

October 20, 2021 #EquityChat

Dr. Eric Bishop (@OhlonePresident), Superintendent/President Ohlone Community College District (@OhloneCollege)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Welcome back to another #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures & hosted by @SDMesaPrez & @lamkeithcurry. We had a last minute guest change due to a schedule conflict, but we're happy to have Dr. Eric Bishop @OhlonePresident @OhloneCollege joining us today! Welcome Dr. Bishop!

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q1 @OhlonePresident. Our education, background, and experiences make us who we are. What are three things about yourself that are essential to what make you, you? @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat  
[@OhlonePresident](#) @lamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat My life experience of growing up poor, with a great understanding of the potential of how education had the potential to change my trajectory; my love and passion for students; and my desire to see all people reach their potential drive me.

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q2 @OhlonePresident. Tell us about @OhloneCollege and what challenges you've faced with the return to campus this semester. @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat  
[@OhlonePresident](#) The greatest challenges have been navigating the constant changes to health guidelines while ensuring, first that people are safe, second we are serving students appropriately, and third, people's personal anxieties about their own health and agency. @SDMesaPrez @lamkeithcurry

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q3 @OhlonePresident. How have you navigated the culture shift to equity in higher ed, particularly as a newer community college president? @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat  
[@OhlonePresident](#) The navigation of the equity conversation is a comes from a internal place. As a new President it was about being true to myself, my core and intentional and unwavering in the commitment. It means taking risks.  
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[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q4 @OhlonePresident. What is your definition of equity? How is equity-minded practice embedded in your work? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat  
[@OhlonePresident](#) Equity is about ensuring the least of these have what they need to be whole and successful. It is not about giving everyone the same. It is being intentional at drilling down to the needs. (1/2) @lamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat  
[@OhlonePresident](#) Embedding equity-minded practices means embedding equity-minded structures rather than programs, such as budget, curriculum, policy & hiring. (2/2) @lamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5 @OhlonePresident. Looking back at the past year, what type of professional development is needed for new presidents? @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat  
[@OhlonePresident](#) The key for new presidents is mentoring. And mentoring that addresses real, in-time situational advice. Meeting and talking with others in the same situations and those who have navigated the waters before is key. (1/2) @lamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat  
[@OhlonePresident](#) (2/3) Learning and remembering our agency and that we are prepared and can do this is also invaluable. The moments of doubt are real, so we have to engage and not be isolated. The constant webinars, etc.  
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[@OhlonePresident](#) (3/3) The COVID year was hard because we could not sit in a space together to learn from each other. The lack of personal engagement at conferences, etc., or to visit each other was hard and I think necessary. @SDMesaPrez @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q6 @OhlonePresident. What advice do you have for new presidents? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@OhlonePresident](#) We have to stop and remember that we chose to sit in these roles with the intention of bringing the best to education. That we are capable and have to be intentional about leading confidently and unapologetically. (1/3) @lamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@OhlonePresident](#) (2/3) Recognize that we need to also lead with compassion and humanity. You have to give yourself outlets to remind yourself that you are not alone nor crazy. @lamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@OhlonePresident](#) (3/3) Know that politics is a crucial part of the position at all levels, lean on those who have navigated the spaces before to survive. You may be alone on campus, but you are part of a group who is invested in your success. @lamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q7 @OhlonePresident. What are you currently reading and what book(s) should we consider reading? @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@OhlonePresident](#) I am currently rereading "Nobody" by Marc Lamont Hill. One that I am reading and recommend is "Long Time Coming," by Michael Eric Dyson. They are real, honest, truthful, moving and pertinent at a deeper level than education. @SDMesaPrez @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q8 @OhlonePresident. We're at our last question for the evening. What gives you hope? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@OhlonePresident](#) (1/2) have hope in the same thing that brings me disappointment...humanity. My hope rests in the belief that at the end of it, people will do the right thing, be good people, care about our fellow humans. @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@OhlonePresident](#) (2/2) Yet we continue to slip up and disappoint on being good persons. But without that hope, I would be paralyzed. @SDMesaPrez @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) TY @OhlonePresident for joining us today and sharing your experiences. Join us again next week – same time, same place – for more of #EquityChat. We'll announce our next guest soon! Until next time, @SDMesaPrez @lamkeithcurry @equityavengers OUT!