

September 8, 2021 #EquityChat

Dr. Joseph I. Castro (@JosephICastro), CSU Chancellor (@calstate)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Welcome back to #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures and hosted by @SDMesaPrez & @lamkeithcurry. Today, we kick-off Season 2 where we'll focus on equity practitioners doing the work. We're excited to have CSU Chancellor @JosephICastro @calstate as our first guest! Welcome!

[@JosephICastro](#) I'm honored to be part of #EquityChat!

[@DoxieMamacita](#) Dr. Castro is the pride of the Central Valley!! 🙌

[@JosephICastro](#) Aww..Thank you!

[@DoxieMamacita](#) I miss you Chancellor Castro! [crying face] #FresnoState #BulldogPride

[@JosephICastro](#) I miss my Central Valley home too. I am serving you all from Long Beach now!

[@DoxieMamacita](#) [GIF: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1435812082742534149>]

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q1 @JosephICastro. Tell us about @calstate, and your work with @calstate. @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@JosephICastro](#) I am focused on making the @calstate stronger and more equitable for our students, faculty, and staff. We serve almost 500,000 diverse students and have over 50,000 faculty and staff. #EquityChat

[@JosephICastro](#) The @calstate is the largest and most diverse public university in our nation!

[@JosephICastro](#) We have 23 incredible campuses from @humboldtstate in the north to @SDSU in the south!

[@JosephICastro](#) The @calstate serves students from all backgrounds and provides them with a quality degree at an affordable price. #EquityChat

[@JosephICastro](#) I love that over half of our students come to @calstate from our incredible community colleges throughout California! #EquityChat

[@carmelnikki](#) I'm a proud graduate of @SFSU, birthplace of Ethnic Studies! So grateful for my experience there!

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q2 @JosephICastro. Our education, background, and experiences make us who we are. Please tell us three things about you that are not on your resume. @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@JosephICastro](#) I am first and foremost a father to three wonderful children, two of whom are adults now and attended @calstate. All have attended public schools. #EquityChat

[@JosephICastro](#) Second, I am absolutely committed to our Golden State of California. I was born and raised here and love it, warts and all! #EquityChat

[@JosephICastro](#) Third, I was the first in my family to attend and graduate from a university. Higher ed transformed my life. I have dedicated my career to paying it forward. #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Me too! Proud alum of @SJSU & now teach @SDSU @SDSU\_CCLead

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

[@JosephICastro](#) True equity exists when all of us have the opportunity and support to thrive. That is what I aspire to create with my @calstate colleagues. #EquityChat

[@JosephICastro](#) Equity-minded practice presents differently based on setting. It may be significant policy changes at the macro level and it may be interventions at the micro level. Advancing equity has to occur at all levels and decision points. #EquityChat

[@JosephlCastro](#) Equity-minded practices also entails the examination of student outcomes by looking not only at the whole, but of multiple disaggregations of student populations and then responding — to the best of our ability — to the needs of different populations. #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) This is my approach too-levers than are pushed and pulled at the micro and macro level leading to equitable policies and practices. Culture of risk taking & relationships are key #EquityChat @JosephlCastro

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q4 @JosephlCastro. Many @calstate institutions have implemented many student success strategies. Which one are you most proud of? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@JosephlCastro](#) That's a tough one. I was an EOP student at Berkeley and it made a huge difference in my life. I love the EOP programs across the @calstate. #EquityChat

[@JosephlCastro](#) We also have newer programs like summer enrollment mini grants to get students across the finish line and focused student success programs like the Male Success Alliance at several @calstate campuses. #EquityChat

[@JosephlCastro](#) We established the DISCOVERe Program @Fresno\_State while I was there. It provided technology access to over 18,000 students. This Fall, we launched CSUCCESS, which is serving students at eight @calstate campuses. #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5 @JosephlCastro. Tell us more about the @calstate Global Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Equity Innovation Hub, established in partnership with @Apple and @CAGovernor @GavinNewsom. @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@JosephlCastro](#) The Hub will be a resource to help strengthen the pathway from K-12 to community colleges and then to @calstate. #EquityChat

[@JosephlCastro](#) I am ecstatic about this new initiative. The @calstate Equity Innovation Hub @csunorthridge is pathbreaking! It will help to unleash the talent that exists throughout CA and the nation by supporting underrepresented students to go into STEM careers. #EquityChat

[@JosephlCastro](#) The Hub will work in collaboration with other @calstate campuses and HSI's across CA and the nation to accelerate educational equity while ensuring students have the skills to succeed once they have earned their degrees. #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) This sounds like a great opportunity to partner across HSI's like @sdmesacollege

[@JosephlCastro](#) Yes! Let's do it!

[@ahandsintheair](#) I'm so glad this comment has been captured in this public setting :). We'd love to partner.

[@TophamSusan](#) I want in! Let me know how I can help make this happen! :)

[@JosephlCastro](#) Initial funding for the Hub comes from Apple and the State of California. Thank you @GavinNewsom!

[@rossbiology](#) With this project, and also #CSUCCESS, I advocate for engaging California's Apple Distinguished Educators to support the integration of technology and instruction, inclusion, engagement and outreach. An effective program hinges on instructors!

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q6 @JosephlCastro. How has @calstate responded to students' needs related to affordability, food & housing Access during the COVID-19 pandemic? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@JosephlCastro](#) Technology has helped to bridge the digital divide and the @calstate responded during the pandemic with broad delivery of devices and hotspots to students. We provided about 18,000 devices alone @Fresno\_State when I was there. And now we have launched CSUCCESS! #EquityChat

[@JosephlCastro](#) The @calstate has responded aggressively to basic needs both before and since the pandemic started. I led the establishment of one of the first comprehensive food security initiatives in 2014 with @StudentCupboard @Fresno\_State. #EquityChat



[@JosephICastro](#) Basic needs programs across the @calstate adopted creative strategies to deal with food, housing and technology insecurity.

[@JosephICastro](#) Campuses established mutual aid agreements in which students could access the food pantry at a sister @calstate campus if it was near their home.

[@JosephICastro](#) Funding from the legislative rapid rehousing allocation was utilized to support on-campus housing for students who were homeless. #EquityChat

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

[@JosephICastro](#) The 500,000 students I serve give me great hope for the future. They are strong, bold and resilient. So do our 50,000 faculty and staff, who are passionate about our mission. #EquityChat

[@ahandsintheair](#) Great answer!

[@JosephICastro](#) I also have hope because we live in the Golden State of California! We lead the way for our nation and world. I am excited about our future work together with K-12 and community college leaders like both of you! Thank you!

[@JosephICastro](#) I also have hope because our elected officials in Washington DC and Sacramento are aligned in their vision for higher education. We need to double the maximum Pell Grant and ensure that DACA students get Pell Grants to help them succeed. #EquityChat

[@ahandsintheair](#) This gives me hope, too!

[@ahandsintheair](#) Great question!

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q8 [@JosephICastro](#). We've been compiling an ever-growing list of book recommendations from our guests. What are you currently reading and what book(s) should we consider reading? [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@JosephICastro](#) I love to read and to listen to podcasts. I listen to The Daily each morning and I love to read. In the last few months, I've read A Promised Land by President Obama, Johnathan Alter's book on Jimmy Carter (His Very Best) & Jon Meacham's book about John Lewis. #EquityChat

[@JosephICastro](#) And the Spotify series of discussions between President Obama and Bruce Springsteen is really wonderful, especially the parts about being a good father.

[@SDMesaPrez](#) TY [@JosephICastro](#) We are so fortunate to have you on our kick-off to Season 2! Tune in next week – same time, same place – for more #EquityChat. We continue with our @calstate guests hosting [@CSUDHPrezParham](#) [@DominguezHills](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [@equityavengers](#) OUT!