

February 24, 2021 #EquityChat  
Dr. Walter Kimbrough (@HipHopPrez),  
President of Dillard University (@du1869)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Welcome to the Feb 24, #EquityChat as we welcome the Prez w/ the coolest handle...@HipHopPrez @du1869 to #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures. #EquityAvengers @SDMesaPrez @iamkeithcurry So glad to have you Dr Kimbrough! @du1869

[@ahandsintheair](#) 🍌 You've got my vote for coolest handle!

[@HipHopPrez](#) Thanks! #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q1. @HipHopPrez Please tell us three things about you that are not on your resume @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@HipHopPrez](#) A1. (1) I sang with the Atlanta Boy Choir and went on tour to Europe (I think I was about 12). (2) I spent a quarter & a half in vet school (3) I can throw a slow pitch cutter in softball. @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @du1869 #EquityChat

[@saragoldrickrab](#) Vet school?? Say more!

[@HipHopPrez](#) Yep. 3 years of undergrad. Got into UGA vet school a year early. BIG MISTAKE. Tried to drop out after 1st quarter. Dropped out when I saw that neuroanatomy final that was 75% of my grade! @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @du1869 #EquityChat

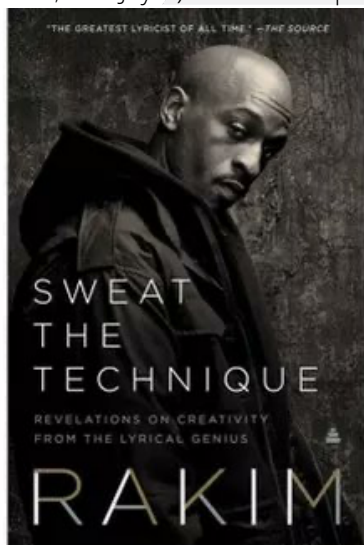
[@saragoldrickrab](#) The real resume! Love it!

[@ahandsintheair](#) #realresume This is my favorite #equitychat question. I love getting a sneak peek into the lived lives of our leaders...those spaces of authentic connection.

[@iamkeithcurry](#) Q2. @HipHopPrez .I have been waiting to ask this question since we confirmed you as one of our guests. So, who is your favorite rapper and why? @CollegeFutures #EquityChat @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @du1869

[@SDMesaPrez](#) There's slot riding on this @HipHopPrez ...no pressure

[@HipHopPrez](#) A2. Rakim. The voice. The cadence & flow. The intelligence. He is always #1 on my list (followed by Biggie, Andre 3000, and Jay-Z). His book is phenomenal. @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @du1869 #EquityChat



[@iamkeithcurry](#) Okay, I support that list 2 of them are in my top 5. Rakim, Biggie, Tupac, Jay -Z, DJ Quik.

[@HipHopPrez](#) There is no great rapper whose title is DJ! He wouldn't make my top 100...

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Not that y'all asked, but mine are the great @MissyElliott & @E40

[@ahandsintheair](#) Please join me in a moment of silent wildin' out in honor of the @MissyElliott retweet and @e40 like! Come on now, @SDMesaPrez that's 🔥! There's gotta be a spot on your resume for that! #honoringallofmylegends - you Missy and E40. #equitychats

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Will find a spot for it!

[@deezgrl](#) Yessssssss!! That was FIRE!!!!!! 🔥

[@ahandsintheair](#) 🤔 Things just got #real 🤔

[@PMotaleb](#) Sir, you are welcome to join us next semester Fall 2021 for English 234: Hip Hop Literature at Mesa.

[@ThuyThiTweets](#) When the guest has one of the coolest handle #HipHopPrez and is from NOLA, this is the kind of fun the #EquityAvengers generated. By the way, @RapperPrez is not taken (yet). #fyi

[@SeherAwan13](#) Tupac all the way for me!

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q3. @HipHopPrez Tell us about @du1869? And your work as their President? #EquityChat

@iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures

[@HipHopPrez](#) The JEWEL of GENTILLY! @du1869 is a liberal arts HBCU affiliated with @uncf @umcsu @unitedchurch . We celebrated 150 years in 2019. For those interested here is a great documentary. #EquityChat

<https://t.co/RR0K9w1Pcv>

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Beautiful! Will definitely check it out. @HopHopPrez

[@HipHopPrez](#) A3. Top 3 producer of Blacks with physics degrees. Hands on film program. Oldest nursing program in LA. Oldest HBCU speech & theatre program. Award-winning pre-law program. @iamkeithcurry

@SDMesaPrez @du1869 #EquityChat

[@iamkeithcurry](#) Q4. @HipHopPrez . What is your proudest accomplishment? And why? @CollegeFutures

#EquityAvengers @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @du1869

[@HipHopPrez](#) A4. This is always hard for me. I think watching a student's career from freshmen to professional is always rewarding. I recently blogged about a former student who recently became a judge in Georgia. @iamkeithcurry

@SDMesaPrez #EquityChat <https://t.co/R2uAalfZAM>

[@HipHopPrez](#) My practical answer though is working to get the @du1869 \$150M+ Hurricane Katrina loan forgiven in 2018! @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat <https://t.co/RwlvXpUSw1>

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5. @HipHopPrez How have @du1869 adjusted due to COVID-19? Post COVID-19, what are some new strategies @du1869 will implement to serve your student population? #EquityChat @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures

[@HipHopPrez](#) A5. We operated in a hybrid space all year, and implemented the new industry standards for safety. But I think COVID gave higher ed a reality check about the limits of virtual everything. The digital divide is still alive! #EquityChat @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @du1869

[@HipHopPrez](#) We're going to have to review. But we know the strength of a place like @du1869 is the connectedness, including sharing physical spaces and physical touch. That's HBCUs, the South, and New Orleans where everyone kisses each other! #EquityChat @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez

[@iamkeithcurry](#) Q6. @HipHopPrez .How has @du1869 address Affordability, Food & Housing Access for your students? @CollegeFutures @SDMesaPrez @iamkeithcurry #EquityChat

[@HipHopPrez](#) A6. While [@du1869](#) is about half the cost for a private university, when you're 75% Pell that's still expensive. And as one of my colleagues said in a discussion recently, it is expensive to educate poor people. #EquityChat [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) That is indeed a true statement, but I have never heard it phrased that way before. Perhaps its because we simply don't like to look in that mirror. [@HipHopPrez](#)

[@HipHopPrez](#) We're advocating with [@UNCF](#) to double Pell as a start. We've had a food bank maybe 5 years now, but realize we like many have a number of food/housing insecure students. But when you're under-resourced, how do you pay for these needs? It's a hard job. [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#)

[@saragoldrickrab](#) Few colleges with higher rates of food & housing insecurity have \$\$\$\$. The strategy is based on effective partnerships. Example:

<https://t.co/8lyc4XPCJS>

<https://t.co/JGlmucQJRN>

We're full of ideas and happy to help!

[@saragoldrickrab](#) I'm grateful that [@du1869](#) participated in the Fall 2020 #RealCollege survey- results are coming your way in a couple weeks!

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q7. [@HipHopPrez](#) What three recommendations would you provide to the Biden Administration about the challenges higher education institutions are faced with at this time? #EquityChat [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#)

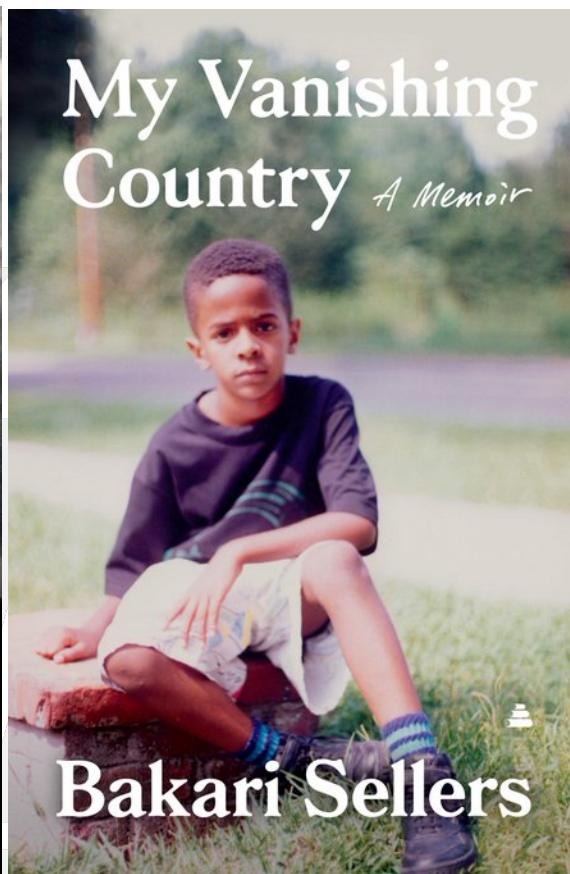
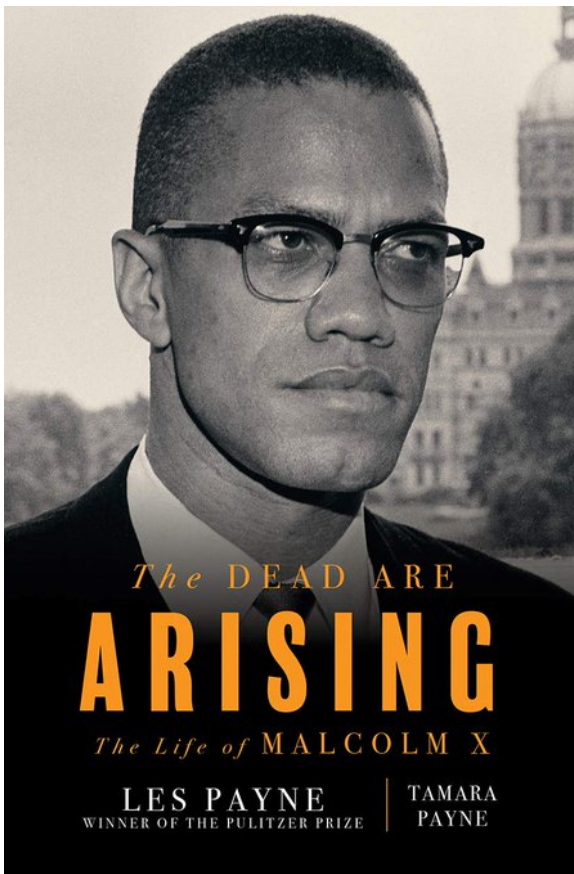
[@HipHopPrez](#) A7. Double (or even triple) Pell. Review regulations which can drive up costs. Incentivize philanthropists to support resource-starved institutions which educate populations that look more like America. #EquityChat [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#)

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q8. [@HipHopPrez](#) .What gives you hope? [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@HipHopPrez](#) Every time I see a former student succeed, personally and professionally, and knowing some of their stories! When you know what people have gone through and overcome, you can't help but have hope! #EquityChat [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@du1869](#)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Exactly how I find my hope!

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q9. [@HipHopPrez](#) What are you reading? And what book(s) would you recommend we consider reading? #EquityChat [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#)

[@HipHopPrez](#) Not long ago I finished [@Bakari\\_Sellers](#) great book! I have given it to 2 student leaders- I think it is a must read for them. Now reading the new book about [@GeorgiaStateU](#) (where I got my PhD), and about to start on the new Malcolm X book. #EquityChat [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#)



[@kristin\\_barrus](#) I have read the book also and thought it was excellent.

[@beddoe\\_clyde](#) Don't ever put that corporate, boot-licking clown, Bakari, next to an icon like Malcolm.

[@SDMesaPrez](#) TY @HipHopPrez for joining #EquityChat tonight! I'm ready to head to @du1869 for a post covid visit w/ a few @sdmesacollege students! Next week we are joined by @carrollsdccd @SDCCD Chancellor! @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityAvengersOut!