

Dr. Na'ilah Suad Nasir
President, The Spencer Foundation
June 7, 2023

[5:00 pm] Pam

Welcome to [#EquityChat](#) sponsored by [@CollegeFutures](#) w/your [@equityavengers](#) hosts [@IamKeithCurry](#) [@DrTammeil](#) & [@DrPamLuster](#). Tonight we are joined by [@ProfNai](#) Dr Na'ilah Suad Nasir, President of [@Spencer_Fdn](#) and their work in [#racialequity](#). Welcome Dr Nasir!

[5:03 pm] Tammeil

Q1 @ProfNai. What is your walk-up song or anthem as you engage in equity-focused work? @Spencer_Fdn @DrPamLuster @IamKeithCurry @CollegeFutures @EquityAvengers #EquityChat

[Na'ilah Suad Nasir @ProfNai](#)

That's easy. My walk-up song is Andra Day's Cheers to the Fall. Because the lyrics basically say that if you fall trying to accomplish major things, then so be it. Better to fail while trying to make this world a more humane place than not try at all. [#EquityChat](#)

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

One of my favorites. [@AndraDayMusic](#) "They say the higher that you climb The further when you take the dive But it's comatose And I can't live that closed 'Cause I don't know how to never try at all So cheers to the fall, hey"

[5:09 pm] Keith

Q2 @ProfNai. Tell us about @Spencer_Fdn and your goals and vision for the organization. @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures @EquityAvengers #EquityChat

[Na'ilah Suad Nasir @ProfNai](#)

Spencer funds education research nationally. My vision for the org is that we live our equity values internally AND that we support a new wave of education research designed with the intention to make education and learning systems stronger and more equitable. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil·2m](#)

I was heartened to learn about [@Spencer_Fdn](#) new support for transformative research projects designed to reimagine education systems for equity. <https://spencer.org/transformative-research-program>

[Na'ilah Suad Nasir @ProfNai](#)

We are so excited about this program-- we formed it in relation to what folks in the field told us they needed.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Centering equity, fostering collaboration, & focusing on impact. Transformation for true liberatory education. TY for listening!

[Eriq Felix @EriqFelix-3m](#)

We cooking something up for those vision grants.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

[#CCHALES](#) has all the right ingredients!

[5:16 pm] Pam

Q3 [@profnai](#). How does [@Spencer_Fdn](#) drive the work of [#racialequity](#) across our diverse national higher ed institutions? [@DrTammeil](#) [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [@EquityAvengers](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[Na'ilah Suad Nasir @ProfNai](#)

2 ways: 1. We support scholars across a wide range of HE institutions, including at HBCU's, TCU's, and other MSI's. 2. We also support research directly on equity in higher education, including work on how to make our institutions stronger.

[#EquityChat](#)

[5:23 pm] Tammeil

Q4 [@profnai](#). What would you say are the "Big E" and "Small E" goals to achieve equity? What role does [@Spencer_Fdn](#) play in achieving these goals? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [@EquityAvengers](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[Na'ilah Suad Nasir @ProfNai-11m](#)

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[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster](#)

great approach, and looking forward to seeing the outcomes! [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

The Little E is so powerful; I don't want it to get missed. How can we show up differently for each other in this work to advance equitable outcomes in education? How do we center love in and out of the academy? [#EquityChat](#)

[@Spencer_Fdn](#) [@EquityAvengers](#) [@Collegefutures](#)

[5:29 pm] Keith

Q5 [@profnai](#). What research topics around higher education do you believe require the most immediate attention? [@Spencer_Fdn](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [@EquityAvengers](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Keith Curry #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @IamKeithCurry](#)

Q5 [@ProfNai](#). What research topics around higher education do you believe require the most immediate attention?
[@Spencer_Fdn @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures @EquityAvengers #EquityChat](#)

[Na'ilah Suad Nasir @ProfNai-30s](#)

Obviously right now we are awaiting a SCOTUS decision on a key equity policy in the next couple of weeks. Research needs to be a part of learning out how we deepen our commitment to equity in admissions and on campus, even as we face a new anti-equity policy climate. [#EquityChat](#)

[5:36 pm] Pam

Q6 [@ProfNai](#). 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? [@Spencer_Fdn @DrTammeil @IamKeithCurry @CollegeFutures @EquityAvengers #EquityChat](#)

[Na'ilah Suad Nasir @ProfNai-5m](#)

That's hard- I learn from so many folks! Around HE and equity specifically, my list includes [@bakerdphd @atachine](#) and of course [@DrShaunHarper](#). And groundbreaking leaders, like [@EduardoJPadron](#) and Ruth Simmons! As well as unsung everyday heroes like [@fabequity](#). [#EquityChat](#)

[5:42pm] Tammeil

Q7 [@ProfNai](#). As you reflect on your work, what gives you hope? [@Spencer_Fdn @DrPamLuster @IamKeithCurry @CollegeFutures @EquityAvengers #EquityChat](#)

[Na'ilah Suad Nasir @ProfNai](#)

What gives me hope is young people. This generation is unapologetic about holding us all (and our systems) accountable in new ways. It's powerful. [#EquityChat](#)

[5:48 pm] Keith

Q8 [@ProfNai](#). Final question for the night, what advice would you give to other equity practitioners? [@Spencer_Fdn @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures @EquityAvengers #EquityChat](#)

[Na'ilah Suad Nasir @ProfNai](#)

I don't know if I have advice. The older I get the less I seem to know. But, I would say thank you—for your work, for the ways you sacrifice, for all of the lives you impact. It can feel like you are throwing pebbles into the vast ocean. But each pebble matters. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster](#)

Together if we all throw these [#racialequitypebbles](#), we can achieve much! [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

I feel you. I was reminded today by [@ErigFelix](#) that I'm old & the vast amount of things I don't know. Thank you for this...for spending time with [@equityavengers](#) & for reminding me that even the pebbles I might contribute do matter. The work continues. [#ShowLove](#)

[6:00 pm] Pam

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster](#)

TY [@ProfNai @Spencer Fdn](#) for sharing your work & its impact on [#racialequity](#) on [#EquityChat](#) spons. by [@CollegeFutures](#)-Stay tuned for next wks guest & news about the our [#walkupsongs](#) from Season 3, watch this space! [@lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil @DrPamLuster @equityavengers](#) OUT!