONTRACTOR in connection with the performance of this Agreement. This provision survives termination of this Agreement.
15. **Copyright/Trademark/Patent/Ownership:** CONTRACTOR understands and agrees that all matters produced under this Agreement shall become the property of OUSD and cannot be used without OUSD's express written permission. OUSD shall have all right, title and interest in said matters, including the right to secure and maintain the copyright, trademark, and/or patent of said matter in the name of OUSD. CONTRACTOR consents to use of CONTRACTOR's name in conjunction with the sale, use, performance and distribution of the matters, for any purpose and in any medium. These matters include, without limitation, drawings, plans, specifications, studies, reports, memoranda, computation sheets, the contents of computer diskettes, artwork, copy, posters, billboards, photographs, videotapes, audiotapes, systems designs, software, reports, diagrams, surveys, source codes or any other original works of authorship, or other documents prepared by CONTRACTOR or its Sub-CONTRACTORs in connection with the Services performed under this Agreement. All works shall be works for hire as defined under Title 17 of the United States Code, and all copyrights in those works are the property of OUSD.
16. **Waiver:** No delay or omission by either party in exercising any right under this Agreement shall operate as a waiver of that or any other right or prevent a similar subsequent act from constituting a violation of the Agreement.
17. **Termination:** OUSD may at any time terminate this Agreement upon written notice to CONTRACTOR. OUSD shall compensate CONTRACTOR for services satisfactorily provided through the date of termination. In addition, OUSD may terminate this Agreement for cause should CONTRACTOR fail to perform any part of this Agreement. In the event of termination for cause, OUSD may secure the required services from another contractor. If the cost to OUSD exceeds the cost of providing the services pursuant to this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall pay the additional cost.
18. **Conduct of CONTRACTOR:** CONTRACTOR will adhere to the following staff requirements and provide OUSD with evidence of staff qualifications, which include:
 1. **Tuberculosis Screening:** CONTRACTOR is required to screen employees who will be working at OUSD sites for more than six hours. CONTRACTOR affirms that each employee has current proof of negative TB testing on file and TB results are monitored.
 2. **Fingerprinting of Employees and Agents.** The fingerprinting and criminal background investigation requirements of Education Code section 45125.1 apply to CONTRACTOR's services under this Agreement and CONTRACTOR certifies its compliance with these provisions as follows: "CONTRACTOR certifies that CONTRACTOR has complied with the fingerprinting and criminal background investigation requirements of Education Code section 45125.1 with respect to all CONTRACTOR's employees, subcontractors, agents, and subcontractors' employees or agents ("Employees") regardless of whether those Employees are paid or unpaid, concurrently employed by OUSD, or acting as independent contractors of CONTRACTOR, who may have contact with OUSD pupils in the course of providing services pursuant to the Agreement, and the California Department of Justice has determined that none of those Employees has been convicted of a felony, as that term is defined in Education Code section 45122.1. Contractor further certifies that it has received and reviewed fingerprint results for each of its Employees and Contractor has requested and reviews subsequent arrest records for all Employees who may come into contract with OUSD pupils in providing services to the District under this Agreement.

In the event that OUSD, in its sole discretion, at any time during the term of this contract, desires the removal of any CONTRACTOR related persons, employee, representative or agent from an OUSD school site and, or property, CONTRACTOR shall immediately, upon receiving notice from OUSD of such desire, cause the removal of such person or persons.

19. **No Rights in Third Parties:** This Agreement does not create any rights in, or inure to the benefit of, any third party except as expressly provided herein.
20. **OUSD's Evaluation of CONTRACTOR and CONTRACTOR's Employees and/or Subcontractors.** OUSD may evaluate CONTRACTOR's work in any way that OUSD is entitled to do so pursuant to applicable law. The OUSD's evaluation may include, without limitation:
 1. Requesting that OUSD employee(s) evaluate the CONTRACTOR and the CONTRACTOR's employees and subcontractors and each of their performance.
 2. Announced and unannounced observance of CONTRACTOR, CONTRACTOR's employee(s), and/or subcontractor(s).
21. **Limitation of OUSD Liability:** Other than as provided in this Agreement, OUSD's financial obligations under this Agreement shall be limited to the payment of the compensation provided in this Agreement. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, in no event, shall OUSD be liable, regardless of whether any claim is based on contract or tort, for any special, consequential, indirect or incidental damages, including, but not limited to, lost profits or revenue, arising out of, or in connection with, this Agreement for the services performed in connection with this Agreement.
22. **Confidentiality:** CONTRACTOR and all CONTRACTOR's agents, personnel, employee(s), and/or subcontractor(s) shall maintain the confidentiality of all information received in the course of performing the Services. CONTRACTOR understands that student records are confidential and agrees to comply with all state and federal laws concerning the maintenance and disclosure of student records. This requirement to maintain confidentiality shall extend beyond the termination of this Agreement. Contractors will be permitted

Professional Services Contract

access to student data only where permissible under state and federal law and only after executing OUSD's Confidentiality Agreement Regarding Student Data.

- 23. Conflict of Interest: CONTRACTOR shall abide by and be subject to all applicable OUSD policies, regulations, statutes or other laws regarding conflict of interest. CONTRACTOR shall not hire any officer or employee of OUSD to perform any service by this Agreement.

CONTRACTOR affirms to the best of his/her/its knowledge, there exists no actual or potential conflict of interest between CONTRACTOR's family, business or financial interest and the services provided under this Agreement, and in the event of change in either private interest or services under this Agreement, any question regarding possible conflict of interest which may arise as a result of such change will be brought to OUSD's attention in writing.

Through its execution of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR acknowledges that it is familiar with the provisions of section 1090 et seq. and section 87100 et seq. of the Government Code of the State of California, and certifies that it does not know of any facts which constitute a violation of said provisions. In the event CONTRACTOR receives any information subsequent to execution of this Agreement which might constitute a violation of said provisions, CONTRACTOR agrees it shall notify OUSD in writing.

- 24. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion: CONTRACTOR certifies to the best of his/her/its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals: Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency according to Federal Acquisition Regulation Subpart 9.4, and by signing this contract, certifies that this vendor does not appear on the Excluded Parties List. (https://www.epls.gov/epls/search.do)

- 25. Litigation: This Agreement shall be performed in Oakland, California and is governed by the laws of the State of California. The Alameda County Superior Court shall have jurisdiction over any state court litigation initiated to enforce or interpret this Agreement. If litigation is initiated, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

- 26. Incorporation of Recitals and Exhibits: The Recitals and each exhibit attached hereto are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

- 27. Integration/Entire Agreement of Parties: This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and supersedes all prior discussions, negotiations, and agreements, whether oral or written. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument executed by both Parties.

- 28. Counterparts: This Agreement and all amendments and supplements to it may be executed in counterparts, and all counterparts together shall be construed as one document.

- 29. Signature Authority: Each party has the full power and authority to enter into and perform this Agreement, and the person signing this Agreement on behalf of each Party has been given the proper authority and empowered to enter into this Agreement.

- 30. Contract Contingent on Governing Board Approval: OUSD shall not be bound by the terms of this Agreement until it has been formally approved by OUSD's Governing Board, and no payment shall be owed or made to CONTRACTOR absent formal approval. This Agreement shall be deemed to be approved when it has been signed by the Board of Education, and/or the Superintendent as its designee.

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MARIA SANTOS

President, Board of Education

Superintendent or Designee

Secretary, Board of Education

05/27/2014
Date

Date

CONTRACTOR

Vajra Watson
Contractor eSignature

Vajra Watson, Owner
Print Name, Title

05/27/2014
Date

2. Specific Outcomes: What are the expected outcomes from the services of this Contract? Be specific. For example, as a result of the service(s): 1) How many more Oakland children are graduating from high school? 2) How many more Oakland children are attending school 95% or more? 3) How many more students have meaningful internships and/or paying jobs? 4) How many more Oakland children have access to, and use, the health services they need? Provide details of program participation (Students will...) and measurable outcomes (Participants will be able to...). NOT THE GOALS OF THE SITE OR DEPARTMENT.

To create an analysis and reports to show the impact and a portrait of the African-American Male Achievement Initiative.

3. Alignment with District Strategic Plan: Indicate the goals and visions supported by the services of this contract:
(Check all that apply.)

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure a high quality instructional core | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare students for success in college and careers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop social, emotional and physical health | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safe, healthy and supportive schools |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create equitable opportunities for learning | <input type="checkbox"/> Accountable for quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High quality and effective instruction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full service community district |

4. Alignment with Community School Strategic Site Plan – CSSSP (required if using State or Federal Funds):

Please select:

Action Item included in Board Approved CSSSP: (no additional documentation required)

– Item Number(s): Not Applicable
No Restricted Funds

Action Item added as modification to Board Approved CSSSP – Submit the following documents to the Resource Manager either electronically via email of scanned documents, fax or drop off.

1. Relevant page of CSSSP with action item highlighted. Page must include header with the word “Modified”, modification date, school site name, both principal and school site council chair initials and date.
2. Meeting announcement for meeting in which the CSSSP modification was approved.
3. Minutes for meeting in which the CSSSP modification was approved indicating approval of the modification.
4. Sign-in sheet for meeting in which the CSSSP modification was approved.

ContractsOnline: Contract Waiver Summary

Site Number-Name: 922-FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNI

Principal / Department Head: CURTISS SARIKEY

Contractor Name: Vajra Watson

Business Name: Vajra Watson

Contract Type: Standard

Anticipated Start Date: 05/01/2014

Contract End Date: 06/30/2014

Rate Type: FLAT

Contract Amount: \$40,500.00

Applicable Waivers

Approved by Risk Management

Insurance-Reduction Waiver Status: WAIVED

Waiver-Reduction Type: WAIVED

Other Reduction Amount:

Approval Date: 05/20/2014

Approved by Deputy Superintendent

Billing Waiver Status: Approved

Approval Date: 05/20/2014

Fingerprint Waiver Status: Approved

Approval Date: 05/20/2014

TB Test Waiver Status: Approved

Approval Date: 05/20/2014

VAJRA M. WATSON
CURRICULUM VITAE

Director of Research and Policy for Equity
UC Davis School of Education
CRESS Center, Room 225
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616

Phone: (530) 370-2889
Email: vmwatson@ucdavis.edu

EDUCATION

- 2001–2008 Harvard University, Graduate School of Education
Ed.D. 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.*
- Qualifying Paper: It's Bigger Than Hip-Hop: Rappers Educating Educators About the Purpose of School, October 2004.*
- Committee Members: Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, Pedro Noguera, 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
- 1999–2000 San Francisco State University, College of Education
Single Subject Teaching Credential
- 1996–1999 University of California, Berkeley, College of Letters and Science
B.A. in Political Science/International Relations and Education
Dean's Honors List, Magna cum laude
- 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

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| 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

Watson, V. (2013). Censoring Freedom: Community-Based Professional Development and the Politics of Profanity, *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).

- Reviewed by Ricardo Rosa (2014 January 8) in *Education Review*, 17(1).
<http://www.edrev.info/essays/v17n1.pdf>
- Reviewed by Sarah Becker (2013) in *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*, 42, 628-630.

Watson, V. (Fall, 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.

Forthcoming

Watson, V. (in contract). *Literacy is a Civil Write: Politics, Pedagogy, and the Power of Language Development Inside Inner-City Schools*. New York: Routledge.

Watson, V. and Noguera, P. (in press). Closing the Achievement Gap Write Now: Using an Innovative Literacy Program to Strengthen Teacher Practices and Pedagogy for Students Diagnosed with Learning Disabilities. Accepted for publication in a Special issue of *Multiple Voices for Ethnically Diverse Exceptional Learners*, the peer-reviewed journal of the Division for Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL) of the Council for Exceptional Children.

Journal Articles Submitted / Under Review

Watson, V. & Muhammad, D. Locked in and left behind: An analysis of the educational opportunities of incarcerated children and youth. Submitted for publication in *Equity and Excellence in Education's* special theme issue, Breaking the Pipeline: Understanding, examining, and dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline.

Watson, V. Are we Listening? Hip-Hop, Teachers, and Relevant School Reform. Submitted for publication in *The Journal of Urban Youth Culture*.

Watson, V., Booker, A., Noguera, A., McDermott, M. and Ononuju, I. Blocks without Borders: Using a Grassroots Pedagogy Alongside Participatory Media Practices to Engage and Connect City Youth for Social Change. Submitted for publication in *Learning, Media, and Technology*.

Watson, V. (prospectus under review). *School is my Hustle: Letters to our Future from a Generation of Drop-Outs*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Journal Articles / Manuscripts in Preparation

Watson, V. and Enright, K. The Write to Go Home: Multilingual student poems and the languages of learning inside urban English classrooms. In preparation for the *Journal of Adult and Adolescent Literacy*.

Watson, V. Authoring My Own Life: Student writing as the basis for a student-centered curriculum across the common core. In preparation for *Rethinking Schools*.

Watson, V. and Ononuju, I. Teachers on the Mic: Using Spoken Word Performance Poetry as a Professional Development Tool for Urban English Teachers. In preparation for *The Urban Review*.

Watson, V. Teaching for Social Change: A Community-Based Approach to the Recruitment and Training of Future Educators. In preparation for *Teacher Education*.

EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS AND DEVELOPMENT

Principal Investigator (with Chris 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)

Principal Investigator. \$475,000. Sierra Health Foundation Positive Youth Justice Initiative. A research grant to examine best practices and systemic barriers for crossover youth in Solano County. (2012-2015)

Watson, V. (2009-2013). \$400,000. Sacramento City Unified School District contract for SAYS programming in after-school programs throughout the district.

Watson, V. (2009-2012). \$75,000. Student Improvement Grant. A program grant to Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS) to conduct classroom residencies at a low-performing high school.

Watson, V. (2012). \$10,000. California Wellness Foundation. A general program grant to support Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS).

Watson, V. (2009-2011). \$60,000. Twin Rivers Unified School District contract for SAYS professional development and classroom residencies.

Watson, V. (2010-2011). \$14,000. Elk Grove Unified School District contract for SAYS after-school programming.

Watson, V. (2010-2011). \$50,000. Sponsorship received to initiate annual Equity Summit. Among the consortium of institutional support: the UC Davis Office of Campus Community Relations, UC Davis Center for Regional Change, California Teachers Association, Yocha DeHe Wintun Nation, UC Davis Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, Yolo County Office of Education, and the Sacramento County Office of Education.

Watson, V. (2010-2011). \$15,000. Sacramento County Office of Education contract for SAYS programming at Juvenile Court and Community Schools.

Watson, V. (2009-2010). \$50,000. Sierra Health Foundation program grant to build the capacity of SAYS.

Watson, V. (2009-2010). \$40,000. Youth Speaks, Inc. contract to launch SAYS.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Invited research presentations:

- Watson, V. (2012). *Results from an Innovative Literacy Program in Urban Special Education Support Classes*. Research Presentation. Council for Exceptional Children Convention. Denver, CO.
- Watson, V. (2011). *Sacramento Area Youth Speaks: Community Partnerships Inside Urban Classrooms*. Panel Presentation. California Council on Teacher Education Conference. San Jose, CA.
- Watson, V. (2011). Keynote Speaker. *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 Speaker. *Building Community for Educational Improvements*. Stockton Unified School District Honoring Educators Forum for Teachers, Administrators, and Staff. Stockton, CA.
- Watson, V. (2010). *Gangstas, Gunshots, and Grades: Effectively Responding to "Present" Traumatic Stress Disorder Among Today's Urban Youth*. Invited Research Symposium. San Francisco General Hospital in partnership with the University of California, San Francisco. San Francisco, CA.
- Watson, V. (2010). *Community-Based Tactics to Reach Today's Youth*. Research Showcase. Sierra Health Foundation In-Service for Grantees from 26 California Counties. Sacramento, CA.
- Watson, V. (2010). Keynote Speaker. *Deconstructing Race(ism): Whiteness, White "Supremacy," and Critical Race Theory in 21st-century Classrooms*. Featured session. Sacramento City Unified School District Equity Faire. Sacramento, CA.
- Watson, V. (2010). Keynote Speaker. *Community-Based Solutions to the Crisis in Urban Education*. Stockton Unified School District Community Mobilizing Conference. Stockton, CA.
- Watson, V. (2010). Invited Presentation. *Deconstructing Whiteness and Privilege in Practice*. UC Davis Equity Summit. Davis, CA.

Peer-reviewed presentations:

- 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. (2011). *white "supremacy" and me: the making and breaking of race(ism)*. Symposium on Abolishing Whiteness for the Public Good: A Critical Analysis of Whiteness Studies. Research Presentation. American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Watson, V. and Murray-Garcia, J. (2011). *Education as a Matter of Life or Death: A Health Perspective on Schooling and Social Justice*. Research Presentation. UC Davis Equity Summit. Davis, CA.
- Watson, V. (2010). *Leaving No Child Behind: Lessons from Community-Based Educators*. Research Presentation. American Educational Research Association. Denver, CO.
- Watson, V. (2010). *Responding to Ghetto Schooling: Learning for Liberation*. Research Presentation. Harvard Graduate School of Education Alumni of Color Conference. Cambridge, MA.

- Watson, V. (2009). *Portraiture as a Border-Crossing Methodology*. Research Presentation. Harvard Graduate School of Education Alumni of Color Conference. Cambridge, MA.
- Watson, V. (2006). *A Critical Analysis of Rap Lyrics, Resistance, and School Reform*. Research Presentation. Harvard Graduate School of Education Alumni of Color Conference. Cambridge, MA.
- Watson, V. (2005). *A Preliminary Review of the Literature on Best Practices in Urban Education*. Research Presentation. Harvard Graduate School of Education Alumni of Color Conference. Cambridge, MA.
- Watson, V. (2003). *Rappers Educating Educators about the Purpose of School Reform*. Research Presentation. National Council of Teachers of English Assembly for Research. Berkeley, CA.
- Watson, V. (2001). *A Holistic Multi-Cultural Approach to Human Rights Education*. Research Presentation. Comparative International Education Society. Washington, D.C.
- Watson, V. (2000). *An Examination of Formal and Non-Formal Education in Rural Ethiopia*. Research Presentation. Harvard University Student Research Conference. Cambridge, MA.
- Watson, V. (1999). Keynote Speaker. *If You Believe It, You Can Achieve It!* Mayor's Student Recognition Reception. Berkeley, CA.
- Watson, V. (1997). Invited Panelist. *Loud and Unheard: Youth Perspectives on School Change at Berkeley High School*. Bay Area Coalition for Equitable Schools Conference. San Francisco, CA.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2008–present Director of Research and Policy for Equity
UC Davis School of Education, Davis, CA
- Raise and manage over \$2 million dollars in research grants and program contracts.
 - Supervise 10 staff.
 - Sacramento Area Youth Speaks (SAYS), Founder and Director. says.ucdavis.edu
 - California's Equity Summit, Founder and Organizer. <http://education.ucdavis.edu/equity-summit>
 - Develop and maintain P-20 partnerships throughout the Sacramento Capital Region.
 - Serve on the UC Office of the President's P-20 council.
 - Provide ongoing culturally responsive professional development to various school districts.
 - Advise doctoral students as part of my role within the Graduate Group in Education.

Teaching and Research Experience

- 2005–2008 Adjunct Professor
Project Pipeline, California Alternative Credential Program, Alameda, CA
- *Foundations of Teaching as a Profession*
 - *Evaluation and Assessment*
- 2004–2007 Adjunct Professor
Department of Teacher Education
University of San Francisco School of Education, San Francisco, CA

- *Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice*
 - *Learning and Teaching*

- 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.

- 1996–1999 Teacher
Berkeley High School, Berkeley, CA
 - *Ethnic Studies*
 - *African-American History*
 - *World History*

- 1996–1999 Student Participatory Action Research Coordinator
UC Berkeley Graduate School of Education, Berkeley, CA Graduate School of Education,
 - *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).

Leadership and Administrative Experience

- 2003–2004 Director of Environmental Prevention Training and Youth Development Programs
Youth Leadership Institute, San Francisco, CA

- 1999–2000 Dean of Curriculum and Instruction
Making Waves, Ross, CA

- 1992–1996 After-School Director
Albany Kids' Corner
UC Berkeley Family Services, Albany, CA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, LECTURING AND CURRICULUM

Watson, V. (2013, 2009, 2010). Invited Lecturer. *Transformative Community School Partnerships* for the graduate course, EDLP 201: Foundations of Educational Leadership. Sacramento State University.

Watson, V. (2012). Invited Lecturer. *Reinventing "special" education: classrooms of learning, leading, and healing* for the disabilities course for all credential students. University of California, Davis.

- Watson, V. (2011, 2010, 2009). Invited Lecturer. *It's Bigger Than Hip Hop: Youth Culture and Hip-Hop Literacy in the Lives of Students* for the graduate course, LLSC 247: Literacy Practices in Out-of-School Settings. University of California, Berkeley.
- Watson, V. (2012, 2011). Invited Lecturer. *Youth Culture, Youth Voice and a Youth Empowerment Model for the Sacramento Capital Region* for the undergraduate course, Education 100: Introduction to Schools. University of California, Davis.
- Watson, V. (2011). Professional Development. *Equity-based, Student-centered Pedagogies that Improve Classroom Practice*. Summer Institute Training for the California Teachers Association. Sacramento, CA.
- Watson, V. (2011). Violence Prevention Curriculum for Middle and High School Students. Prepared for United Playaz. San Francisco, CA.
- Watson, V. (2011). Invited Lecturer. *A Quest for Best Practices: Successfully Reaching and Teaching "High-Risk" Students* for the graduate course, Education 291: Proseminar in Education. University of California, Davis.
- Watson, V. (2011). Invited Lecturer. *Teaching for Social Justice: Perspectives on the Educational Experiences of Students* for the graduate course, Education 292: Social Justice Frameworks in Education. University of California, Davis.
- Watson, V. (2011). Professional Development. *Envisioning a Hate-Free Campus: How are We Upholding the Principles of Community?* UC Davis Principles of Community Training for Faculty and Staff. Davis, CA.
- Watson, V. (2011, 2010). Professional Development. *Advancing Inclusive Practices in our School Community*. Davis Joint Unified School District Administrative Leadership Retreats. Davis, CA.
- Watson, V. (2011, 2010). Invited Lecturer. *Community-based Social Justice Youth Development* for undergraduate and graduate courses in the Department of Human and Community Development. University of California, Davis.
- Watson, V. (2010). Invited Moderator. *Hearing Dissonance: Narratives that High Side and Front*. Harvard Graduate School of Education Alumni of Color Conference. Cambridge, MA.
- Watson, V. (2010). Invited Moderator. *Endless Possibilities: Hope, Passion, Purpose*. Sierra Health Foundation Youth Development Conference. Sacramento, CA.
- Watson, V. (2009). Invited Lecturer. *Empowering Pedagogies for "High-Risk" Youth* for the undergraduate course, Education 40: Race and Ethnicity Inside Schools. University of California, Berkeley.

Technical Reports and Unpublished Refereed Papers

- Watson, V. (2012). SAYS Anthology and Curriculum. Prepared for the California Postsecondary Education Commission (now under the California Department of Education). Sacramento, CA.
- Watson, V. (2011). *Closing the achievement gap write now: Using an innovative literacy program to strengthen teacher practices & pedagogy*. Annual report submitted to the California Postsecondary Education Commission.
- Watson, V. (2011). Case Study of Six Community-Based Listening Sessions Initiated by the Superintendent to Inform Policies and Practices within the Vallejo Unified School District. Final report submitted to Vallejo Unified School District.

Watson, V. (2010). Listening to the Unheard: Survey Analyzing Student Perceptions of Juvenile Court and Community Schools. Designed survey and submitted final report to the Sacramento County Office of Education. Sacramento, CA.

Watson, V. (2008). Case Management System for Wraparound Youth Services. Designed for United Playaz. San Francisco, CA.

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.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Educational Research Association
 American Sociological Association
 National Council of Teachers of English
 National Writing Project
 Association for Criminal Justice Research
 Teachers for Social Justice

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Review

- Reviewer, *Equity and Excellence in Education* (2012)
- 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, 2011)
- Book Reviewer: McGraw-Hill, *Teaching to Change the World* (2005)
- Proposal Reviewer: Research Presentation Proposals: Harvard University Student Research Conference (2000)

Boards of Directors and Chairs

- Co-Chair, *Grassroots Community and Youth Organizing SIG / American Educational Research Association* (2011-2013)
- Board Member, *Sol Collective*, Sacramento, CA (2010-present)
- Board President, *United Playaz*, San Francisco, CA (2009-present)
- Board Member, *Youth Speaks, Inc.*, San Francisco, CA (2008-2011)
- Co-Founder and Board Member, *The Urban Root Community Center*, Berkeley, CA (1995-1999)

Department Service

- Thesis Committee Member, Lorraine Wilkins. Title: *Counter-narratives from outside the hood: case studies of African American students' schooling experiences in suburbia*.
- Thesis Committee Member, Kristen Coates. Topic: *Quantitative study of social emotional learning practices at a high-poverty high-achieving urban middle school*.
- Thesis Committee Member, Michelle Seijas. Topic: *Qualitative study of Latino students' experiences of high school success*.
- Thesis Committee Member, Ijeoma Ononuju. Title: *Living blind, dreaming in color: social malignancy and African American male health and achievement*.
- Master's Thesis Committee Member, Human and Community Development, Erica Van Steenis. Topic: Social justice youth development.
- Thesis Committee Member, Kenya Mitchell. Title: *Beyond the writing process: using explicit, trans-textual pedagogies to improve diverse undergraduate students' writing skills*.

- Thesis Committee Member, Sophia Gonfiotti. Topic: *An examination of the racial and ethnic identity formation of Chinese children adopted into white families.*
- These Committee Member, Mari Gray. Topic: *The role of school resource officers and the school-to-prison pipeline.*

Community Service

- Internship, *International Movement against Discrimination and Racism*, Tokyo, Japan (1997-1998)
- Volunteer, *Berkeley Oakland Support Services (BOSS) homeless shelter*, Berkeley, CA (1992-1996)
- Internship, Assembly-member Tom Bates, Berkeley, CA (1990-1991)

AWARDS

Professional Awards

- Early Career Award, UC Davis, (2013) <http://www.ucdavis.edu/one/stories/staff/watson.html>
- Sacramento Business Journal's *40 Under 40 Award* for exemplary achievement in the region (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

- 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 "All-Expenses Paid" Full Academic Scholarship, UC Berkeley (1996-1999)

MEDIA COVERAGE

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| 2013 | Teachers take the mic alongside their students at UC Davis: http://vimeo.com/73224895 |
| 2013 | 4 th Annual Equity Summit at UC Davis feature in <i>The Catalyst</i> , 2013. http://education.ucdavis.edu/equity-summit . |
| 2012 | Young people become authors of their own lives and agents of change: http://vimeo.com/43192481 |
| 2011 | <i>The Latin Voice of California's Central Valley</i> . Feature article on "Building Healthy Youth in Merced County: Community Engagement and Scholarship." Article by Rebecca Plevin. |

(Published Tuesday, December 6th, 2011)

<http://www.vidaenelvalle.com/2011/12/06/1079199/event-focuses-on-youth>

- 2011 The Institute for Advancing Unity feature on extraOrdinary People:
<http://www.championsofunity.org/unity-lab/dr-vajra-watson>.
- 2011 *UC Davis School of Education* news release: Vajra Watson Garners Diversity Award.
<http://education.ucdavis.edu/news-release/vajra-watson-garners-diversity-award>
- 2011 40 Under 40. *Sacramento Business Journal*, pp. S-1 to S-12 (Published April 29, 2011)
- 2011 Better writing. *UC Davis Magazine*, 28(2), p. 10. Feature article on the "new literacy project designed to improve the writing skills of both teachers and students."
- 2010 SAYS provides speaking platform for area youth. *Sacramento Press*. Article by Dane Johnson (Published November 29, 2010)
- 2010 Words Matter: Twin Rivers District Schools Awarded \$1 Million to Use Spoken Word Poetry to Help Students Achieve Academic Success. *The Observer* newspaper, pp. F-1, F-2. Article by Genoa Barrow. (Published October 14, 2010)
- 2010 Successful teachers emphasize caring and curriculum. *UC Davis News and Information*. Article by Donna Justice. (Published May 3, 2010)
- 2010 Twin Rivers Unified School District newsroom: Postsecondary Education Commission awards \$1M grant. <http://www.twinriversusd.org/newsroom/news/?q=132>
- 2010 *University Writing Program* feature on SAYS: Closing the Achievement Gap Write Now. <http://writing.ucdavis.edu/news-1/uwp-partners-with-area-3-writing-project-on-new-grant-201cclosing-the-achievement-gap-write-now201d>
- 2009 Youthful Connections: Vajra Watson—Listening deeply and acting consistently with high expectations. *Dateline News for Faculty and Staff*. Article by Caitlin Cobb. (Published July 17, 2009)