

December 8, 2021 #EquityChat

Dr. Mark Milliron (@MarkMilliron), Sr. VP & Executive Dean of Teachers College at Western Governors University (@wgu)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q1 @MarkMilliron. Our education, background, and experiences make us who we are. Please share three things that we should know about you. @iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#) Thanks for letting me join the mix!@iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#) Grew up in a wonderfully rowdy and diverse family of 9 kids—including African-American, Korean, & Native American siblings. Also had 25+ foster kids who flowed through our house—most were special needs kids. @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#) Was first in family to get a degree & @mesacc @mcccd was my door opener. Was a confused mess when I started, busing tables, trying to make rent & figure things out. \$16 a credit hour, amazing faculty & good friends made it all doable. @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#) I'm now blessed w/ what Mom calls a "starter family": wife & 4 kiddos. I also do a lot of youth coaching, mainly basketball, from rec to AAU. Also, co-authored a children's book w/ my daughter during the pandemic! <https://thesugarchair.com> @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Wonderful! Looks fun

[@iamkeithcurry](#) Q2 @MarkMilliron. Tell us about @wgu, and your work as Sr. VP and Executive Dean of Teachers College @wgu. @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#) Fell in love w/ @WGU in 2003 when I joined Board of Trustees--remember when we were thrilled abt this nonprofit access innovator reaching 800 students! We're now at 130,000+ across all 50 states, w/ 70% underserved/nontraditional students. @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#) Now I'm blessed to lead @WGU Teachers College, largest COE in the country (+33K fulltime students, 60k grads in 20 years), nonprofit, founded w/ \$10M grant from @usdoegov --big programs in STEM, SPED & next generation teaching and leading. @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#) @WGU Teachers College is also deeply committed to catalyzing community connections (<http://wgu.edu/learningcommunity>) and championing the notion of "Health Learning" in access institutions <https://gettingsmart.com/2021/11/22/leading-together-toward-healthy-learning/> @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#) Next year, @WGU TC will roll out MS degrees in (1) Higher Education Leadership anchored in access, equity, & innovation; & in (2) Learning Experience Design & Ed Tech. We want to be a part of visioning a "new possible" in higher edu! @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#) BTW, if you want more on WGU's Teachers College history and impact -- check out this neat piece on "Championing a Better Way to Learn" <https://t.co/mVkr5eYdb4>

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

[@MarkMilliron](#) My basic definition of equity in edu is the commitment to do the work to SEE each student & SERVE each student. Both matter for an equity commitment to have impact. At @WGU we call this our commitment to serving students "one by one". @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#) Our provost @marnibstein & her team are partnering w/ all of our colleges & all operations doing deep work on DE&I across the institution, from how we develop curriculum to how we shape our community of care to support each student. @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

[@iamkeithcurry](#) Q4 [@MarkMilliron](#). How does [@wgu](#) support DEI, particularly with Teachers College [@wgu](#) being the largest college of education in the U.S.? [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#). [@WGU](#) TC weaves it into our working vision, which through an equity lens reads: we prepare next-gen teachers & leaders to see & serve each student; for this to happen, they must experience an institution that sees & serves each student. [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#). Over the last year, we've also completed deep DEI curricula analysis, revamped our professional core, & engaged our student teachers and alumni around equity issues. See <https://youtu.be/ycR8znzNWmY> for a [@WGU](#) TC example. [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5 [@MarkMilliron](#). Coming from an online institution, what insights do you have to share regarding the impacts of the pandemic on higher ed and education in general? [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#). We're making the case that we shouldn't rush back to normal, or even a new normal (normal wasn't working for a lot of folks), but to learn from pandemic to build out a "new possible".

https://realdleareducation.com/articles/2021/08/25/a_new_possible_in_education_110625.html [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#). In addition, [@WGU](#) partners w/ more than 500 community colleges in transfer agreements & in innovation sharing. We can be better together going forward! Good example here from ACC.

<https://sites.austincc.edu/cs/apt/> [@accdistrict](#). [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Agree!

[@iamkeithcurry](#) Q6 [@MarkMilliron](#). What are some creative ways [@wgu](#) has implemented support for students in a distance learning environment? What advice do you have to share for colleges as they continue or grow their online offerings? [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#). We commit to a 360 degree community of care w/ deep case management & specialty faculty support throughout the journey. Moreover, we dive deep on the data to understand & address friction points. More on that here: <https://wgu.edu/blog/tclc/part-one-wgu-community-care2110.html> [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#). Big thing is: It's a myth that online has to be impersonal. Relationships matter. At [@WGU](#) students have deep connections w/faculty (especially mentors). You just have to be creative & intentional. Community colleges love that kind of work! [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) #EquityChat

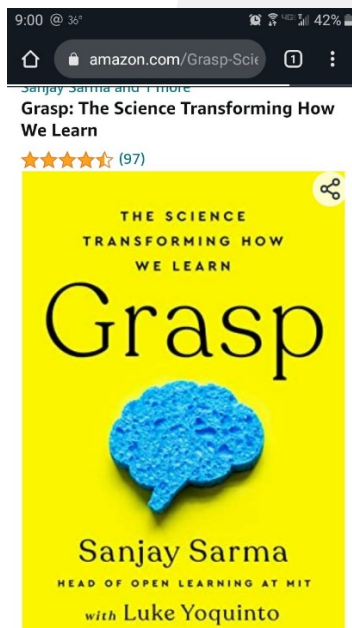
[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q7 [@MarkMilliron](#). What gives you hope? [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#). Folks like you! [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) #EquityChat

[@MarkMilliron](#). And other inspirational edu hope engines I get to work w/ like: [@wgu](#), [@hope4college](#), [@TrellisFdn](#), [@BennettCollege](#), [@iskme](#), [@utexascoe](#) & many others committed to helping more & more diverse students be more successful than ever! [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@SDMesaPrez](#) #EquityChat

[@iamkeithcurry](#) Q8 [@MarkMilliron](#). This is always an #EquityChat favorite. What are you currently reading and what book(s) should we consider reading? [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) #EquityChat

@MarkMilliron Read these three as catalyst for rethinking the road ahead—visioning the new possible!
https://google.com/aclk?sa=L&ai=DChcSEwiY6Jnou9X0AhW7yZQJHbQPBREYABAFGgl5bQ&ae=2&ei=j06xYfn5N4-NlwThqb3YCO&sig=AOD64_2qIRmFYR95IzKO4VXDF3ve9gkOKw&ctype=5&q=&sqj=2&ved=2ahUKEwi5_Y3ou9X0AhWPxoUKHeFUD5sQ9aACegQIARA9&adurl= @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat
@MarkMilliron Second book to help w/ new possible work:
https://google.com/aclk?sa=L&ai=DChcSEwib7p6DvNX0AhWJ_-MHHVfDC4QYABAEggl5bQ&ae=2&sig=AOD64_18sYr25oow6o1qipGglgMlqjp9ZA&ctype=5&q=&ved=2ahUKEwixyIODvNX0AhXjj3IEHfENAIYQ9aACegQIAhBF&adurl= @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat
@TerriDautcher



@MarkMilliron Love it -- If you're into this, you'll love https://google.com/aclk?sa=L&ai=DChcSEwi-tMr4z9X0AhVqyZQJHUN1CeYABAFGgl5bQ&ae=2&sig=AOD64_34B4Jkahrc1ChLGzArYEQTOKYCwQ&ctype=5&q=&ved=2ahUKEwi3hbj4z9X0AhVbgnIEHS6IDwoQww96BAgCEEA&adurl= @iamkeithcurry @SDMesaPrez #EquityChat

@saragoldrickrab Ahem

@MarkMilliron And anything by @saragoldrickrab! We're waiting for the new book!!

@saragoldrickrab [GIF: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1468761804998426626>]

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1468761804998426626>

@MarkMilliron There is serendipity in the anticipation when we know it is on the way!!

@SDMesaPrez TY @markmilliron @wgu for sharing your equity work tonight! We loved mixing it up! Next wk join us for #EquityChat w/ @PrezMitsui @PortlandCC . We both celebrated inaugural #RealCollegeChampion Awards from @hope4college last wk. @CollegeFutures @equityavengers OUT! @iamkeithcurry