

June 9, 2021 #EquityChat
Eddie R. Cole (@EddieRCole),
Professor (@ucla), author The Campus Color Line

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Welcome to #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures our guest is @EddieRCole. Talking about his research, @ucla, and his book "The Campus Color Line". @SDMesaPrez @iamkeithcurry #EquityAvengers Welcome Dr Cole!

[@EddieRCole](#) Thanks for the welcome! #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q1. @EddieRCole. Our education, background, and experiences make us who we are. Please tell us about the non-resume you? We want to know what's not on your resume. #EquityChat @iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures

[@EddieRCole](#) A1. Great opener! I'm from Boligee, Alabama, where my grandparents/parents were school teachers. I have always admired their careers educating generations in rural West Alabama. That still shapes who I am, and how I see education (1/3). @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@EddieRCole](#) A1. Also. I love sports, and I still like to imagine I'm a decent athlete. So, I welcome an indoor pickup basketball game (indoor because I can't have the winds mess up my jumper) 🏀🤪(2/3). @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Oh lord-here we go...@iamkeithcurry & I are big sports fans too...what's your team fan profile?

[@EddieRCole](#) I'm all things @UCLAathletics right now! But in the pros: Titans, Grizzlies, and Atlanta baseball. Let's catch a game! 👍

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Ok-I can live with that! I'm @Athletics (AL) @Padres (NL), @Raiders , @warriors ...but definitely a @UCLAMBB fan with my fave former player...@JHANDS08

[@EddieRCole](#) A1. Finally, fun fact: I was named @NABJ Student Journalist of the Year back in undergrad. So, I enjoy writing for the public like op-eds w/o the academic jargon. It's a great way to communicate. That's just *some* non-resumè about me (3/3) @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@iamkeithcurry](#) Q2. @EddieRCole. What gives you hope? @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityAvengers

[@EddieRCole](#) A2: The truth! I am so engrossed in this debate over history right. And to be clear, this is not a new battle, but we're in a heightened fight over facts. But I'm hopeful because... (1/2). @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@EddieRCole](#) A2: ...more people can learn about history in these debates. People are questioning what they've been taught and what they don't know about injustice. They want the truth. That gives me hope that more #EquityAvengers are in the making (2/2). @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q3. @EddieRCole Tell us about your work @ucla? @iamkeithcurry @equityavengers @CollegeFutures

[@EddieRCole](#) A3. Yeah, at [@ucla](#) – you can find me in [@uclaseis](#) and [@luskinhistory](#). Shoutout to the great students I get to work with. I work on questions of history, race, society, and education.

That's my work on (and beyond) campus (1/2). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[@EddieRCole](#) A3: I really enjoy teaching about – and researching – the many ways the past shapes our present. We – consciously or not – accept policies and practices without interrogating their roots or allowing ourselves to imagine a new way (2/2). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[@iamkeithcurry](#) Q4. [@EddieRCole](#). What is your definition of equity? How is equity-minded practice embedded in your work? [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[@EddieRCole](#) A4: Thanks for saying “your definition,” because people really vary on defining the term. That said, for me, equity discussions/definitions today must consider history, history, and more history. (1/3). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[@EddieRCole](#) A4: Too often, we take a present-day snapshot of an issue and try to prescribe an equity initiative. But those efforts fail when we don't account for the full context around said issue and that issue came to be. (2/3). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[@EddieRCole](#) A4: Therefore, I always let our histories (of struggle and triumph) guide my understanding and work in teaching, research, and in the community. That's key. And that's how I define equity-minded practice for myself (3/3). ✨ [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5. [@EddieRCole](#) . Can you share some of your research with us and why your research is so important in higher education? [#EquityChat](#) [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@equityavengers](#) [@CollegeFutures](#)

[@EddieRCole](#) A5: Love this question! My recent book, [#CampusColorLine](#), aims to recenter higher education's role in the Black Freedom Movement. Specifically, I look at how presidents/chancellors shaped racial policies and practices. That said... (1/3). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[@EddieRCole](#) A5: ...the racial realizations (a realization for some people) of the past year have made this work so important — and eerily timely for higher education. Because the issues are largely the same, unfortunately. (2/3). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#). [#EquityChat](#)

[@EddieRCole](#) A5: In summary, I examine the history of our most pressing racial issues —affirmative action, campus policing, gentrification, free speech, academic freedom, and more – and demonstrate what it all means for higher education today (3/3). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#). [#EquityChat](#)

[@iamkeithcurry](#) Q6. [@EddieRCole](#). Many [@CalCommColleges](#) leaders have read your recent book, [The Campus Color Line](#). Why is this book so necessary for educators. [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[@EddieRCole](#) A6: I'll share what educators are telling me: it empowers them to act. Past academic leaders have decided to challenge – or uphold – inequitable systems, and the book pushes educators today to reflect on their decisions in real time (1/2). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#). [#EquityChat](#)

[@EddiRCole](#) A6: That is powerful for me to hear – as an author – and it demonstrates the urgent necessity of studying history. Educators today are better served when they study the implications of their predecessors' best – and worst – actions (2/2). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q7. [@EddieRCole](#). If you could advise [@CalCommColleges](#) leaders during this time, what advice would it be and why? #EquityChat [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#)

[@EddieRCole](#) A7: Another good question. This being #EquityChat, one of the things [@CalCommColleges](#) leaders can do today – to go back to Q4/A4 – is study the social history of your campus. It's foundational to the most effective #HigherEd leaders in the last (1/3) [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#)

[@EddiRCole](#) A7: Leaders typically know the formal institutional history, but the people in the community also have their own history of your campus too. It is critical for leaders to know how the people who make their campus work see the campus (2/3). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) #EquityChat

[@EddiRCole](#) A7: Once you fully understand the people's history of your campus, you better understand different groups' experiences. That's how you lead toward equity. Today and tomorrow [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) #EquityChat 📌
Also, I say it better below (3/3). 📌

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1402361407480471560>

[@iamkeithcurry](#) Q8. [@EddieRCole](#). What are you reading? And what book(s) would you recommend we consider reading? [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityAvengers

[@EddieRCole](#) A8: Ah, the book recommendation question: always tough to answer. There are so many new books out, alongside the classics that have to be revisited. But here goes a handful of #HigherEd books and/or histories you should check out (1/5). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) #EquityChat

[@EddiRCole](#) A8: Check out [@DavarianBaldwin's](#) #InTheShadow. It is 🔥. He is also attentive to the role that community colleges have played in modeling what #HigherEd can/should be. #EquityChat [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#)
Here we are in convo. about it (2/5) 📌

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_KTnEluiVc

[@EddiRCole](#) A8: Also, I always come back to [@ProfSBradley's](#) histories on Black student activism. Get his books, "Upending the Ivory Tower," AND "Harlem vs. Columbia University." So good. So important. Always timely. (3/5). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#). #EquityChat

[@EddiRCole](#) A8: Also, get down on [@tinagroeger's](#) "The Education Trap," and [@tony_jack's](#) #ThePrivilegedPoor. Two great scholars and great people – doing great work in the field. (4/5). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#). #EquityChat

[@EddiRCole](#) A8: And since we're in the West, you should read [@QuintardTaylor's](#) "In Search of the Racial Frontier." It's a dynamic survey of Black history. It will help you understand so much about California (and your campuses) today. (5/5). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) #EquityChat

[@Glenio26](#) Enjoyed interview with Professor Cole. I'm curious if HBCU's tried to expand their campus footprint would they be given the green light? I realize professors that's a whole new topic of research.

[@DavarianBaldwin](#) (June 17) No no, its a great question, bc there have been "town gown" tensions between HBCUs and black communities (See Spike Lee's School Daze!). But their historic underfunding and greater support of communities still make them different. Tho [@HowardUniv](#) medical school is one to watch!

[@Glenio26](#) (June 17) Went in knowing underfunding had it's role, that's why I posed question as a topic, that might need more explaining than a few tweets. However, I appreciate you were able to drive home the point in one paragraph.

[@Glenio26](#) (June 17) It would be hard to push for expansion if historically you're underfunded. I did see "School Daze" decades ago 😂. Profile pic is old photo.

[@DavarianBaldwin](#) (June 17) If you are interested in the Jim Crow development faced by HBCU's, Ian Grandison has an excellent piece on the divergent paths of HBCUs and PWIs in Richmond, VA after the building of I-95, from the essay collection Race and Real Estate.

[@Glenio26](#) (June 17) Thanks