

February 2, 2022 #EquityChat

Atif Qarni (@AtifQarni), Managing Director of External Affairs, Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice (@hope4college)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) It's Wednesday and it's time for #EquityChat w/your hosts @lamkeithcurry & @sdmesaprez sponsored by @CollegeFutures - tonight we host @AtifQarni, Managing Dir., External Affairs@hope4college @AtifQarni just finished a distinguished stint as SecEd of Virginia. Welcome Atif!!

[@AtifQarni](#) @SDMesaPrez I am very excited to be here with you this evening. Looking forward to next amazing hour engaged in #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Wonderful! Our first question will post at 5:05! Get ready to meet our guest #EquityChat tweeps! @hope4college @lamkeithcurry @equityavengers

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q1 @AtifQarni Our education, background, and experiences make us who we are. What are three things we should know about you that aren't on your resume? @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@AtifQarni](#) I love the Ravens and Bollywood Movies. I am an immigrant who had the #RealCollege experience attending college while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and holding down multiple jobs to cover my basic need expenses. @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) How fortunate we are that you've joined @hope4college as you have lived the #RealCollege experience, and have served our country, and have been in public service in VA!

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

[@AtifQarni](#) Equity to me means being nimble and taking a customized approach to support each individual in a holistic fashion to address their needs. In my work, I take this approach with each individual, team, and organization. #EquityChat

[@lamkeithcurry](#) How do you address racial equity within organizations/ institutions?

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q3 @AtifQarni. Tell us about @hope4college, and your work as Managing Director of External Affairs @hope4college. @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@AtifQarni](#) Working @hope4college is extremely rewarding. Our 50+ team members deeply care about the transformative work. We are focused on growing the #RealCollege movement to change systems to better support students' basic needs #EquityChat

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Still, waiting on my Hope gear? I think it's still in the mail? @saragoldrickrab, please confirm..

[@saragoldrickrab](#) Should be there any sec, my friend!

[@ahandsintheair](#) I felt like you were speaking to me @saragoldrickrab and got super excited. 😊

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Lol. That's a good one.

[@saragoldrickrab](#) They're coming they're coming! I promise!

[@ThuyThiTweets](#) 😂

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q4 @AtifQarni. How do the new #AmericanRescuePlan funds and guidance for using HEERF funds advance the ability colleges have to address students' basic needs. @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@AtifQarni](#) Some colleges are using HEERF for emergency aid from stimulus packages and some are forgiving Institutional Debt. #RealCollegeHBCU member [@Grambling1901](#) canceled \$1.5 million in institutional debt. #EquityChat

[@AtifQarni](#) Last month [@hope4college](#) [@saragoldrickrab](#) was invited to join [@SecCardona](#) [@FLOTUS](#) for an announcement for additional \$198M to support #RealCollege students' basic needs.

[@AtifQarni](#) Colleges can use HEERF to support #RealCollege students with childcare, food, housing, transportation, health care, etc. This link is the newly updated guidance from [@usedgov](#) <https://t.co/Mmz8lWsP3n> #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5. In what ways can colleges use HEERF funds more creatively under the guidance? [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@AtifQarni](#) Colleges can use HEERF to support #RealCollege students with childcare, food, housing, transportation, health care, etc. This link is the newly updated guidance from [@usedgov](#) <https://t.co/Mmz8lWsP3n> #EquityChat

[@ahandsintheair](#) How did I miss this? Thanks so much for sharing (the examples are fantastic)! My wheels are spinning!

[@SDMesaPrez](#) The beauty of #EquityChat

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q6 What are the next steps for advocating basic needs as a fundamental right? [@AtifQarni](#).

[@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@AtifQarni](#) Federal policymakers should:

1. Expand and make permanent emergency aid for students
2. Expand SNAP benefits
3. Remove barriers and rules in public benefit programs that prevent students from accessing resources to address their basic needs. #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q7 [@AtifQarni](#) What are you currently reading and what book(s) should we consider reading?

[@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@AtifQarni](#) For my Ed.D class, I am reading "Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most." The book focuses on how to listen effectively, give feedback, and manage conflict. Although, I read a lot about student basic needs.

😊 #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Adds to list!

[@saragoldrickrab](#) Such a good book.

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q8 [@AtifQarni](#). What gives you hope? [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@AtifQarni](#) We have ways to go in this journey as the #RealCollege movement grows. However, what gives me a lot of hope is that colleges and different levels of government are starting to pay attention to the basic needs of #RealCollege students. #EquityChat

[@ahandsintheair](#) [@sdmesacollege](#) is paying attention and is filling up your HOPE tank! Thanks for all of the tools, motivation and urgency you provide to help us keep basic needs at the center of our work!

[@SDMesaPrez](#) TY [@AtifQarni](#) for joining us on #EquityChat! We look forward to your keynote #RealCollegeCA #BasicNeedsSummit on 2/4/22! Next wk join us as we chat w/[@SaraWeissman](#) [@insidehighered](#) about #equitablerecovery & [@studentenrollment](#) [@Comm_College](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@equityavengers](#) OUT!

[@AtifQarni](#) Thank you President Luster for having me on. Best Wishes.

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Thank you so much and we will see you on Friday!

[@SaraWeissman](#) Looking forward!