



PRESS RELEASE

PTT Co-Founder Vajra M. Watson Named Dean at University of Redlands

Redlands, CA - On July 1, 2025, Dr. Vajra M. Watson, Co-Founder and Steering Committee Member of The People's Think Tank for Education Justice (PTT), began her term as the incoming Naslund Endowed Dean of the University of Redlands School of Education. The school seeks to “strengthen social and educational justice” by welcoming changemakers and “those who fight endlessly for equity in education.”

More information about Watson's appointment has been presented in a message from the university at <https://www.redlands.edu/about/office-of-the-president/presidents-messages/2025/introducing-our-new-soe-dean-dr-vajra-m-watson>.

With this new appointment, the **People's Think Tank** has a new partner to support, strengthen, and expand the movement for educational justice. This development represents an expansion of our Participatory Action Research (PAR) work by engaging more strongly with teaching and research in educational institutions.

We look forward to imagining new, partnered ways to create spaces led by community organizers, parents, young people, and the communities they serve, lifting up stories and strategies, building new knowledge and organizing models to create solidarity, dismantling anti-Black racism and systemic oppression in all its forms, and fostering collective love, sovereignty, healing, and well-being.

For more information about The People's Think Tank and its ongoing work, please follow us on Instagram at [@peoplesthinktank](https://www.instagram.com/peoplesthinktank).

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The People's Think Tank supports, strengthens, and expands the movement for educational justice by creating a space led by community organizers and the parents, young people and communities with whom they work, lifting up stories and strategies, building new knowledge and organizing models to create solidarity, dismantle anti-Black racism and systemic oppression in all its intersectional forms, developing visions for equitable, humane and liberatory education connected to healthy and vibrant communities, and fostering collective love, sovereignty, healing and well-being.

The People's Think Tank

In the People's Think Tank, movement organizers and leaders build authentic relationships, share lived experience and organizing lessons, hold deep and sometimes difficult conversations, conduct participatory action-oriented research, and rejuvenate mind, body, and soul for the struggles ahead towards educational justice and community liberation.