

December 15, 2021 #EquityChat

Mark Mitsui (@PrezMitsui), President of Portland Community College (@PortlandCC)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Join us tonight for our last #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures of 2021! We're hosting @PrezMitsui @PortlandCC recent winner of the #RealCollegeChampion Award from @hope4college . We are looking forward to the convo! @Iamkeithcurry @equityavengers

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Welcome @MarkMitsui!

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

[@PrezMitsui](#) My parent's journeys from American Concentration Camps to an American College Campus transformed their lives and mine (Mom was temporarily held here in Portland). I started teaching at a tech college 32 years ago. I was in the Obama Adm @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

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

[@PrezMitsui](#) Equity is a heightened focus on disproportionate impact of systems of oppression + requires an intentional commitment to strategic action + progress. PCC is a Sanctuary College, a Truth Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) Center, etc. @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q3 @PrezMitsui. Tell us about @PortlandCC, and your work as President @PortlandCC. @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@PrezMitsui](#) We focus on equitable student success. E.g.: guided pathways; multiple measures; advising redesign; benefits access/integration; 1 College for Equitable Student Success org structure. Designing 1st affordable housing complex. @SDMesaPrez @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@Iamkeithcurry](#) Q4 @PrezMitsui. What are some unique challenges within the Oregon Community College system? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@PrezMitsui](#) Not sure that these are unique to OR, but broadband access, bond/levy equalization, state support (although it is getting better). HB 2590 is promising legislation that if passed, would focus funding on equitable student success strategies. @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q5 @PrezMitsui. With the changing landscape of higher ed, how has @PortlandCC applied an equity lens to reopening plans, instruction, and student support? @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@PrezMitsui](#) Vaccine clinics with multilingual health professionals/materials/incentives+culturally specific CBO partners; all-student pulse surveys on COVID policies with disaggregated responses; emg. grants; laptops/hotspots; the importance of grace @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[@JumperAthletics](#) The importance of grace. ❤️

[@Iamkeithcurry](#) Q6 @PrezMitsui. Can you tell us more about the Pathways to Opportunity initiative and @PortlandCC's involvement in leading this statewide effort? @SDMesaPrez @CollegeFutures #EquityChat



EQUITY AVENGERS

[@PrezMitsui](#) PCC developed the proposal for PTO, a community of practice for integrating public benefits for OR CC students w/OR DHS. This helped lead to HB 2835, which now funds benefits navigators on every public CC/University in OR. [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Q7 [@PrezMitsui](#). We can never have enough book recommendations. What are you currently reading and what book(s) should we consider reading? [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[@PrezMitsui](#) My Beloved World, Sonia Sotomayor - she visited PCC and was an inspiring presence. The Art of Gaman, by Delphine Hirasuna, shows the art of Nikkei prisoners in US concentration campus during WWII. [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[@lamkeithcurry](#) Q8 [@PrezMitsui](#). We're on our last question for the evening - let's end this [#EquityChat](#) on a positive note. What gives you hope? [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#)

[@PrezMitsui](#) Our students give me hope. I continue to be inspired by examples of every day courage, talent, cultural strengths, humor, ways of being and wisdom. Thanks to [@lamkeithcurry](#), [@SDMesaPrez](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) for the opportunity to participate in this chat! [#EquityChat](#)

[@TerriDautcher](#) Higher education leaders who champion equity, and are able to maintain momentum despite the complexities of the job. Thanks to all the leaders who are doing this work.

[@SDMesaPrez](#) Thank you so much [@PrezMitsui](#) [@PortlandCC](#) for closing out our 2021 [#EquityChat](#) sessions. We will be taking a break, returning on January 5th-same time-new guests and new [#Equitywisdom](#) for 2022...[#HappyHolidays](#) see you next year! [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [@equityavengers](#) OUT!