

Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson, President of Evergreen Valley College and
Matt Wetstein, President of Cabrillo College
Co-chairs of the Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce
For the Community College League of California
May 24, 2023

[5:00 pm] Pam

Welcome to [#EquityChat](#) sponsored by [@CollegeFutures](#) -tonight our guests are our own [@equityavengers](#) [@DrTammeil](#) & [@CabrilloCollege](#) Prez [#MattWetstein](#)-were chatting [#FinAid](#) w/ your hosts [@Iamkeithcurry](#) & [@DrPamLuster](#)
https://ccleague.org/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/cclc_affordability_food_housing_financial-aid_2023_wrk_v6_fnl.pdf

[5:05 pm] Pam

Q1 [@DrTammeil](#) [@cabrillocollege](#). What is your current walk-up song or anthem as you engage in equity-focused work?
[@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [@EquityAvengers](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[Cabrillo College](#) [@CabrilloCollege](#)·9m

Replying to [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) and 3 others

1/2 Gotta go with Tina Turner today in her honor – Simply the Best! Or Rolling on the River...

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson](#) [@DrTammeil](#)·6m

Rest In Power [@tinaturner](#)! Simply the best!

Replying to [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) and 3 others

2/2 I've also been listening to a lot of Bruce Hornsby...The Way it Is – I feel like we're always fighting that mindset that things are just the way they are

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson](#) [@DrTammeil](#)

This is traditionally my question that brings me joy every Wed. Like my children, it's hard to pick one! Stand Up For Something [@AndraDayMusic](#) feat. [@Common](#). Every word of this song speaks to my heart.

[Equity Avengers](#) [@equityavengers](#)·2m

"It all means nothing If you don't stand up for something You can't just talk the talk You got to walk that walk, yes you do It all means nothing If you don't stand up for something And I stand up for you And I stand up for you, yes I will, yes I will"

[5:11 pm] Keith

Q2 @DrTammeil @cabrillocollege. Tell us more about the @ccleague Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce. @DrPamLuster @CollegeFutures @EquityAvengers #EquityChat

[Cabrillo College @CabrilloCollege](#) · 4m

It's a band of CCC CEO's and trustees who want to improve students lives and lower the cost of college. We do a lot of collaborative work, policy advocacy, and host a great conference on basic needs.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#) · 1m

I've got a theme tonight, y'all. The taskforce was birthed from [@CalCommColleges](#) CEOs & trustees supported by the [@ccleague](#) who cared deeply about understanding the lived needs of students on our campuses & taking that learning to STAND UP & elevate students & their basic needs.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

I also need to shout out [@saragoldrickrab](#) and the [#RealCollege](#) movement for helping us develop our capacity & was a champion for California's work in this area. Real College California is strong & determined on behalf of students!

<https://ccleague.org/advocacy/workgroups-and-taskforces/affordability-taskforce>

[Sara Goldrick-Rab @saragoldrickrab](#)

The honor is all mine. I love everything y'all have done and are doing for students. And 12/8/23 is on my cal so I can keep cheering you on!

[5:18 pm] Pam

Q3 @DrTammeil @cabrillocollege. Can you share more about the Taskforce's recent report on Financial Aid? What was the biggest takeaway or lesson-learned from the findings? @ccleague @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures @EquityAvengers #EquityChat

[Cabrillo College @CabrilloCollege](#)

1/2 I was shocked at the workload that financial aid staff face. They process a ton of applications and disburse an average of roughly \$3 million per staff each year...

[Cabrillo College @CabrilloCollege](#) · 49s

2/2 And the complexity of financial aid regulations has grown. We need to STAND UP for our financial aid staff! I got your theme Tammeil!

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

1/2 Our financial aid offices are the backbone of campuses & facilitate student learning. Typical FA staff handle more than \$2.7M in grant awards annually-- more than double since 2000. Like Matt, it was illuminating to see!

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Sadly, I wasn't surprised, but it wasn't easy to see how this vital resource for students meeting their basic needs is so underfunded in the student awards (Fund CalGrant Reform!) & the budget for the administration of financial aid (meaning the offices & staff)

[Cabrillo College @CabrilloCollege](#)

Amen to funding CalGrant Reform! CCC students deserve equitable financial aid.

[5:25 pm] Keith

Q4 @DrTammeil @cabrillocollege. What would you say are the "Big E" and "Small E" goals to achieve equity? What role does the @ccleague Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce have in achieving these goals? @DrPamLuster @CollegeFutures @EquityAvengers #EquityChat

[Cabrillo College @CabrilloCollege·29s](#)

Replying to [@lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil and 4 others](#)

1/2 The Big "E" Equity goal for the task force is to eliminate financial barriers for students. We know that poor students who have difficulties finding food and housing are not going to succeed. Full Stop.

[Cabrillo College @CabrilloCollege·36s](#)

Replying to [@lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil and 4 others](#)

2/2 The Little "E" Equity goal for me is to address issues on a daily basis. Once or twice a week I buy a student lunch. I've paid for groceries at the store if I found out they are a student. Those little things matter.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil·3m](#)

Thanks for elevating what matters, Matt. We've heard from students directly that even the smallest things have the largest impact. For many, access to free food on campus is their only meal. This is REAL.

[Cabrillo College @CabrilloCollege·2m](#)

Love what Keith Curry and Compton College have done with meals on campus every day. And check out Project FLOW at Modesto JC - Free Lunch on Wednesday!

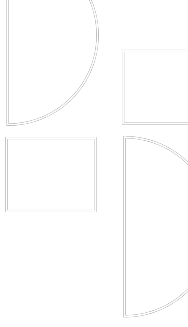
[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson](#)

[@DrTammeil](#)

Let's stop shaming students & allowing our institutions to "other" students with basic needs. These are our students; they have real needs and want to succeed. We need to redesign our institutions & funding to put the resources where they are actually needed.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson](#)

[@DrTammeil](#)



Small E--continues to build coalitions with the humility to allow the students, their voices, the research, and the facts to help us build more humanized, relevant, & supportive institutions. Let's stop playing small--fighting each other for limited resources. Stand up!

[5:32 pm] Pam

Q5 @DrTammeil @cabrillocollege. How can institutions better support financial aid offices and administrators to alleviate some of the pressures identified in this report? @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures @EquityAvengers #EquityChat

[Cabrillo College @CabrilloCollege·6m](#)

CCC CEO's and Trustees need to study their staffing patterns. If the workload has gone up, and we haven't hired more staff, that is a recipe for losing good workers. We also need to advocate for increased funding for financial aid in the CCC budget.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil·30s](#)

1/2 @CalCommColleges CEO's & Trustees need to partner with the experts like @CCCSFinAidAssoc (who helped support the report) to understand the complexity of the work & the resources needed. There is so much talk about "Pell Left on the Table" and ways of saying our institutions

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil·1m](#)

Replying to [@DrPamLuster @CabrilloCollege and 3 others](#)

2/2 aren't doing enough, but staff continue to serve on the frontlines with care & creativity. We also need to advocate for infrastructure support (\$ and systems) that don't charge each institution for the setup and maintenance of our FA awarding platforms.

[5:39 pm] Keith

Q6 @DrTammeil @cabrillocollege. To do this work, we must continue learning and partnering with others. Who/what is informing your practice? Who do you recommend we follow, and what are you learning from them? @DrPamLuster @CollegeFutures @EquityAvengers #EquityChat

[Cabrillo College @CabrilloCollege·38s](#)

We've done a lot of work with Dr. Gina Garcia to improve our ability to serve students as a Hispanic Serving Institution. A year-long task force developed great ideas for transformation at Cabrillo. Gina is a rock star! [@GinaAnnGarcia](#)

[Cabrillo College @CabrilloCollege](#)

One of the things we have done is re-think our mission -- becoming intentional about confronting racism and promoting social and economic justice for students and our community.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

1/2 [@ErigFelix](#) inspires me daily. Proud of the work of [#CCHALES](#) Research Collective in examining the systems, structures & practices within higher education that hinder racial equity. Also love the centering & care for those who are doing the real racial equity work on campuses

[Erig Felix @ErigFelix·45s](#)

Replying to [@DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry and 4 others](#)

Thanks for uplifting our work and how we center collective care in all we do to support our colleagues in the struggle to build racially-just institutions.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

2/2 I'm also learning directly from teams at colleges nationally as part of [@AchieveTheDream](#), who are committed to bold, strategic racial equity plans & implementing actionable change efforts at their institutions. TY [@USCRaceEquity](#) 4 the opp. [@CCPedu @csc.edu @MottCollege](#)

[5:46 pm] Pam

Q7 [@DrTammeil @cabrillocollege](#). As you reflect on your work with the [@ccleague Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce](#), what gives you hope? [@lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures @EquityAvengers #EquityChat](#)

[Cabrillo College @CabrilloCollege·2m](#)

What gives me hope? It's the STUDENTS! Our students are amazing – they overcome so many hurdles and thrive! To quote Tina Turner – they are Simply the BEST!

[Cabrillo College @CabrilloCollege·57s](#)

Another element of hope & optimism tonight: Dr. J. Luke Wood getting named President of Sacramento State! That is energizing... [@DrLukeWood](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

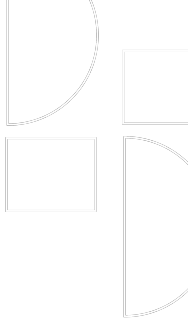
1/2 I was on a panel this afternoon honoring the impact of [@immigrantsrise](#) & supporting undocumented students. It reminds me of the power of the collective--when love, brilliance & sheer determination refuses to not allow anything to stop us in our quest to serve students

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil·19s](#)

Replying to [@DrPamLuster @CabrilloCollege and 4 others](#)

2/2 with dignity and belief in their inherent worth and capabilities. I've been blessed to be a part of a number of coalitions like the [@ccleague](#) Affordability Taskforce, and I've seen the impact. Change can happen when you stand up.

[5:53 pm] Keith



Q8 @DrTammeil @cabrillocollege. Last question for the night, what advice would you give to other equity practitioners?
@DrPamLuster @CollegeFutures @EquityAvengers #EquityChat

[Cabrillo College @CabrilloCollege·22s](#)

Replying to [@lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil and 3 others](#)

Advice for equity practice: Don't lose hope. Keep doing the daily work. Support student causes. Show up for their events. Keep advocating with lawmakers. We are making progress. KEEP STANDING UP!

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Keep Standing up! All love.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

1/2 We are in a time when people wage war on the individual when they don't agree or don't like something. It's hard to stand up in those spaces & keep showing up. [#CCHALES](#) taught me--Sustain Yourself Then the Work. I'm still figuring it out.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

2/2 Honestly, not good at it! BUT find the people who see you & would say your name when you aren't in the room--true friends. Keep your proximity to students & remember learning is ongoing. You don't have to know everything--center yourself, center students, center the love.

[6:00 pm] Pam

Ty [@DrTammeil](#) & [@CabrilloCollege](#) Prez Matt Wetstein for sharing [#FinAid](#) issues for [@CalCommColleges](#). CEO's leading the way--next wk we are joined by [@sonyachristian](#)! she joins us on the eve of her first day as new State Chancellor. Dont miss it! [@lamkeithcurry @equityavengers](#) OUT!

