

June 8, 2022 #EquityChat

Rebekah Cearley (@RebekahHCearley), Legislative Advocate, Murdoch Walrath & Holmes

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Its Wednesday, and even when my fave team the @warriors are in the #NBAFinals2022 we are hosting #EquityChat w/special guest @RebekahHCearley, Legislative Advocate, Murdoch Walrath & Holmes. Follow hosts @SDMesaPrez & @lamkeithcurry and use #EquityChat hashtag to join us!

[@RebekahHCearley](#) Please don't ask me about basketball!

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Seriously go lakers.

[@SDMesaPrez](#) I gotchu !

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q1 @RebekahHCearley. 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

[@RebekahHCearley](#) I grew up in Manassas, a Civil War battlefield town in Northern Virginia, where @washingtonpost was my local newspaper. It's no wonder I work in politics. #EquityChat (1/3)

[@RebekahHCearley](#) I moved to CA to attend @UCBerkeley, where I studied political science and was president of a 1,300-member student housing non-profit. Years later – I am now working on student housing policy! @bsc\_coop (2/3)

[@RebekahHCearley](#) I love supporting children and being a mom. I serve on the Board of Directors for an amazing non-profit helping youth in crisis in residential and out-patient treatment programs – the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento. @CRHkids (3/3)

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q2 @RebekahHCearley. Tell us about your role with Murdoch, Walrath, & Holmes and your work as a legislative advocate. @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@RebekahHCearley](#) I am an advocate for Community College Facility Coalition, working to ensure community colleges have resources to address their facilities needs. <http://caccfc.org> I also represent K-12 schools on facilities issues at the Coalition for Adequate School Housing. (1/2)

[@ConnieG815](#) Did you see that report last week at a HS in Chula Vista? Students began documenting the facility needs across their campus. It was heart break to see that they attend school in that type of environment.

[@RebekahHCearley](#) So much work to do! K-12 local control and subsidiarity now demand that type of local involvement, to make the case to fund repairs. It is difficult to divert funds from core instruction to things like facilities, but it directly impacts student learning.

[@RebekahHCearley](#) Any dollar the state provides helps! That's why we need a new state bond to fund our future facility needs.

[@RebekahHCearley](#) This work makes an impact on colleges, schools, students, & communities. I was part of the core team that placed Prop 51, the 2016 state school bond, on the ballot and educated CA voters about it. With those funds already committed, there is more to do! #EquityChat (2/2)

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

[@RebekahHCearley](#) I look at equity through the lens of government and our public institutions. Policies have a profound impact on the experience of individuals, and the details matter. There is often a disconnect between the intention of a policy – well-meaning goals – and the outcome. (1/2)



[@RebekahHCearley](#) We need to scrupulously examine the impacts of our policies, use the tools of government to dismantle systemic inequities, and build up/support individuals. Equity is about opportunity for ALL, and our laws/policies should proactively support that. #EquityChat (2/2)

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q4 [@RebekahHCearley](#). Based on your legislative advocacy experience, why is it important to build new facilities and student housing at community colleges? [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@RebekahHCearley](#) Facilities are directly linked to educational outcomes & student success. We need modern facilities to educate the workforce of tomorrow. Elements like daylighting & indoor air quality improve health & learning. All students deserve safe, functional classrooms. (1/2)

[@RebekahHCearley](#) 35% of CA's CCC students reported housing insecurity or homelessness in 2020, per [@SCANPH](#). Housing security is fundamental to student success. Think Maslow's Hierarchy of Need – our basic needs must be met before we can excel and achieve our potential. #EquityChat (2/2)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5 [@RebekahHCearley](#). What are some 2022-2023 budget priorities for student housing and facilities that you see having the strongest positive impact to student success? [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@RebekahHCearley](#) Thank you to #CALeg for supporting an additional \$2 billion in #CABudget for student housing projects, in addition to SB 169's \$2 billion over 3 years (\$1 billion dedicated to CCC projects). This is the state's first investment in community college student housing! (1/2)

[@lamkeithcurry](#) [@compton\\_college](#) is on the list for funding.

[@SDMesaPrez](#) We are so excited about this work! Hoping that we will see more resources for [@CalCommColleges](#) !

[@saragoldrickrab](#) Curious for any thoughts on ways in which community college housing might differ from university housing? Are there plans to work against the tendency for it to be overpriced, for example?

[@RebekahHCearley](#) Yes, great question! We are looking at ways to reduce the cost of construction - which connects directly to student rents. Educational facilities are built to the highest standards = high costs.

[@saragoldrickrab](#) Interesting. Another cause is the unnecessary focus on very large rooms, amenities, social space etc- which most students would prefer to trade off in exchange for lower price point.

[@RebekahHCearley](#) When I was in school, I lived in a non-profit cooperative with below-market rents in a pricey city. We kept rents low by doing the work (cooking, cleaning, maintenance) ourselves. But we can't expect all students to be able to do this, and take the focus off learning!

[@saragoldrickrab](#) Interesting. That's the model Southern Scholarship Foundation is using in FL. Worth connecting with them!

[@RebekahHCearley](#) State SB 169 grant funds will deepen affordability and directly lower rents in much-needed student housing facilities across the state. Student housing is an excellent way to maximize state resources – every bed on campus frees up a unit in the local community. #EquityChat (2/2)

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q6 [@RebekahHCearley](#). How can educators get involved in advocacy and why is it important for them to do so? [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@RebekahHCearley](#) Be active in your professional associations, and heed the call to action when it comes! Elected officials are looking for ways to support their local communities. In this time of major one-time revenues, they can bring home resources but often need help prioritizing. (1/2)



[@RebekahHCearley](#) Contact your state lawmakers & ask them to support \$\$ for student housing and the CCC capital outlay program. Educators know what students & colleges need to be successful – use your voice to amplify our message and personalize the request for #CALeg members! #EquityChat (2/2)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q7 [@RebekahHCearley](#). What's a favorite book you've read in the past year and why? What book(s) should we consider reading? [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@RebekahHCearley](#) Do other busy moms of 3 have time to read books? Podcasts are how I currently learn & grow while on the go. Check out podcast Nice Try! – Ep. 3 Levittown/Concord Park for a quick & fascinating look at historical housing policy. #EquityChat (1/2)

[@RebekahHCearley](#) Goodnight, Moon will forever be a favorite. "Goodnight nobody" is very meta. For indulgent self-reflection, I enjoyed Sally Rooney's novels this year (Normal People, Conversations with Friends). (2/2)

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q8 [@RebekahHCearley](#). Last question for tonight. What gives you hope? [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@RebekahHCearley](#) A shifting focus to better support young people through state policies & programs. Such as creation of a universal transitional kindergarten grade level to serve all 4 year-olds in public schools by 25-26, and meeting basic needs of our young adults in community college. (1/2)

[@ConnieG815](#) Universal TK, YES!!!

[@RebekahHCearley](#) Seeing the joy on my 1 year-old's face when I drop him off at "school" each morning to learn and play with his friends. Watching our 9 year-olds deep in their books, screens off, brains on fire. #EquityChat (2/2)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Thank you so much [@RebekahCearley](#) for sharing your wonderful work with us on #EquityChat sponsored by [@CollegeFutures](#) -its been awesome to share this space! We will be announcing our next guest very soon! [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@equityavengers](#)