

October 12, 2022 - #EquityChat

Leonardo D. Rodriguez

Undergraduate Student Representative,

Undocumented Community Council

UC Berkeley Division of Equity & Inclusion

Dr. Pamela Luster

[@DrPamLuster](#)

It's time for [#EquityChat](#) sponsored by [@CollegeFutures](#) w/ our guest [@lionleoRD](#)-Undergrad. Student Rep. for [#Undocumented](#) Community Council, [@UCBerkeley](#) Div. Equity & Inclusion. Join [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) & [@lamkeithcurry](#) right now! Join us - respond on the bubble, RT or like.

[@DrPamLuster](#)

Welcome [@lionleoRD](#)! We are so excited to hear from you this evening [#EquityChat](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@equityavengers](#)

Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson

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

[@lionleoRD](#)

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

Without a doubt my anthem is "El Apagón" by [@sanbenito](#). Not only does this song shine light on Puerto Rico's unique political issues, but also shows a different aspect of what it means to be a member of the Latin community. Also it's super catchy [#EquityAvengers](#)

Dr. Keith Curry

Q2 [@lionleoRD](#) What are three things about yourself that are essential to what makes you, you? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[@lionleoRD](#)

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

I always find these types of questions hard, but I believe 3 aspects of myself that are essential in making me who I am are: my communication skills, my understanding, and my willingness to learn. Although if I could add one more, I would say my humor! [#EquityAvengers](#)

[@DrPamLuster](#)

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

Humor is an underrated superpower [@lionleoRD](#) !

[@DrTammeil](#)

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

I couldn't agree more [@DrPamLuster!](#) [@lionleoRD](#), your openness to being in the "wonder" and being willing to learn are also so essential. I can see these qualities in your advocacy and dedication to representing students and real lived experiences!

Dr. Pamela Luster

Q3 [@lionleoRD](#) Tell us about the Undocumented Community Council [@UCBerkeley](#) Division of Equity & Inclusion. What priorities/initiatives are most important to you as the Undergrad Student Rep. on the Council? [@DrTammeil](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[@lionleoRD](#)

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

I have just recently joined the Undocumented Community Council [@UCBerkeley](#). However, so far I would say it is a unique and powerful outlet for my community. I want to focus on Affordability, Federal & State updates, and identifying institutional barriers regarding AB 540. (1/2)

[@lionleoRD](#)

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

A specific goal I have identified is for the [@UofCalifornia](#) to commit not only state funds but institutional funds to strengthen the resources of undocumented student centers & services. In order to offset the lack of federal aid provided to my community. (2/2) [#EquityAvengers](#)

Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson

Q4 [@lionleoRD](#) What would you say are the "Big E" and "Small E" goals to achieve equity? As Undergrad Student Rep for the Undocumented Community Council [@UCBerkeley](#), what is your role in achieving these goals? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[@lionleoRD](#)

Replying to [@DrTammeil](#) [@UCBerkeley](#) and 3 others

The Big E question is associated with institutional changes, such as implementing anti-racist policies. These policies recognize the role race has played in the foundational characteristics that keep many students OUT!
(1/2)

[@DrTammeil](#)

Replying to [@lionleoRD @UCBerkeley and 3 others](#)

Yaaass! We need voices like yours [@lionleoRD](#) to help illuminate for leaders and for students the ways in which policies are hindering racial equity and student completion. So glad you are at the table even though the table wasn't built for you. In awe of your brilliance!

[@lionleoRD](#)

Replying to [@DrTammeil @UCBerkeley and 3 others](#)

While the Small E, I associate with creating community spaces and social changes within campuses through training and investments. My role as Rep is to call for action in a radical manner through awareness and advocacy! [#EquityAvengers](#)

Dr. Keith Curry

Q5 [@lionleoRD](#) As the 1st Undocumented Student to serve as Commissioner [@castudentaid](#), can you share some of the work being done around college affordability & access for undocumented students? [@DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[@lionleoRD](#)

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

[@CAstudentaid](#) has taken many proactive steps to support undocumented students. This has been displayed through actions like the formation of the Undocumented Student Affordability Task Force, or the protection of sensitive data. (1/2)

[@lionleoRD](#)

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

Most importantly CSAC has engaged in building coalitions with community organizations, legislators, and student leaders to support my community. It's leadership and staff have a real commitment to the goal of advancing access to higher education for all. (2/2) [#EquityAvengers](#)

Dr. Pamela Luster

Q6 [@lionleoRD](#) You've been a longtime advocate for undocumented student access and success. How can institutions of higher education better serve undocumented students? [@DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[@lionleoRD](#)

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

Higher education Institutions have the ability and funds to enact systemic changes that would diminish barriers to access. Although messaging and alliance are important, action and outcomes, such as standardizing AB 540 qualifications, are even more important.(1 /3)

[@DrTammeil](#)

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

Like today's California Higher Education Collaborative (CHEC) [air horn emoji]: the waiver of citizenship eligibility reqs to allow undocumented students who meet all other eligibility reqs to participate in TRIO: Student Support Services, Upward Bound & Educational Talent Search APPROVED! [thankful emoji]

[@lionleoRD](#)

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

The severely different qualifications for AB 540 based on segment, and campus are a clear and present obstacle to my community. This issue has affected myself at both the UC and CCC systems, leading to stress and anxiety. Why must I do more?! (2/ 3)

[@lionleoRD](#)

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

Institutions must also take the initiative to inform their leadership and faculty about undocumented student issues in order to create a supportive environment. (3/ 3) [#EquityAvengers](#)

Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson

Q7 [@lionleoRD](#) 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 @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[@lionleoRD](#)

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

My perspective is informed partly from my experience, but also the members of my community. Understanding that undocumented students and the undocumented community in the United States is not a monolith is the first lesson we must all learn. (1/ 2)

[@lionleoRD](#)

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

After that I would say to be in community with undocumented students. [@AOC](#) has shown me that leadership cannot and must not lock themselves behind doors. Be accessible, Be Seen!! You are a resource. (2/2)

[#EquityAvengers](#)

Dr. Keith Curry

Q8 [@lionleoRD](#) You've been a leader as a student trustee @ the local district and @CalCommColleges state levels. What motivated you to get involved & what advice do you have for other students looking to engage? [@DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[@lionleoRD](#)

Replying to [@Iamkeithcurry @CalCommColleges and 3 others](#)

I pushed myself into these roles because I felt powerless. The lack of federal action regarding a path to citizenship is appalling. We do not belong, yet here we stand. Knowing that my presence itself is an act of defiance, I choose to be more visible and more vocal (1/2)

[@DrTammeil](#)

Replying to [@lionleoRD @Iamkeithcurry and 3 others](#)

Let this be our anthem, [@lionleoRD](#): "We do not belong, yet here we stand. Knowing that my presence itself is an act of defiance, I choose to be more visible and more vocal." [fist emoji x3] [#EquityAvengers #ShowLove](#)

[@lionleoRD](#)

Replying to [@Iamkeithcurry @CalCommColleges and 3 others](#)

To students who want to be involved, you have already taken the most important step! Recognizing you want to, brings you one step closer to finding your voice. With your voice, you have the power to create change. So long as you choose to. (2/2) [#EquityAvengers](#)

Dr. Pamela Luster

TY [@lionleoRD](#) for joining us tonight on [#EquityChat](#) sponsored by [@CollegeFutures](#) - your unwavering commitment inspires us! Join us next week as we stay in the bay & host [@DrGTReyes @CSUEB](#) scholar...stay tuned for more info...[@Iamkeithcurry @DrTammeil @equityavengers](#) OUT!