

September 23, 2020 #EquityChat
Dr. Daria Willis (@EvccPrez),
President of Everett Community College (@EverettCC)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Good evening and welcome to #EquityChat w/ your hosts @lamkeithcurry & @SDMesaPrez your #EquityAvengers Tinigh our guest is @EvccPrez Dr Daria Willis from @EverettCC! Good evening Dr Willis!

[@EvccPrez](#) Good evening! #equityavengers!

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q1. @EvccPrez 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 @lamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez

[@EvccPrez](#) I'm from the South, Ga to be exact. My father was a firefighter and mother worked at the postal service. I was a student parent, preggers at 19 and worked my way thru college. Became a college prez at 34 and loving every moment! @EverettCC #equityavengers

[@EvccPrez](#) Got three kiddies and an amazing hubby!

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q2. @EvccPrez. What is your definition of equity? How is equity-minded practice embedded in your work? @SDMesaPrez @lamkeithcurry #EquityChat @EverettCC

[@EvccPrez](#) When I wake up every day, I think about how hard it was for my mother to raise two kids on her own after my father died. The injustice she faced and the inequalities. I use those experiences to ensure equity in my day2day work. #equityavengers

[@EvccPrez](#) For me, equity means providing access and opps for all people regardless of how they look, where they're from, and their background. It means sacrificing your own for those who don't have and it means bringing others along with you so they too can give back.

[@prof_judy](#) Sorry typo on first. Would equity apply to supporting faculty?

[@ahandsintheair](#) 🙌

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

[@EvccPrez](#) @EverettCC is an amazing college in the #PNW we are located 24 miles north of seattle and serve over 18K students annually. We are home to the 5 Dimensions of Equity, where we aspire to create opps for our students and employees. #equityavengers

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Can you say more about the 5 dimensions of Equity @EverettCC?

[@EvccPrez](#) Yep! The pillars of the 5 DOE are #aspiration #access #achievement #economicprogress and #engagement We strive to advance equity and social justice through culture change on multiple levels. Hiring diverse faculty and staff, infusing

[@EvccPrez](#) Infusing culturally responsive pedagogy into our curriculum. Becoming the college that will help change society for the better. #equityavengers

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[@EvccPrez](#) Supporting students in the years to come. I love my college and the ability to transform lives every single day. #equityavengers

[@EvccPrez](#) Part of this job is handling a crisis. And we are living it today. Not what I expected as a new prez, but certainly up to the challenge. What doesn't kill you will only make you stronger and our students depend on us so we can't fail them. #equityavengers

[@EvccPrez](#) I've been prez for 14 months and it's been an amazing ride! This year we are embarking on the development of our new strategic plan, during a pandemic. This is the perfect time to think about the future, how we will innovate and continue

[@ahandsintheair](#) We are also embarking on a new strategic plan (#Mesa2030.) Our convo before & after March 2020 are distinctly different. I see a depth of equity-minded thinking, building with change in mind, norm-busting mindsets, a bit of audaciousness. This is indeed a perfect time to plan.

[@EvccPrez](#) I certainly agree!

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q4. @EvccPrez. How have @EverettCC adjusted due to COVID-19? Post COVID-19, how can @EverettCC improve to serve the most vulnerable student population? @SDMesaPrez @lamkeithcurry #EquityChat @EverettCC

[@EvccPrez](#) We have pivoted like every cc in the US. Moved to remote operations, raised emergency funds, distributed CARES Act dollars, purchased additional laptops and provided WIFI for students, offered food and housing options for students in need. #equityavengers

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Are you feeling like what you're doing/have done is impacting student outcomes?

[@EvccPrez](#) It's a double whammy when you are expected to make sure your child is learning, while working to keep food on the table, and earning your degree. The @AspenAscend group is helping us @EverettCC to answer these ?s and provide better services. #equityavengers

[@prof_judy](#) I'm curious. The CARES act dollars. Did that just go to students or how was it parsed out?

[@EvccPrez](#) We followed the regulations as set by DOE. Provided grants to students to support their tech needs. #equityavengers

[@prof_judy](#) I know this is outside of the chat. But what is your campus doing to manage the CARES money. Is it a committee? Is there oversight? Is it faculty and admin. Are there applications for students to apply for special funding?

[@SDMesaPrez](#) All of the above!

[@EvccPrez](#) Post COVID, @EverettCC is building a weekend college to serve our most vulnerable populations, developing a family resource center to provide support for student parents, developing BAS degrees, and so much more. #equityavengers

[@EvccPrez](#) Also gathering students to have a student parent advisory committee so they can inform us on their needs, and working to build more online opportunities in academic programs that are flexible to the needs of our special pops. #equityavengers

[@ahandsintheair](#) The Parent Resource Center and Parent Advisory group are nice touches. I'll be sure to visit your site for more details. Parent Resources would be great additions to our @sdmesathestand and Dreamer Resource Center.

[@EvccPrez](#) We are in the early stages of developing the Family Resource Center and student parent focus group. I want these resources in the same place as students shouldn't have to search for the resources they need. ❤️

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5. @EvccPrez How has @EverettCC engaged in anti-racism work? #EquityChat @lamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez

[@EvccPrez](#) We are also working with the City of Everett and the Police Chief to develop a culture of understanding, find additional ways to partner, and host a common read for the community and the college on what it means to be equity minded. #equityavengers

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Great effort-will be in contact would love to hear more #EquityChat

[@amberagd](#) Community connections are so important! #equityavengers

[@EvccPrez](#) Through the 5 Dimensions of Equity, we have provided trainings to other community colleges and organizations in our region. We conduct anti-racism trainings for employees and we also have a decentering whiteness group at the college. #equityavengers

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q6. @EvccPrez. Q6. How do you engage and prioritize the student voice @EverettCC in anti-racism work? @SDMesaPrez @lamkeithcurry #EquityChat @EverettCC

[@EvccPrez](#) @EverettCC is fortunate to have an amazing @EvCClife student LIFE department. I meet with their leadership and the executive committee and they bring any and all concerns my way to enhance student support services. #equityavengers

[@EvccPrez](#) They have discussed with me the need to continue diversifying our college and student reps are part of the tenure process for faculty. Their voice is critical in decisions across the college. #equityavengers

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q7. @EvccPrez What are you reading? And what book(s) would you recommend we consider reading? #EquityChat @lamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez

[@EvccPrez](#) I'm starting a book club with my leadership team next month. We will read Freedom is a Constant Struggle by Angela Davis. #equityavengers

[@SDMesaPrez](#) ❤️❤️❤️❤️

[@EvccPrez](#) I am reading So You Want to Talk About Race and Lower Ed. Both phenomenal reads. I'd also recommend Becoming. Gives such clarity and puts our daily struggles into perspective as we are working day in and day out on issues related to equity. #equityavengers

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Becoming is beautiful...

[@ahandsintheair](#) One of my all time favorites!

[@SDMesaPrez](#) TY soooo much @EvccPrez -we have learned much about you and @EverettCC. I'm ready to head to Seattle for a visit as soon as it's safe! We wish you well! Next week join for #freestyleWednesday as @lamkeithcurry& @SDMesaPrez answer your questions on #EquityChat #EquityAvengersout