

July 8, 2020 #EquityChat

Michele Siqueiros (@MSCollegeOpp),  
President of Campaign for College (@CollegeOpp)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Good evening & welcome to #EquityChat w/@lamkeithcurry & @SDMesaPrez -tonight we are excited to welcome @MSCollegeOpp, our equity partner @CollegeOpp! To participate, respond to our questions, or guests responses & use #EquityChat Welcome Michelle!

[@rubenecanado](#) Three living legends: @SDMesaPrez + @lamkeithcurry + @MSCollegeOpp [clapping hands] [clapping hands] [clapping hands] [raising hands] [raising hands] [raising hands] [fire] [fire] [fire]

[@lamkeithcurry](#) @rubenecanado you are a legend yourself. We need to get you on #EquityChat

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) Hi! So glad to be here with you both!

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) I've got my home brewed iced coffee and I'm ready . . .

[@lamkeithcurry](#) I am so excited for this evening. #EquityChat

[@jmbeyond7](#) [thumbs up] [thumbs up] [thumbs up]

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Here's Q1. What is your definition of equity? How is equity-minded practice embedded in your work?

@MSCollegeOpp @lamkeithcurry #EquityChat

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) When a persons skin color, income, or zip code no longer determine their possibility for being prepared for college, going to college and graduating from college – that is equity #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Ok...I'm sitting with this...the clarity and pragmatically of this definition is impactful

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Auto fill...pragmatics

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) Equity-minded practice is the reason we exist @collegeopp it's the reason we do this work. We practice it by always thinking how policies can benefit or hurt students in unequal ways, by asking ourselves if something is anti-racist or racist in execution . . . cont.

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) reviewing data&sharing best practices,by incl diverse voices as part of R staff,board,advisory bodies,coalitions &allies who inform our <http://work.By> <http://listening.By> recognizing we all have blind spots, the key is 2surround ourselves w/folks who can pt them out

[@CollegeOpp](#) Check out our recent publications elevating ONE of many ways we call for equity-minded practices. Up first - ensure that low-income students receive equitable fin aid that covers the true cost of college. Expanding fin aid protects college opportunity <https://t.co/BjIDbB0hb2?amp=1>

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q2. @MSCollegeOpp. Tell us about @CollegeOpp? Why do many people refer to @CollegeOpp as an equity partner? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeOpp @lamkeithcurry #EquityChat

[@CollegeOpp](#) We are also an organization made up of cross-sector voices, including students, businesses, civil rights and immigrant organizations, higher education inst. and grass-roots organizations. THEY make it this work possible #equitychat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Agree! TY to @CollegeOpp @lindam\_v for your significant support for our [#RealCollege](#) work last year as we tackled @CalCommColleges students' #basicneeds

[@lindam\\_v](#) I can't believe that that important LA roundtable was in 2018. It seems like it was yesterday #equitychat



[@lamkeithcurry](#) I remember that photo. #equityavengers

[@CollegeOpp](#) Here is part of our amazing team! [@lindam\\_v](#) [@joshuahagen21](#) [@SashaReneePerez](#) [@katrina\\_linden](#) [@JessieRyanSac](#) [@ADCollegeOpp](#) [@vikashreddy](#) #wewearinvisiblecapas

[@lamkeithcurry](#) #EquityWarriors #EquityPartners

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) 16 years ago Baby Boomers David Wolf and Steve Weiner refused to accept that the promise of a college education would not be kept for this generation of Californians <https://collegecampaign.org/our-founding-story/>... #EquityChat

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) @maldef @calroundtable @ccleague agreed and joined to create an independent advocacy voice for #highered that is student centered and focused on expanding college access and success with equity #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) I remember @MALDEF actions so well! I can as working @WestValleyCC in the 80's and 90's as a DSPS instructor and seeing the over inclusion of POC in special Ed....#EquityChat

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) Exactly!

[@lamkeithcurry](#) @MSCollegeOpp. I started to work with @CollegeOpp, and the @CalCommColleges on the student-centered funding formula. Now I have you and your team @ADCollegeOpp @lindam\_v @JessieRyanSac on speed dial.

[@lindam\\_v](#) And vice versa [grinning squinting face] We have to stick together [raising hands]

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) And check out this picture of @SDMesaPrez @NoraVargasSD and me #precovid with @toniatkins talking about the funding formula



[@lindam\\_v](#) I was reading through old emails recently and I came across a job posting that @MSCollegeOpp has shared with me in 2011!! We were connected through a mutual friend b/c I was looking for jobs after grad school. Everything is meant to be for a true #equityavenger  
[@MSCollegeOpp](#) Leadership like yours is critical. You know exactly how funding supports your students or doesn't! And we are wiser through your counsel.

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) We love @uofcalifornia @calstate @calcommcolleges & will always fight for greater funding and make the case for public #highered in our state, but we have NEVER been afraid to also challenge the types of policies and practices that do not support student success #EquityChat

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) Access to college is not enough. Esp for low-income and minoritized students whose well-being and future depends not just on getting into college, but being supported to graduate with a cap and gown #EquityChat

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) I'm also proud that everything we have built over the last 16 years has been in partnership with amazing leaders (students, Presidents, faculty, community, civil rights, business) who believe in the importance of our work and mission #EquityChat

[@ADCollegeOpp](#) Our @CollegeOpp team is driven and committed to equity. Many were the first in their families to go to college and graduate. We're proud to have an org led by women that is racially/ethnically diverse. #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q3. @MSCollegeOpp How has our educational system adjusted due to COVID-19? Post COVID-19, how can our educational system improve to serve the most vulnerable student population? #EquityChat @lamkeithcurry

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) Herculean effort to quickly move all instruction online. Many campuses identifying tech & WiFi challenges students faced & quickly responded with solutions. #EquityChat

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) @uofcalifornia and @calstate going test optional Foundations like @collegefutures @ecmc @ballmer @weingartcenter @stupskifdn @stuart\_FND stepping in quickly to offer emergency student grants #EquityChat



[@MSCollegeOpp](#) Colleges can ensure student supports & the quality of online instruction. These are surreal and difficult times with no near end in sight, but if anyone can innovate & respond quickly to do the right thing it's highered #EquityChat

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) Also real time interventions and data disaggregated by race - it's critical to know what's happening to students and what supports they need now, not in a year.

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Agree-you have to disaggregate every [clapping hands] single time [clapping hands] decisions are made...CARES funds, scholarships, we've done it at every level @sdmesacollege

[@vikashreddy](#) A note about the data (that's what I do at @CollegeOpp) on broadband. @uscensusbureau data tells us that among Californians, ~20% of Black and Latinx residents do not have access to a computer with broadband at home. That number is 10% for White residents. (ACS Table S2802)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) That's why we quickly moved to connectivity -myfi hotspots, opened parking lots, connected students to free services...but we need universal access #EquityChat

[@vikashreddy](#) Awesome interim moves! One of the things that keeps me up at night, though, is that even 100% access could be inequitable if wealthier students able to access more bandwidth.

[@vikashreddy](#) As we re-imagine higher ed to suit a COVID world, course content will likely grow with more video lectures and other materials going online. Will our minority residents have sufficient bandwidth to access all the required content? We'll have to make sure they do! #equitychat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Indeed-I teach @SDSU\_CCLead and my online teaching workshop is kicking my patoot...it takes an incredible level of reflection and universal design to get this right...

[@vikashreddy](#) Not easy work, to be sure. But worth it when you get it right!

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) Crazy good innovation and rapid response! And yes, we need universal access: WiFi and Tech are more important than a pen and paper for students in K-12 and #highered We must fight to make it so! #EquityChat

[@lindam-v](#) I agree Michele. And leaders like @DrJfierro\_ @DrRickyShabazz Dr. Luster, Dr. Curry, Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez and many more who I spoke to earlier this year, had outlined this as being a top priority to ensure #studentsuccess. #equitychat

QT [@ADCollegeOpp](#) The investment in professional development of faculty to deliver quality online instruction is paramount in this environment when we don't know when we will return to a physical campus. I've been super impressed with leaders who are prioritizing good PD. #EquityChat

<https://twitter.com/SDMesaPrez/status/1281027146710839296?s=20>

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Be happy to share our work @sdmesacollege @sdmesaloft w/@katiepala @drjanueseaton @carasmulevitz

[@ADCollegeOpp](#) Yes!!!

[@katiepala](#) I am inspired by our new-to-online faculty venturing out of their comfort zones with us in #MesaBuddies this summer. They are crafting home pages, recording welcome videos, and reaching out for support along the way. Our mentors (buddies) are essential to our fail-friendly space!

[@katiepala](#) Shoutouts to @carasmulevitz @PMotaleb @KellyMSpoon @Dr\_Inna @Klacher0711 @JasonKalchik @DonnaDuchow @rootsscholars @MrV\_SDMesa @mkushkaki @ProfKhader @MesaArchiteach @MarkManasse @Maria\_Georgeee @dorasfernandez and so many others for being part of our buddies community!!

[@drjuanuejohnson](#) I am grateful for our team, our leadership, and the campus community. We are always working to embed equity and social justice into Professional Learning to support our students inside and outside of the classroom.

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q4. @MScCollegeOpp. How can college leaders and equity partners support each other with COVID-19, racism, and the many inequities in our educational system? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeOpp @lamkeithcurry #EquityChat  
[@MScCollegeOpp](#) First and foremost, during this crisis Audre Lorde's words on self-care have been my mantra #EquityChat

**“Caring for myself  
is not self-indulgence.  
It is self-preservation,  
and that is an act of  
political warfare.”**

—  
AUDRE LORDE

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Ok this ones going on my wall @MScCollegeOpp #EquityChat  
[@MScCollegeOpp](#) Second, find time for friends & allies who you can strategize & organize with, but also whom you can address the things that weigh heavily on you as a leader #EquityChat  
[@SDMesaPrez](#) Agree! I love to “noodle” w/ my team & colleagues #angelictroublemakers  
@ahandsintheair @VPI\_Isabel @LegaspiVp @DrRickyShabazz @lamkeithcurry @BridgetHerrin  
@DrLukeWood @DrPollard\_MC @PamEddinger @saragoldrickrab @SDCEPresident @kindredmurillo & so many more!  
[@MScCollegeOpp](#) #GoodTrouble !!!  
[@lamkeithcurry](#) I love #GoodTrouble  
[@PamEddinger](#) Yup. Come at me. I am in good company.  
[@SDMesaPrez](#) [red heart] [oncoming fist]  
[@MScCollegeOpp](#) Also my motto  
[@kindredmurillo](#) Agree...so important...#angelictroublemakers  
[@MScCollegeOpp](#) As a leader of @CollegeOpp, responsible for a team of bright and passionate colleagues it's what I wish for them and each of our partners in #highered. But I don't just wish it, I've tried to identify ways to support flexibility & creativity during these times. #EquityChat

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) I'm grateful for equity leaders who are incredibly partners and friends. They have been critical to me during this crazy hard year: @esarrillaga @aztlanlbre @alisondelucca @ds\_excelencia @MACooperPhD @shaunharper They inspire and conspire! #EquityChat

QT [@CollegeOpp](#) Yesssss!!!! Also, our sister & brother organizations and angelic troublemaker champions are the real deal @DrLukeWood @RyanSmithEd @chrisnellum @ebensimon @NoraVargasSD @DrJfierro\_ @marisaperez\_16. . @AccelerationCA @clporg @CalTog @SMAC\_CCSF @A2MEND2006

<https://twitter.com/MSCollegeOpp/status/1281024067642900480?s=20>

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) We hang out with incredible people!!! #EquityChat

[@lindam\\_v](#) I'd love to know what @DrRickyShabazz @JanetARivera1 @AbdimalikBuul @FoothillPrez @LSuarezAngelica @adaycsu @EloyOakley @Davidinsacto @daisygonzales @SenHJMitchell @tweetsbysonia think [raising hands] #equitychat

[@Davidinsacto](#) We have to keep coming back to our focus on antiracism and incorporate it into ALL of our policy priorities - financial aid, developmental ed, etc. For each of them we need to ask the question, "How does this advance equity/dismantle systemic racism?"

[@lindam\\_v](#) Yes — always lead with racial equity, it should not be a strand.

[@Davidinsacto](#) Much more concise and eloquent than I put it! Yes!

[@AbdimalikBuul](#) Absolutely it must be baked in not sprinkled on to the various departments and divisions of our institutions. It must be systemic & systematic to have the outcomes we desire! #EquityChat

[@AbdimalikBuul](#) A: Exercise courage to call in performative allyship & encourage transformational plans within institutional change agents! B: Empower stakeholders to move anti/racism efforts as opposed to outsourcing to consultants what your data and employees tell you.

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Agree @AbdimalikBuul ...sometimes it's hard to hold up the mirror...equity partners can do that-then-we get real

[@AbdimalikBuul](#) Absolutely & you've demonstrated that raw truth & vulnerability. Its also a paradigm shift of looking at leaders that are authentic as a sign of courage & strength & not weakness or CYA as a system we have 2 provide that space 4 folks to be called in & not out so they can grow!

[@daisygonzales](#) 1)Support #Prop16 2)Joint advocacy to secure resources for @CalCommColleges 3)Publicly acknowledge student outcomes, specially when they are difficult to accept 4)Promote campus promising practices by connecting colleges to private funds 5) celebrate CCC contributions

[@FrancesSan](#) #Noprop16 prop16 is not AA. It's gonna remove anti discrimination act from California's constitution!!

QT [@lindam\\_v](#) Adding to that: put together (and make transparent) action plans for how you will utilize survey results. #somanysurveys #letsseeaction

<https://twitter.com/AbdimalikBuul/status/1281027363527000066?s=20>

QT [@AbdimalikBuul](#) Absolutely @lindam\_v providing a framework to move from implicit bias 2 explicit action from emotion 2 cognition post trainings & data being presented has been a challenge! Many approach this work as complience instead of it being revolutionary & liberation work. #EquityChat

[https://twitter.com/lindam\\_v/status/1281028671818436608?s=20](https://twitter.com/lindam_v/status/1281028671818436608?s=20)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5. @MSCollegeOpp What are you reading? and what book(s) would you recommended we consider reading? #EquityChat @lamkeithcurry

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) Right now I'm loving and enjoying the following three books: The Years that Matter Most by @paultough (a blog is forthcoming), Tough Love by Susan Rice on audible, and The Poet X by @AcevedoWrites #EquityChat

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) I loved How to Be an Anti-Racist by @DrIbram & Equity Talk to Equity Walk by @ebensimon @tiabmcnair Lindsey Malcom-Piqueux both have excellent analysis of the challenges we face with strategies for facing them Both should be required reading for all college leaders #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Top of my lists as recs these days...also good to go with classics like Faces at the Bottom of the Well by Bell, anything by @GloriaLadson

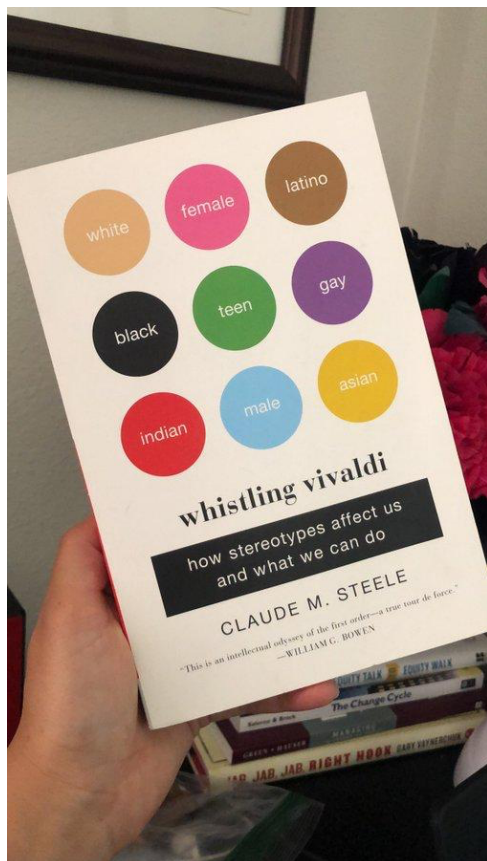
[@MSCollegeOpp](#) And because we all need some good fiction, I strongly recommend The Dutch House by Ann Patchett I may have ugly cried when it ended. And if you do Audible, the amazing @tomhanks narrates #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Love all of that-

[@ebensimon](#) Reading it now

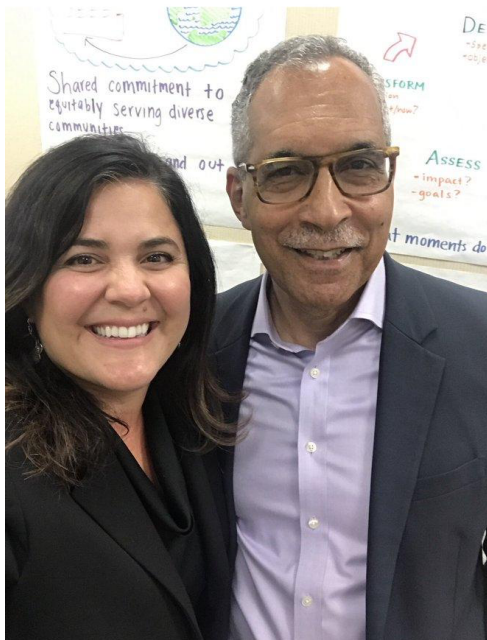
QT [@lindam\\_v](#) I am hijacking @MSCollegeOpp's feature chat [grinning squinting face] but I want to share what I am reading. I may be late to reading this but...better late than never! #whistlingvivaldi

<https://twitter.com/SDMesaPrez/status/1281025896397209600?s=20>



[@MSCollegeOpp](#) Three years ago I fan girl'd over the amazing Claude Steele





[@FoothillPrez](#) Claude Steele sightings...at Foothill College's Opening Day (Sept. 2017)! Dr. [@cmasonsteele](#) scholarship is especially critical in #STEMequity work.



[@MSCollegeOpp](#) Ok people .... today is post your pic with [@cmasonsteele](#) day!!!! [smiling face with heart-eyes]  
#EquityChat



[@FoothillPrez](#) [grinning squinting face]

[@iamkeithcurry](#) Q6. @MSCollegeOpp. If you could make three policy changes in our educational system, what are those changes? @iamkeithcurry, @SDMesaPrez, @MSCollegeOpp, @CollegeOpp #EquityChat.

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) 1) @yesprop16 and repeal Prop209 2) Fix Transfer from community colleges to our four-year universities once and for all! 3) Improve but mostly end remedial education in our colleges #EquityChat

QT [@ADCollegeOpp](#) Only 3?!

[keycap digit 1] CA needs a goal to close racial equity gaps in college going & completion

[keycap digit 2] A higher education coordinating board btwn K-12, CCC, CSU & UC

[keycap digit 1] End of Prop 209 to ensure racial equity in admissions, hiring & contracting #EquityChat

<https://twitter.com/iamkeithcurry/status/1281028062423822336?s=20>

QT [@lindam\\_v](#) So let's start with three — and here they are [backhand index pointing down]

1. Our state leaders must set a goal towards degree attainment w/ a focus on closing racial gaps

2. We need better cross-segment collaboration

3. Let's end #prop209 and vote for Prop16 this November #equitychat

<https://twitter.com/ADCollegeOpp/status/1281029705768943616?s=20>

[@FrancesSan](#) Prop16 is going to remove anti-discrimination act from California's constitution which would makes discrimination legally! Vote #noonprop16

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Thank you so much Michelle @MSCollegeOpp for joining us tonight! We've learned so much about @CollegeOpp & you! Join us next wk when our guest will be Dr Ivan Harrell, @TCCpres -Please continue to read and respond to this rich discussion! #EquityChat @iamkeithcurry #WeOut

[@MSCollegeOpp](#) And one more from the archives that time in 2017 I got the best tour of @compton\_college and my daughter stole the hoodie @iamkeithcurry gifted me. Wonder if she's planning on wearing it to @PCCLancer [face with monocle] #EquityChat





**EQUITY**  
AVENGERS

QT [@MSCollegeOpp](#) I had a blast! TY [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) and the entire [#EquityAvengers](#) community.  
[#EquityChat](#)  
<https://twitter.com/SDMesaPrez/status/1281031476792848384?s=20>  
[@SDMesaPrez](#) Join us...[@Twitter](#) get us an edit function!!!!