

May 25, 2022 #EquityChat

David Baime (@DavidBaime), Sr. Vice President of Government Relations and Research, American Association of Community Colleges (@Comm_College)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Welcome to #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures Are you ready? Tonight we are hosting @DavidBaime, Sr. VP Government Relations & Research (AACC) @Comm_College follow along with us @SDMesaPrez & @lamkeithcurry and use #EquityChat hashtag. Welcome David!

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

[@DavidBaime](#) First – my entire career has been focused on higher education advocacy. I've worked for 30 years for AACC, truly an honor.

Second – I believe that listening to the other side is essential in everything you do, especially politics.

Third – Golden State rocks #EquityChat

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q2 @DavidBaime. Tell us more about @Comm_College and your current role as Sr. VP of Government Relations and Research. @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@DavidBaime](#) AACC is the leading federal community college advocacy organization, and I direct those efforts. Our sector needs to speak up for itself because no one else will do it. And the student voice is always the most potent! #EquityChat

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

[@DavidBaime](#) For me, an equitable society is one in which you would be comfortable in whatever place you had in it. Maybe that's utopia but it's my vision. AACC pursues this by advocating for policies that break down all barriers to developing a student's full potential. (1/2) #EquityChat

[@DavidBaime](#) So this ranges from financial support, to academic counseling, to mental health services, and a lot in between. In all these areas, the federal government has an essential role. (2/2) #EquityChat

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q4 @DavidBaime. From your perspective, what are the top current issues impacting community colleges nationwide and how has that informed @Comm_College's legislative priorities for 2022? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@DavidBaime](#) Some top issues include: increasing the Pell Grant maximum, enhancing support for Minority-Serving Institutions, and getting Pell Grant funding for short-term programs. And we remain strongly committed to free community college--everywhere! #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5 @DavidBaime. Can you provide information on the "Tax-Free Pell Grant Act" and how this benefits community college students? @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@DavidBaime](#) Congress is actively considering making Pell Grants non-taxable. This would greatly benefit our financially neediest students. It makes no sense to tax GRANT funds awarded on the basis of need. And this taxation disproportionately affects our students. Speak up! #EquityChat

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q6 [@DavidBaime](#). How can community college leaders partner with [@Comm_College](#) to better advocate for the needs of community colleges? [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@DavidBaime](#) Start with AACC: the CCDaily, Journal, and our social media. Follow us on Twitter. Most importantly, let AACC know what your needs are, and how federal decisions are impacting your campuses. Nothing replaces first-hand accounts of how our students are faring. #EquityChat

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

[@DavidBaime](#) This is so important. Actually, a lot of things give me hope. Politically, broad bipartisan support for student aid, especially Pell Grants, gives me hope. Increased political participation in recent years by young people gives me further hope. (1/2) #EquityChat

[@DavidBaime](#) Finally, the dynamism of our economy and society, coupled with our basic political institutions-- for all their faults--also give me deep and abiding hope. (2/2) #EquityCha

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

[@DavidBaime](#) "Every Drop of Blood" about Lincoln's 2nd Inauguration is a recent favorite bc reading about Lincoln always makes my heart swell. This book reminds us of the power of his amazing words and the tribulations that our nation has faced and to some extent surmounted. (1/3) #EquityChat

[@DavidBaime](#) I also recommend "Can College Level the Playing Field?," by Sandy Baum and Michael McPherson, because it clearly delineates the possibilities of higher education, as well as the ongoing challenges that it faces in promoting upward mobility in an unequal society. (2/3) #EquityChat

[@DavidBaime](#) And I also encourage reading poetry of anyone's choosing, because poetry reminds us of the beauty and the fragility inherent in our world. It can give us strength. My own favorite is the Irishman W.B. Yeats. (3/3) #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) ❤️✍️

[@SDMesaPrez](#) TY [@DavidBaime](#) for joining us for #EquityChat [@CollegeFutures](#) tonight! We know [@Comm_College](#) are in good hands with you! Join us next week as we jump into June! Wishing everyone a great end of spring semester. [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@equityavengers](#) OUT!