

September 28, 2022 #EquityChat
Samantha Seng
Legislative Director & Policy Advisor
NextGen Policy

[5:00 pm] Dr. Keith Curry

We're back for [#EquityChat](#) S3 sponsored by [@CollegeFutures](#) & hosted by [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) your [@equityavengers](#)! Tonight, we're joined by the Legislative Director & Policy Advisor for [@NextGen Policy](#). Welcome, [@seng_sam](#)!

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@equityavengers](#) and 4 others

Such an honor to join you all tonight! Looking forward to the conversation - education equity, fighting for students, ending my story as a first generation student is my passion and am grateful to be in a position to help make a difference! [#EquityChat](#)

[5:05 pm] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson

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

[@seng_sam](#)

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

Thank you [@equityavengers](#) for having me today! I'm all over the place with music, love me some Rock, Alternative, Latin, Pop, and so much more. Current vibe: "Won't Stand Down" by Muse [guitar emoji] and "Children" by Billy Porter. [#EquityChat](#)

[@DrTammeil](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam](#) [@equityavengers](#) and 3 others

Appreciate the [@muse](#) intro! [fire emoji] lyrics. I've opened my eyes & counted the lies & now it is clearer to me You are just a user & an abuser & I refuse to take it Won't stand down I'm growing stronger Won't stand down I'm owned no longer Won't stand down You've used me for too long

[5:10 pm] Dr. Keith Curry

Q2 [@seng_sam](#) Instead of a non-resume introduction, we want to know what is something you want people to know about you that you haven't shared? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

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

(1/2) I knew I wanted a career in ed policy since 5th grade. Shout out to my 5th grade teacher Mrs. Morgan! Amazing educator + explained how state/fed policies dictated what went on in the classroom. [#EquityChat](#)

[@DrTammeil](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @lamkeithcurry and 3 others](#)
Mrs. Morgan!! [shout, clap, thankful, heart emojis]

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @lamkeithcurry and 4 others](#)

(2/2) Never saw one of those "decision makers" in our no-AC barred windows bungalow classroom so I always knew I wanted to bring my voice to the decision making table. Fun fact: born and raised in San Diego so shout out to the 619 for those who know! [sunglasses emoji] [#equitychat](#)

[5:16 pm] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson

Q3 [@seng_sam](#) What are 3 legislative or budget priorities @NextGen_Policy believes will have the biggest impact to support students' [#basicneeds](#)? [@DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityAvengers](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@DrTammeil @equityavengers and 4 others](#)

(1/3) Budgets reflect our values & CA has done much to support students. The [#CalGrantEquityFramework](#) was just included in the CA Budget to address the real costs of college. But more needs to be done & we stay committed w/[@FixFinancialAid](#) coalition see this through. [#equitychat](#)

[@DrTammeil](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @equityavengers and 5 others](#)

Grateful the [#CalGrantEquityFramework](#) was just included in the CA Budget to address the real costs of college & double down on [@seng_sam](#)'s note that more needs to be done. Let's go [@ccleague](#) Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce! [#RealCollegeCACoalition #EquityAvengers](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @DrTammeil and 6 others](#)

(2/3) In addition to reforming state financial aid to ensure students can afford college, institutional debt needs to be eliminated. Check out a report we issued w/[@theSBPC](#) on how institutional debt hurts students, enrollment and retention.

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @DrTammeil and 7 others](#)

(3/3) Sneak peak! We're excited to be learning about the innovation at [@compton_college](#) to stretch limited dollars to improve student access to food, housing, transportation, healthcare & technology. Stay tuned for issue brief drop this fall! [#EquityChat](#)

[5:22 pm] Dr. Keith Curry

Q4 [@seng_sam](#) What would you say are the "Big E" and "Small E" goals to achieve equity? As Legislative Director & Policy Advisor @NextGen_Policy, what is your role in achieving these goals? [@DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@lamkeithcurry @equityavengers and 4 others](#)

Big E: eliminate debt financed higher education. This means more investment in higher ed so that students' basic needs are met & there is no need to take on a lifetime of student loan debt. The system was not made for and isn't working for students who look like me. [#EquityChat](#)

[@DrTammeil](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @lamkeithcurry and 4 others](#)

[Yell emoji] "The system was not made for and isn't working for students who look like me." All [heart emoji, thankful emoji] to [@seng_sam](#) for doing something about it. [@EquityAvengers](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @lamkeithcurry and 5 others](#)

Small E: A coordinating higher ed entity to set statewide goals and everyone rowing in the same direction. At [@NextGen Policy](#) we know the winning strategy is working in coalition and empowering communities - it's going to take all of us to achieve equity! [hug emoji] [#EquityChat](#)

[5:29 pm] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson

Q5 [@seng_sam](#) We're seeing some much-needed wins in debt forgiveness/relief programs. What can the state do with all these changes to the student loan system? What is important for borrowers to know right now? [@DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityAvengers](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

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

[string emoji] A huge victory for [#studentloan](#) borrowers! CA is well poised to help implement the new federal plan to provide student debt cancellation. [@CaliforniaDFPI](#) will be providing grants in 2023 to organizations providing services to student borrowers. [#EquityChat](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @DrTammeil and 5 others](#)

The grant program will also give [@CaliforniaDFPI](#) insights to what borrowers are experiencing so the state can hold loan servicers accountable and close any loopholes to implementing debt cancellation. Check out DFPI's student resources <https://dfpi.ca.gov/backontrack/> [#EquityChat](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @DrTammeil and 5 others](#)

Borrowers should know there is no reason not to apply for all the recent changes to student loans. Sign up for text alerts for when the student debt cancellation form goes live and apply as soon as possible! [#EquityChat](#) [point emoji] <https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief-announcement/one-time-cancellation>

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @DrTammeil and 5 others](#)

Plus if you're a borrower working in public service, you should still apply for the limited time [#PSLF](#) waiver! You don't need to complete all the paperwork but you do need to take at least one step in the process by Oct 31 - apply now! [#EquityChat](#)

[5:36 pm] Dr. Keith Curry

Q6 [@seng_sam](#) What role do we, as educators, have in regards to the legislation and policies that impact our work and students? What resources are available to help us be better advocates? [@DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

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

(1/2) Educators are on the front lines and lawmakers need to hear from you! [airhorn emoji] You can be advocates for your students, campuses, and themselves. You identify new problems and can report on how implementation of new policies are working or not working. [#EquityChat](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @lamkeithcurry and 4 others](#)

(2/2) Get involved with your campus's governing bodies. Or work with your association, union, or advocacy organizations - at [@NextGen.Policy](#) we love working with community members, connecting communities to the legislative process and building coalitions. [fist emoji] [#EquityChat](#)

[@DrTammeil](#)

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

Important reminder!!! We need to be relentless about raising our voices and giving constructive feedback and options for changes/solutions when we see that new policies aren't working.

[5:42 pm] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson

Q7 [@seng_sam](#) 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 #EquityAvengers](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

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

(1/3) Always start with the students and learn from their lived experiences! Thank you to student leaders who have already done amazing legislative and budget work [blessed emoji] [@YoungInvincible @FixFinancialAid @SSCCC OFFICIAL @csustudents @ UCSA @GENupUS @CHIRLA #EquityChat](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @DrTammeil and 11 others](#)
(2/3) Shout out to our amazing team [@theSBPC @DebtCrisisOrg @YoungInvincible @consumeraction](#) and everyone in The Campaign for California Borrowers' Rights coalition fighting for [#studentloan](#) borrowers and pushing the limits to what CA can do. [#EquityChat](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @DrTammeil and 14 others](#)
(3/3) Want to highlight the work of an extraordinary organization [@iyt2013](#). Co-founded by two leaders of color who returned home to end the inequities they experienced. IYT unapologetically do all they can to ensure young men of color go to and through college. [#EquityChat](#)

[5:48 pm] Dr. Keith Curry

Q8 [@seng_sam](#) What advice would you give to other equity practitioners? [@DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@lamkeithcurry @equityavengers and 3 others](#)
Frankly this is a hard fight and it's easy to feel hopeless. I stay grounded thinking about my students or visiting my family. Find what grounds you and do something that recharges you. This is a long game and we need to take care of our own mental health as well. [pleased emoji] [#EquityChat](#)

[5:54 pm] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson

Q9 [@seng_sam](#) To close out tonight's chat, what gives you hope? [@DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[@seng_sam](#)

Replying to [@DrTammeil @equityavengers and 3 others](#)
All the wins to date! I remember when the "real costs" of college discussion was new talk - now we have ed equity champions in the [#CALeg](#). We have momentum, we just need to keep working together. That also means we don't settle until we achieve the equity we need. [#EquityChat](#)

[@DrTammeil](#)

Replying to [@seng_sam @equityavengers and 3 others](#)
Grateful to have [@seng_sam](#) and [@NextGen_Policy](#) as partners who understand we cannot settle until we achieve the equity our students need. [@lamkeithcurry @DrPamLuster @CollegeFutures #EquityChat](#)



EQUITY
AVENGERS

[6:00 pm] Dr. Keith Curry

[Dr. Keith Curry](#) [#EquityAvengers](#) [#RealCollegePrez](#)

TY [@seng_sam](#) for sharing your time and insights with us tonight! [#EquityChat](#) by [@CollegeFutures](#) S3 continues next week with another amazing guest. Clues posted on [@equityavengers](#) soon! [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@DrLuster](#) OUT!