

May 18, 2022 #EquityChat

David O'Brien (@Davidinsacto), Vice Chancellor of Government Relations, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (@CalCommColleges)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Hello! and welcome to #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures w/ your hosts @lamkeithcurry & @SDMesaPrez the @equityavengers ! Tonight we welcome @CalCommColleges VC @Davidinsacto ! This a busy time of year for our colleagues in Sac...so TY for joining us tonight David!

[@Davidinsacto](#) I'm so excited to be here tonight! I can't tell you how much I admire the work of the @equityavengers - can't wait for my first #EquityChat!

[@lamkeithcurry](#) I am so glad you are with us tonight.

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q1 @Davidinsacto. Our education, background, and experiences make us who we are. What are three things we should know about you? @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@Davidinsacto](#) First, I'm a proud product of @CalCommColleges myself! I attended Canada College in the Bay Area as a dual enrollment student, and I am so glad I had that opportunity. In many ways, it helped shape me into who I am today. #EquityChat (1/3)

[@Davidinsacto](#) Second, I've always believed in the power of higher education to create a more just and equitable society - my favorite part of my work is advocating on behalf of students, which I'm able to do both at @CalCommColleges and as a member of @castudentaid! #EquityChat (2/3)

[@Davidinsacto](#) Finally, I would note that I was raised with a love of travel. Nothing is more eye-opening than getting out of our bubble and seeing and interacting with people all around the world, from other cultures and societies. It's been the hardest part of COVID for me! #EquityChat (3/3)

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q2 @Davidinsacto. Tell us more about your current role as Vice Chancellor of Government Relations for @CalCommColleges. @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@Davidinsacto](#) My role is to elevate the priorities of the @CalCommColleges & Chancellor @EloyOakley through legislative and policy advocacy at the state and federal levels. In practice, that means supporting legislation that breaks down equity barriers and advances student success! #EquityChat

[@poppyfitch](#) A dream role!! 🍌🍌🍌🍌

[@Davidinsacto](#) I lead an incredible team of Government Relations (GR) advocates - follow us on Twitter @CCGRAdvocates! I'm fortunate enough to fight alongside heroes like @lindam\_v & @LizNavarette in this work - our #1 priority is giving our students the tools they need to thrive. #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q3 @Davidinsacto. What is your definition of equity? How is equity-minded practice embedded in your work? @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@Davidinsacto](#) Equity, to me, requires breaking down structural barriers that prevent those in marginalized groups from opportunities to thrive. For example, I had the ability to attend community college without needing to work, because I grew up in a middle-class household and my parents (1/2)

[@Davidinsacto](#) (cont.) could support me financially. That's an opportunity so many of our low-income students and students of color don't have. Nor can many of them work unpaid internships like I was able to. These things provided me with privileges I wasn't even aware of at the time. (2/x)

[@Davidinsacto](#) As an advocate for @CalCommColleges students, I look for legislation and policies that will allow students who did not have the privileges I had - by virtue of my skin color, gender, class I was born into - to have those exact same opportunities. (3/x)

[@Davidinsacto](#) I'll close with one practical example, one near and dear to my heart - Cal Grant reform! every student should be able to afford and succeed in college regardless of their, or their family's wealth. That's why we need to support #AB1746 and #FixFinancialAid for good. #EquityChat

[@poppyfitch](#) The time is now! TY for your leadership on this important reform!!

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Let's do this!!!

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q4 @Davidinsacto. From your perspective, how will the allocation of funds in @CAGovernor #MayRevise drive racial equity outcomes within the @CalCommColleges? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@Davidinsacto](#) There are several ways! Overall, the #MayRevise is probably the best budget our system has ever seen. The Governor's proposed #CCCRoadmap would formalize many of the Vision for Success goals our system enacted several years ago, and commit the State to their success! (1/3)

[@Davidinsacto](#) The Governor also proposes to continue towards full implementation of the #StudentCenteredFundingFormula which will help ensure our colleges have resources to better serve underrepresented students, students of color, and AB 540 students. (2/3)

[@Davidinsacto](#) Finally, the #MayRevise includes critical support for the hardest-working faculty in higher education, through the part-time faculty health insurance program, and much-needed capacity for the @CalCommColleges Chancellor's Office to continue supporting our colleges! #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5 @Davidinsacto. The #MayRevise provides unprecedented levels of support for @CalCommColleges, but what are the opportunities to further strengthen support before final approval? @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@Davidinsacto](#) In addition to the Governor's proposals, there are a few key areas the Legislature can continue to invest in our students - yep, you guessed it, I'm going to say financial aid! In addition to passing #AB1746 we hope the budget funds the #Calgrantequityframework too. (1/3)

[@Davidinsacto](#) There's also housing. Last year's budget provided the first major state investment in affordable housing for @CalCommColleges students, but we can go further and fund all of the housing projects our colleges are planning! Housing should be accessible for ALL students. (2/3)

[@Davidinsacto](#) I'll close by noting that the we are supporting #AB1705 by @ASM\_Irwin, but we recognize this work needs to include adequate resources for faculty and colleges to help students succeed. That's why we are supporting the bill \*and\* its accompanying budget request. #EquityChat

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q6 @Davidinsacto. How do the @CalCommColleges Chancellor's Office current priorities align with the proposed budget, and does the #MayRevise shift any these priorities? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@Davidinsacto](#) As noted, the #CCCRoadmap the Governor has proposed would align very closely with the #VisionforSuccess our system adopted in 2017. (Here's a refresher on the Vision if anyone needs it: <https://bit.ly/3NigorE>) For the first time, the Governor + Legislature would be (1/x)

[@Davidinsacto](#) (cont.) committing their support to our system, our students, and our goals. More importantly, the #MayRevise lays out a bold vision for the future of higher education in California. "College" as we know it is changing in ways we never could have predicted! What do I mean? (2/x)



[@Davidinsacto](#) Today, the @latimes reported that our State's largest K-12 school district, LAUSD, is projecting a 30% (!) decline in enrollment over the next decade. Even w/our system's enrollment challenges the last few years, this will trickle up to higher ed in ways we cannot predict. (3/x)

[@Davidinsacto](#) The #MayRevise contains several key provisions to protect our system - and our ability to serve students! - through an uncertain future. We need to adapt to serving adult learners, working students, student parents, and what we used to call "non traditional students." #EquityChat

[@poppyfitch](#) Agree <sup>100</sup>! This is the moment for community colleges to up our game in serving adult learners, parents and folks who need to upskill! Incredible possibility there - so many lives primed for transformation!

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q7 @Davidinsacto. What gives you hope? @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

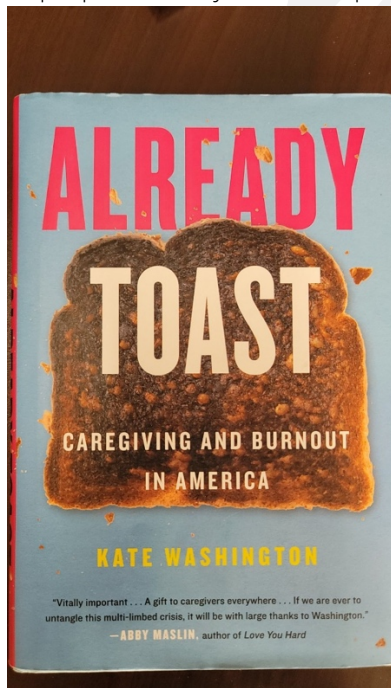
[@Davidinsacto](#) First and foremost, my colleagues! I work with an incredible team, several of whom I've mentioned here. Not a single coworker of mine is here for any other reason than a steadfast belief in our mission to reduce equity gaps and support our students. (1/3)

[@Davidinsacto](#) Speaking of which - as I noted earlier, I have the opportunity to work with so many amazing student leaders and interact with them directly. @SSCCC\_OFFICIAL is the official voice of our 1.8 MILLION students, and they are always led by such passionate and bright individuals. (2/3)

[@Davidinsacto](#) Finally, I would say that I have an incorrigible tendency towards optimism. I recognize that there are many setbacks, but there are simply too many good people in the world fighting for justice and equity for me to believe we can't succeed. (3/3) #EquityChat

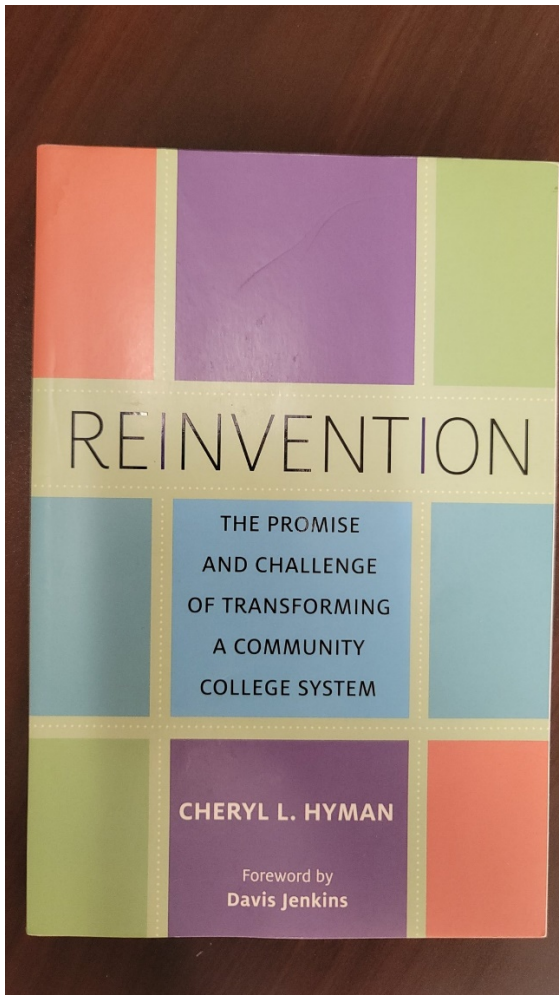
[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q8 @Davidinsacto. What's a favorite book you've read in the past year and why? What book(s) should we consider reading? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@Davidinsacto](#) I'll start with Already Toast by @washingtonkate - as someone who served as a caregiver for my father after a stroke and during his final years, we need to do a better job supporting our caregivers, who are disproportionately women & people of color: (1/3)

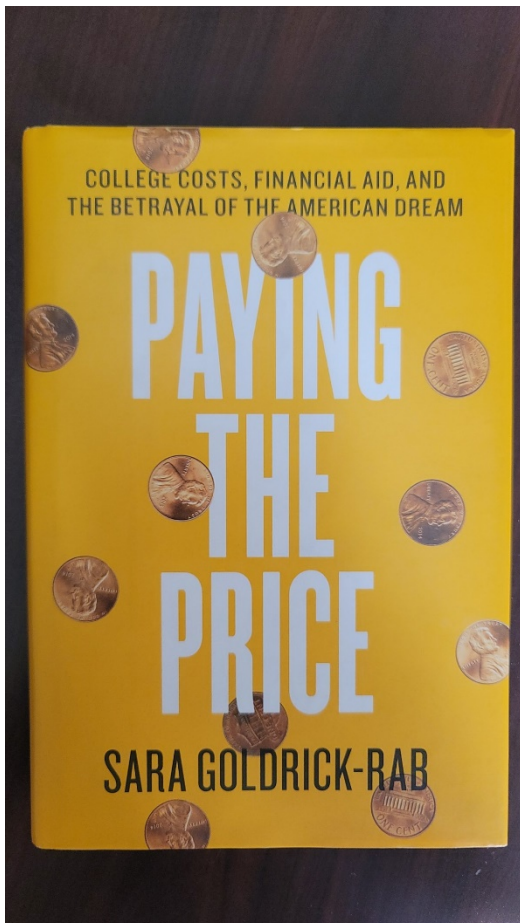


[@washingtonkate](#) Thank you so much!

[@Davidinsacto](#) I also learned a lot from Reinvention, by former City Colleges of Chicago chancellor [@Cheryl\\_L\\_Hyman](#) - her journey to embed equity and student success goals in Chicago's community colleges is very similar to ours in California, challenges and all: (2/3)



[@Davidinsacto](#) Finally - you didn't think I was going to wrap this up without another financial aid reference, did you?! Paying the Price by [@saragoldrickrab](#) is \*the\* essential reading for understanding college affordability, and the single book I recommend most to colleagues: #EquityChat



[@lamkeithcurry](#) That book changed my life.

[@saragoldrickrab](#) Thank you both so much. Wow.

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Me three- completely changed all of my equity work...

[@saragoldrickrab](#) I'm just glad my work has meant something. Thank you.

[@SBCC AD](#) Just downloaded!

[@SDMesaPrez](#) TY so much @Davidinsacto for sharing your work with us, and for giving us a bird's eye view of @CalCommColleges efforts! Tune in next week for #EquityChat @CollegeFutures - We will be announcing our next guest very soon! @lamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @equityavengers OUT!