

October 26, 2022 #EquityChat

Dr. Iliana Perez

[5:00 pm] Pam

Welcome to [#EquityChat](#) sponsored by [@CollegeFutures](#) w/your [@equityavengers](#) hosts [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@DrTammeil](#) & [@DrPamLuster](#) - our guest is Dr. Iliana Perez, Dir. of Research & Entrepreneurship [@immigrantsrise](#) To join, hit the bubble, ask a ?, reply, RT or like. Welcome Dr. Perez!

[5:05 pm] Tammeil

Q1 @ImmigrantsRise Dr. Perez, as you engage in equity-focused work, what is your walk-up song or anthem?
[@DrPamLuster](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Immigrants Rising @immigrantsrise · Oct 26](#)

Replying to [@DrTammeil](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) and 2 others

Thank you for invitation to participate in [#EquityChat](#). Great question to start off with! One of my favorite songs to kick off a great day is Green Lights by Aloe Blacc

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil · Oct 26](#)

Replying to [@immigrantsrise](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) and 2 others

1st time to hear this [@aloeblacc](#) jam! TY for sharing! We all need a positive way to start the day!

[5:11 pm] Keith

Q2@ImmigrantsRise Dr. Perez, what are three things about yourself that are essential to what make you, you?
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Growing up [#undocumented](#) shaped my thinking, passion & commitment. I'm also firstgen & the first woman in my family to pursue highered. I've been blessed to have supportive parents who instilled the value of an education & encouraged me to contribute to social change. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil · Oct 26](#)

Replying to [@immigrantsrise](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) and 2 others

Sending so much love & appreciation to your parents [@iliana gperez](#)! Your passion, creativity, & commitment have done so much for immigrant entrepreneurs, undocumented students, and the institutions that support them. So grateful!

[5:18 pm] Pam

Q3 @ImmigrantsRise Dr. Perez, tell us about your work with @ImmigrantsRise. What research from are you most proud of? [@DrTammeil](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

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Over the past decade, I have been working on creating programming to inform the undocumented immigrant community about income generation through [#entrepreneurship](#). (1/3) [#EquityChat](#)

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This includes the creation of educational materials, funding opportunities, and the development of an ecosystem to help people start or grow a business. (2/3) [#EquityChat](#)

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I am most proud of our [#SEED](#) initiative. We have granted over \$4M in micro-grants and offered technical assistance to more than 750 immigrant entrepreneurs across California! [#EquityChat](#).

[5:25 pm] Tammeil

Q4 @ImmigrantsRise Dr. Perez, what would you say are the "Big E" and "Small E" goals to achieve equity? As Director of Research & Entrepreneurship @ImmigrantsRise, what is your role in achieving these goals? @DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

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The "Big E" involves changing policies to create opportunities for all, regardless of immigration status. This is particularly important at the state level where much change IS possible. (1/3) [#EquityChat](#)

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In CA, as well as many other states, we have seen big wins to increase access to higher education, investment in entrepreneurship, [#Health4All](#), [#Food4All](#), [#IDs4ALL](#) and much more that has improved the lives of many people. (2/3) [#EquityChat](#)

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The "Small E" involves changing hearts and minds to make broader change happen. It's very important to share stories and humanize the narrative. (3/3) [#EquityChat](#)

[5:32 pm] Keith

Q5 @ImmigrantsRise Dr. Perez, last week was #UndocumentedStudentActionWeek but supporting undocumented students is an ongoing effort. How can we use momentum from #USAW to continue taking action beyond one week? @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

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It's important for systems to work together to ensure equitable implementation of policies such as [#AB540](#), [#AB130](#) and [#AB131](#). To this day, many undocumented young people think that college is not possibility when in fact, it is! (1/2) [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil · Oct 26](#)

Replying to [@immigrantsrise @lamkeithcurry and 2 others](#)

Yes! So important! Calling all allies: Let's change the narrative! No undocumented young person in California should believe college is impossible for them.

[Iliana G. Perez, M.A., Ph.D. @iliana_gperez · Oct 26](#)

Replying to [@immigrantsrise @lamkeithcurry and 3 others](#)

S/O to [@Njodaitis](#) for her leadership in this area!

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil · Oct 26](#)

Replying to [@iliana_gperez @immigrantsrise and 4 others](#)

[@Njodaitis](#) is a force for good & has done so much for [@CalCommColleges](#) helping us better understand the undocumented student experience, improve our institutions to humanize our campuses, advocate for reform, & do better on behalf of undocumented and mixed-status students!

[Immigrants Rising @immigrantsrise · Oct 26](#)

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It's imperative for all educators to inform students and families about the importance of filling out a [#CADAA](#), which could open the door to a college education for thousands of students, and to remind them of the priority state aid deadline of March 2. (2/2) [#EquityChat](#)

[5:39 pm] Pam

Q6 @ImmigrantsRise Dr. Perez, what are your thoughts on the most recent #DACAUpdate & what are the next steps that need to be taken to support students with current #DACA status & those who would be eligible? @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

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In many ways it feels like we are back to square one, but we are now prepared to offer more resources and support. Check out our [#BeyondDACA](#) page to see what options exist: <https://immigrantsrising.org/beyond-daca/> (1/2) [#EquityChat](#)

[Immigrants Rising @immigrantsrise-Oct 26](#)

Replying to [@immigrantsrise @DrPamLuster and 3 others](#)

This also calls for bold and creative ideas, such as [#Opportunity4All](#), a campaign led by UC students and allies [@UCLA_CILP](#) to demand the [@UofCalifornia](#) to open employment opportunities for all, regardless of immigration status. <http://bit.ly/Support-O4All> (2/2) [#EquityChat](#)

[5:46pm] Tammeil

Q7 @ImmigrantsRise Dr. Perez, to do this work, we must continue learning and partnering with others. Who/what is informing your practice? Who do you recommend we follow, and what are you learning from them? [@DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

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The [@thedream_us](#) and the [@PresImmAlliance](#) are doing amazing work to close educational gaps by ensuring that undocumented students (w/ and w/out DACA) have access to funding and professional development opportunities. (1/2) [#EquityChat](#)

Replying to [@immigrantsrise @DrPamLuster and 3 others](#)

This also calls for bold and creative ideas, such as [#Opportunity4All](#), a campaign led by UC students and allies [@UCLA_CILP](#) to demand the [@UofCalifornia](#) to open employment opportunities for all, regardless of immigration status. <http://bit.ly/Support-O4All> (2/2) [#EquityChat](#)

[5:53 pm] Keith

Q8 @ImmigrantsRise Dr. Perez, last question for tonight - what advice would you give to other equity practitioners? [@DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

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Keep going! (but take breaks). We need to continue to advocate for a path toward citizenship for the millions of undocumented immigrants, while at the same time pushing for change at the state/local levels. Partnerships are extremely important, so let's work together! [#EquityChat](#)

[6:00 pm] Pam

TY Dr.Perez [@immigrantsrise](#) for sharing you work w/us & helping us to find the [#greenlights](#) for our immigrant students! Next wk join us on [#EquityChat @CollegeFutures](#) as we host [@SamPolk](#) CEO & Founder of [@foreverytable @lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil @DrPamLuster @equityavengers](#) OUT!