

April 19, 2023

Lauren Asher, consultant & co-author

"Mapping Community College Finance Systems to Develop Equitable and Effective Finance Policy"

5:00 pm Pam

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster · 1m](#)

Welcome to #EquityChat sponsored by [@CollegeFutures](#) w/your [@equityavengers @lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil](#) & [@DrPamLuster](#) tonight's guest is [@LaurenA09130531](#) co-author of "Mapping Community College Finance Systems to Develop Equitable & Effective Finance Policy." Welcome Lauren!

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531 · 17s](#)

Replying to [@DrPamLuster @CollegeFutures and 3 others](#)

Thanks for having me join you today!

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531](#)

Excited to talk about equity in community college finance and our report.

<https://t.co/VJRcNyLiMI>

[5:05 pm] Tammeil

Q1 [@LaurenA09130531](#). What is your walk-up song or anthem as you engage in equity-focused work? [@HCMStrat @DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531 · 1m](#)

Toots and the Maytals' Louie Louie or The Weavers' If I Had a Hammer -- depends where I'm walking

[5:11 pm] Keith

Q2 [@LaurenA09130531](#). In the spirit of #CommunityCollegeAwarenessMonth, what do you think makes community colleges an integral piece of today's higher education landscape? [@HCMStrat @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531 · 25s](#)

Community colleges are a VITAL part of the higher ed landscape. They're the most accessible place to pursue interests and dreams & the most focused on building the skills our economy needs. When CCs serve all their students well, they move the needle towards equity.

[5:18 pm] Pam

Q3 [@LaurenA09130531](#). Tell us more about the [@HCMStrat](#) report you co-authored and why understanding how community colleges are financed is important. [@DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531·29s](#)

1/3 We mapped how community colleges are financed in 3 very different states—CA, OH, TX—to show how major revenue streams and policies combined create state-specific conditions and incentives for colleges.

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531·1m](#)

2/3 To make financing more equitable and effective, you first need to know what the current system is and does, and how a given change might actually play out. By looking under the hood of how CCs are financed, we found things aren't always what they seem.

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531·1m](#)

3/3 For example, our maps show the % of total revenue directly tied to student outcomes was 3% in TX, 8% in CA, and 42% in OH. Though each state has a student-centered funding formula, they differ in design and the % of total funding they control.

<https://hcmstrategists.com/resources/mapping-community-college-finance-systems-to-develop-equitable-and-effective-finance-policy>

[5:25 pm] Tammeil

Q4 @LaurenA09130531. What would you say are the “Big E” and “Small E” goals to achieve equity? What role do community college finance systems have in achieving these goals? @HCMStrat @DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531](#)

Community colleges need adequate funding to set their students up for success. State finance systems need to support and incentivize colleges to increase equity in access and outcomes. And students need the aid and resources that enable them to succeed.

[5:32 pm] Keith

Q5 @LaurenA09130531. I believe that budgets are a value statement. What should we know about our own state's community college finance system to make it more equitable and effective? @HCMStrat @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531·1m](#)

1/3 We found CA's finance system does a good job of funding community colleges equitably (in terms of resources/student) and providing equitable student access, including via low tuition (access in terms of enrollment vs costs to actually attend and complete).

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531·1m](#)

2/3 Taken as a whole, CA's community college finance system has a much more limited focus on equitable student outcomes than many assume. One positive element is providing additional upfront dollars to serve low-income students.

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531·1m](#)

Here's our map of CA's system so you can see for yourselves (source <https://hcmstrategists.com/resources/mapping-community-college-finance-systems-to-develop-equitable-and-effective-finance-policy...>)

[5:39 pm] Pam

Q6 @LaurenA09130531. To do this work, we must continue learning and partnering with others. Who/what is informing your practice? Who do you recommend we follow, and what are you learning from them? @HCMStrat @DrTammeil @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531·14s](#)

The list is too long for a tweet, so here are just a few in addition to the [#Equity](#) Avengers: [@EloyOakley](#), [@SuJinJez](#), [@EdTrustWest](#), [@MACooperPhD](#), [@cddull](#), [@mayawiley](#). I'm always, always learning about how to be more equity-conscious and effective in working towards justice.

[5:46pm] Tammeil

Q7 @LaurenA09130531. As you reflect on your work, what gives you hope? @HCMStrat @DrPamLuster @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531·1m](#)

I find hope in the passion and commitment of those working with students every day, and of students themselves. And here in CA, in how advocates and practitioners have come together to build support for meeting students' basic needs. And my own kid (sometimes) gives me hope.

[5:53 pm] Keith

Q8 @LaurenA09130531. Final question for tonight - what advice would you give to other equity practitioners? @HCMStrat @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531·2m](#)

Remember that working for equity and justice is a marathon and/or relay, not a sprint. Treat yourself and your colleagues with the same care and respect you bring to your cause and the students you serve.

[6:00 pm] Pam

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster·22s](#)

TY [@LaurenA09130531](#) for [#EquityChat](#) tonight & sharing your work! Next wk we wrap up [#CommunityCollegeMonth](#) w/ [@SSCCC OFFICIAL](#) student leaders [@DVC updates](#) [#ChanelleWin](#) [@Cuesta College](#) [#DariusJones](#) [@SacCityCollege](#) [#HailyHolsten](#) [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@equityavengers](#) OUT

[LaurenA @LaurenA09130531·12h](#)

Thanks to all to all of you for leading on equity in the CCC system!