



Dr. Clifton Watson

Dr. Clifton Watson is a native of New Haven, Connecticut and graduate of James Hillhouse High School. He graduated with a B.A in Africana Studies from the University of Connecticut, before earning a doctorate in history at Fordham University. He began his career at LEAP (Leadership, Education, Athletics, in Partnership) - a New Haven based initiative committed to supporting the leadership and intellectual development of inner-city youth.

Dr. Watson has managed youth development initiatives at Grand Street Settlement, Prep for Prep, and the Center for Supportive Schools (formerly the Princeton Center for Leadership Training). For nearly 7 years, he directed the Children's Aid Society's African American Male Initiative - launched in 2007 to addresses the disproportionate representation of black males in negative outcomes associated with education and the criminal justice system. He was formerly a program manager at Fairfield County's Community Foundation - where he oversaw the foundation's grant-making in youth development and education. He is currently the director of Wesleyan University's Jewett Center for Community Partnerships - which focuses on supporting the civic preparedness of Wesleyan students, while working with partners to create a just, equitable, and sustainable future for communities beyond the campus—nearby and around the world.