

August 8, 2023

Creating Welcoming Spaces

#BestOfEquityChat Season 3

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers · 18h](#)

Welcome back to [#BestOfEquityChat](#)! Today we're talking about belonging! Creating welcoming spaces is deeply tied to racial equity as research shows that it has a significant impact on completion rates. Stay tuned to learn more here from our S3 guests!

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers · 18h](#)

What better way to understand the needs of [@calcommcolleges](#) students than by asking them? We asked student leg. reps Haily Holston, Chanelle Win & Dairius Rogness from [@SSCCC_OFFICIAL](#) their thoughts on basic needs, housing, transportation & more. <https://bit.ly/3OIaweG> (1/2)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil · Apr 26](#)

Q4 [@yeaitsfroyo_](#) [@HolstonHaily](#) [@SSCCC_OFFICIAL](#). What are some of the most pressing needs of California community college students, and how can we address them? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@IamKeithCurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [@EquityAvengers](#) #EquityChat

[Chanelle W @yeaitsfroyo · Apr 26](#)

Needs differ from students to students especially in our system where we serve a diverse group of constituents. One of the major issues I focused on in my role was basic needs like transportation because students are humans first. We need to stop the stigma that we are commuters!

[Haily Holston @HolstonHaily · Apr 26](#)

I agree with Darius! Basic needs resources for students are constantly being brought to our attention as statewide student leaders. Students deserve to have adequate housing, 3 meals a day, and access to professionals such as therapists and doctors! We are fighting for that!

[Student Senate for California Community Colleges @SSCCC_OFFICIAL · Apr 26](#)

Basic needs like food and housing insecurity, mental health, and access to resources are among the most pressing needs of California community college students. We can address them by advocating for policies that prioritize student well-being. [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers · 18h](#)

Check out their full episode here: <https://bit.ly/3DNoHcg> [#BestOfEquityChat](#) [@yeaitsfroyo](#) [@HolstonHaily](#) [@SSCCC_OFFICIAL](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@IamKeithCurry](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) (2/2)

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers · 18h](#)

Almost equally important to offering resources - ensuring students are aware of them & that they are easily accessible!

[#BestOfEquityChat](#) [@yeaitsfroyo](#) [@HolstonHaily](#) [@SSCCC_OFFICIAL](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@DrPamLuster](#)

[Dr. Keith Curry #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez](#) [@Iamkeithcurry](#)·Apr 26

Q5 [@yeaitsfroyo_](#) [@HolstonHaily](#) [@SSCCC_OFFICIAL](#). How can institutions of higher education support students, and what events or programs would you recommend institutions implement to support students? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [@EquityAvengers](#)

[Haily Holston @HolstonHaily](#)·Apr 26

It varies depending on the college itself and the region. A universal issue again would be students' basic needs by ensuring they all the resources they need on campus. Also, honoring students' 9+1 rights and giving them spaces in faculty meetings to represent the student voice!

[Chanelle W @yeaitsfroyo](#) ·Apr 26

I think the most important thing is to offer knowledge to the already existing programs like the basic needs center that [@SSCCC_OFFICIAL](#) advocated for. Most students don't know that there are existing programs on campus. Of course, other support like housing would be great too!

[Student Senate for California Community Colleges @SSCCC_OFFICIAL](#)·Apr 26

Institutions can support students by providing access to resources like counseling and academic support, and implementing programs that foster a sense of belonging and community on campus. These can be transformative to the student experience. [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers](#)·18h

[@lionleoRD](#), Undergrad Student Rep., Undocumented Community Council [@ucberkeley](#) Division of Equity & Inclusion, joined us in Oct! He shared some specific thoughts on the ways higher ed can better serve [#dreamers](#) & undocumented students.

<https://bit.ly/3OKzBWD>

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

Q6 [@lionleoRD](#) You've been a longtime advocate for undocumented student access and success. How can institutions of higher education better serve undocumented students? [@DrTammeil](#) [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Leonardo David Rodriguez @lionleoRD](#)·Oct 12, 2022

Higher education Institutions have the ability and funds to enact systemic changes that would diminish barriers to access. Although messaging and alliance are important,

action and outcomes, such as standardizing AB 540 qualifications, are even more important.(1/3)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil·Oct 12, 2022](#)

Like today's California Higher Education Collaborative (CHEC): the waiver of citizenship eligibility reqs to allow undocumented students who meet all other eligibility reqs to participate in TRIO: Student Support Services, Upward Bound & Educational Talent Search APPROVED!

[Leonardo David Rodriguez @lionleoRD·Oct 12, 2022](#)

The severely different qualifications for AB 540 based on segment, and campus are a clear and present obstacle to my community. This issue has affected myself at both the UC and CCC systems, leading to stress and anxiety. Why must I do more?! (2/3)

[Leonardo David Rodriguez @lionleoRD·Oct 12, 2022](#)

Institutions must also take the initiative to inform their leadership and faculty about undocumented student issues in order to create a supportive environment. (3/3) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers·18h](#)

[#BlackStudentSuccessWeek](#), recognized every year during the last week of April, is all about creating belonging & supportive spaces for Black students at the @calcomcolleges! Check out some of the ways the [#BSSW](#) planning cmte expanded in 2023 upon the efforts previous years.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Q3 [@iamkeithcurry @professorehann @henglishjr @HelenYo18408248](#). Tell us more about this year's [#BlackStudentSuccessWeek](#) theme and how it builds on the work from previous years. [@cablackstudents @DrPamLuster @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[Helen Young @HelenYo18408248·Apr 12](#)

Over the past few years, the BSSW committee has worked to create an alternative reality for Black Students in the CCC system which is beginning to be realized. Challenging the status quo, taking bold steps toward equity begins while questioning policy & practice on our campuses.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil·Apr 12](#)

When the current reality doesn't work, Boldly BUILD YOUR OWN! I heard that.

[Dr. Keith Curry #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @iamkeithcurry·Apr 12](#)

1/2.This year's theme is "Vision to Action: Building Systems and Structures for Black Student Success." For us, its about building new systems and structures and destroying

the racist and unfair structures that hinder student success. I am so excited because this year its about

[Dr. Keith Curry #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @iamkeithcurry·Apr 12](#)

2/2. the people doing the work, and for them sharing their best practices. I am excited that I will be able to share national data on 4/24/2023 about black student enrollment and success. I am also excited about the workshop on 4/26/2023,

[Dr. Keith Curry #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @iamkeithcurry·Apr 12](#)

3/3. which is titled Transition to Workforce and Livable Wages. We have some state and federal leaders talking about the job market and how we can prepare black students for the workforce. I am excited about 4/26/2023 Black Hour [#EquityChat](#)

[Herb English @hlenglishjr·Apr 12](#)

This year's theme is "Vision to Action: Building Systems and Structures for Black Student Success", with a focus on successful approaches to ensure Black and African American students succeed at California Community Colleges.

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[@cablackstudents @iamkeithcurry @HelenYo18408248 @hlenglishjr @professorehann](#) Read their full episode here: <https://bit.ly/3rIOMMB> [#BestOfEquityChat](#)

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers·18h](#)

Creating belonging isn't the responsibility of the marginalized! Hear from [#trans](#) scholar Dr. [@bcserrano](#) about how to be inclusive of [#queer](#), [#LGBTQIA](#) & [#trans](#) students. Read their full episode here: <https://bit.ly/3s5orTt> [@DrPamLuster @iamkeithcurry @DrTammeil](#) [#BestOfEquityChat](#)

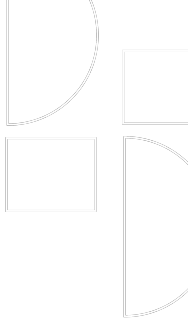
[Dr. Keith Curry #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @iamkeithcurry·Mar 29](#)

Q5. [@bcserrano](#). March 31 is International Transgender Day of Visibility. How can institutions of higher education support transgender students, and what events or programs would you recommend institutions implement on transgender day? [@DrTammeil @DrPamLuster #EquityChat](#)

[MoveImTrans @bcserrano·Mar 29](#)

Instead of Trans Visibility, we need Cis Accountability [#trans](#) and [#nonbinary](#) cannot truly exist. I notice [#cis](#) people throw around [#Latinx](#) term w/o actually centering & research with [#trans](#) & [#nonbinary](#) ppl. Interrogate bias. As a Latinx scholar include me or others [#EquityChat](#)

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers·18h](#)



Leaders must be empathetic to the needs of those they serve, & we're pleased to see [@ASCCCNNews](#) Pres. Ginni May list belonging as a priority for the Academic Senate. Read her full episode here: <https://bit.ly/3Oqse5k> [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [#BestOfEquityChat](#)

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

Q5 [@GinniMay](#) As we move into 2023, what are your top 3 priorities during your tenure as President [@ASCCCNNews](#)? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Academic Senate for California Community Colleges @ASCCCNNews·Dec 14, 2022](#)

There are so many things I hope to accomplish for the faculty and students of the [@CalCommColleges](#), but if I had to pick my Top 3 priorities at the moment my first would be ensuring academic freedom ([#SayGay!](#)) for all.

[Academic Senate for California Community Colleges @ASCCCNNews·Dec 14, 2022](#)

Growing [#OER](#) to provide equitable access to instructional materials is another key focus of mine and something [@ASCCCNNews](#) will be very focused on as part of the upcoming [#CABudget](#).

[Academic Senate for California Community Colleges @ASCCCNNews·Dec 14, 2022](#)

Lastly, ensuring strong support for students with culturally responsive curricular innovation is critical, especially as students bounce back from the impacts of the global [#COVID19](#) pandemic.

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers·18h](#)

Framing the college experience around creating a welcoming space can be transformative. Hear from [@LisaMandy1](#) about how her college engaged financial aid in this way. [#BestOfEquityChat](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@davidinsacto](#) <https://bit.ly/3YsqFbt>

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Q4 [@Davidinsacto](#) [@LisaMandy1](#) – what are the high impact practices you've seen to engage students in applying for & benefitting from Financial Aid? [#EquityChat](#) [@IamKeithCurry](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) [@CollegeFutures](#)

[Lisa Mandy @LisaMandy1·Feb 15](#)

1/2 Providing workshops in the learning communities on campus has increased the applications and understanding of how financial aid works. We also partner with our athletics department to ensure our athletes are receiving services they need. [#equitychat](#)

[Lisa Mandy @LisaMandy1·Feb 15](#)



2/2 The athletes, like those in our learning communities, feel more comfortable in their own space. We decided several years ago, to have an open door policy. Students are not required to make appointments to see anyone in our office. [#equitychat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil·Feb 15](#)

No appointments?! Love this--meeting students where they are at when they need it.

[David O'Brien @Davidinsacto·Feb 15](#)

A4 so many! Our colleges keep innovating. From Cash for College workshops geared toward specific populations, to colleges proactively contacting students that have registered but not applied for financial aid, to newer programs like the College Corps [@CalVolunteers!](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers·18h](#)

Truth-teller [@freddyshegog](#) is one of our favorite guests, sharing his story of addiction, redemption and a college story that all practitioners can learn from. [@DrTammeil @IamKeithCurry @DrPamLuster #BestOfEquityChat](#) Read his full episode here: <https://bit.ly/3OrTyjI>

[Freddyshegog @freddyshegog](#)

[@DelawareCCC](#) taught me that college should not just change my bank account; it should also change my soul. The whole building was a resource from an advisor, janitor, and cafeteria worker. It was like going to my aunt's for Thanksgiving dinner and having to take classes.

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers·18h](#)

That's all for tonight's [#BestOfEquityChat](#)! Are you engaging in unique ways of creating belonging at your institution? Share with us! And join us next week at 5pm PT for our next [#BestOfEquityChat](#) episode!