

June 1, 2022 #EquityChat

Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson (@DrTammeil), President of Evergreen Valley College (@OfficialEVC), Equity Avenger (@equityavengers)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Its Wed. night-and a special edition of #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures- tonight meet the newest #EquityAvenger @DrTammeil, President @OfficialEVC as we discuss her work & joining our team. Follow your hosts @SDMesaPrez & @lamkeithcurry use #EquityChat. Welcome Dr. G!

[@DrTammeil](#) I'm honored to be here! 🙏❤️ #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q1 @DrTammeil. Our education, background, and experiences make us who we are. What are three things that are essential to what make you, you? @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@DrTammeil](#) Being adopted into a multiracial family as one of seven children, growing up in the Bay, & recognizing that authentic love has the power to transform individuals and communities are three essential things that are core to who I am as a daughter, sister, mother, friend, & leader



[@SDMesaPrez](#) What a beautiful family @DrTammeil !

[@DrTammeil](#) Thanks, @SDMesaPrez. 🙏The picture is missing my father who passed away. My family has given me so much and shaped me in so many ways....it's hard to articulate. #EquityChat

[@DrTammeil](#) Crud...I'm not good at this twitter-thing! Sorry for forgetting to #EquityChat 🤦 P P. .

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

[@DrTammeil](#) To me, racial equity is on the road to racial justice. It is the intentional process of eliminating racial disparities & improving outcomes for everyone by intentionally & continually interrogating & changing policies, practices, systems, & structures by prioritizing (1/5?)

[@DrTammeil](#) measurable change in the lives of people of color. Racial equity transforms society to eliminate racial hierarchies and advance collective liberation where BIPOC have the resources, power, dignity, and self-determination to thrive. (2/5?)

[@DrTammeil](#) Suppose we are committed to racial equity & antiracist work. In that case, we must commit to interrogating the institutional systems & structures that contribute to these disparate outcomes through focused inquiry & action-planning at the course, program, service, policy (3/5?)

[@DrTammeil](#) & procedural levels. We cannot stay neutral in the struggle against racism. We must confront how racism, power, and privilege may show up in our curriculum and pedagogy and how we can work to address it. A focused commitment to racial equity in student success is essential (4/5)

[@DrTammeil](#) As a leader committed to inquiry, reflection, and action, I come to this work. I hope to stay continuously connected to the vulnerable act of learning to model that education is more than a static outcome but an ongoing transformative process. WHEW! (5/5)

[@DrTammeil](#) Sorry, dang...I keep forgetting #EquityChat. I wasn't built for Twitter character limits! 😂

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q3 [@DrTammeil](#). As the @ccleague Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce co-chair, can you tell us more about the Food Insecurity Brief released earlier this year? [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@DrTammeil](#) Yes! I'm so proud of the work of the Taskforce! Students are food insecure when they have limited or uncertain access to nutritionally adequate and safe food. The California Association of Foodbanks estimates one in four Californians confront food insecurity, (1/3) #Equity Chat

[@DrTammeil](#) 10 million individuals and rates of food insecurity are higher in Latinx and Black families with children. According to 2019 Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice's #RealCollege survey of approximately 40,000 students at 57 CA Community Colleges, (1/3) #EquityChat

[@DrTammeil](#) 50% of students recently experienced food insecurity. They were most likely to worry about running out of food before buying more, with many cutting the size or skipping meals due to lack of money. (2/3) #EquityChat

[@DrTammeil](#) This is a national epidemic and our system for funding higher education and defining what a "student" looks like is antiquated and exacerbates the racial inequities in our system. I think I misnumbered! #EquityChat
https://ccleague.org/sites/default/files/cclc_food-insecurity-report_2022_web_final.pdf

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q4 [@DrTammeil](#). Tell us about #RealCollegeCA and the benefits of being a Coalition member.

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

[@DrTammeil](#) The #RealCollegeCA Coalition was established in 2019 to create institutional cultures on our campuses that recognize that securing access to food & housing is essential to students' academic success. It should be treated as a top educational priority. (1/3) #EquityChat

[@DrTammeil](#) The #RealCollegeCalifornia Coalition is about increasing institutional effectiveness to advance basic needs work and build internal capacity to implement and advocate for policy change that enhances and operationalizes programs designed to support students. (2/3) #Equitychat

[@DrTammeil](#) Being part of this coalition gives access to campus support, a practitioner network, attendance at the annual Basic Needs Summit, and signifying the importance and support for this essential work. We must make folks understand that Basic Needs is equity work. (3/3) #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5 [@DrTammeil](#). What are you most excited about joining the @equityavengers team? [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@DrTammeil](#) I genuinely believe we have the capacity in our institutions to improve outcomes for historically marginalized students. I'm excited to be in a space to think critically & creatively with #EquityAvenger partners bringing support, research, & change 4 racial justice. #EquityChat

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q6 [@DrTammeil](#). What's a favorite book you've read in the past year and why? What book(s) should we consider reading? [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@DrTammeil](#) I have been doing some deep equity work with [@OfficialEVC](#) faculty around humanizing our curriculum and instruction over the last two years. I recently reread bell hooks, Teaching to Transgress: Education as a Practice of Freedom. She drops mad knowledge about (1/3) #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) It's on my reread list for summer!

[@DrTammeil](#) pushing the boundaries to challenge racism, sexism, and classism and create a sense of what it means to be an educator. It is a must-read for conceptualizing a liberatory education (2/3) #EquityChat

[@DrTammeil](#) I also read the novel The Light We Lost by Jill Stantopolo one day. I thought it was beautiful. When I finished I thought...this is why people write books. How lucky I am! (3/3) #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q7 [@DrTammeil](#). Last question for tonight. What gives you hope? [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@DrTammeil](#) Today [@officialEVC](#) faculty member who participated in my 1st Humanizing Curriculum & Instruction cohort wrote me about the impact of the project she was funded to do to decolonize her Western Art History course. She shared this note from her student...(1/3) #EquityChat

[@DrTammeil](#) here is part of the text: "The intention of this note is to simply say thank you for introducing me to some really astounding artists that are outside of mainstream attention. Your textbook exposed me to some awesome BIPOC, queer folks, and women artists that I (2/3) #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) That is really cool

[@DrTammeil](#) don't think I would've been introduced to in another class setting or at least to the amount of people you put into your work." Seeing this transformation of a faculty member and a student GIVES me tremendous HOPE. (3/3) #EquityChat

[@poppyfitch](#) Thank you for your work and for this story. I came to #EquityChat tonight looking for the answer to this question, specifically, because we all need an extra shot of hope RN. Your answer shows the impact of our efforts when undertaken with ❤️ 🙏

[@DrTammeil](#) Grateful to be in this ♥ work with you!

[@SDMesaPrez](#) You can see why [@DrTammeil](#) was a natural to join [@equityavengers](#) team! Excited to expand our work! See her soon in our #EquityChat [@CollegeFutures](#) sessions! Next wk. join us for [@RebekahCearley](#) #CtyFacilitiesConsortiumfor a discussion on housing! [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) OUT!