

September 20, 2023

Dr. Amanda O. Latz

Associate Professor of Higher Education and Community Colleges at Ball State University

Author of “Community College Student Mental Health: Faculty Experiences and Institutional Practices”

[5:00 pm] Dr. Pam Luster (@DrPamLuster)

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster-20s](#)

WELCOME!! To Season 4 of [#EquityChat](#) sponsored by [@CollegeFutures](#) w/your hosts [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@DrTammeil](#) & [@DrPamLuster](#) tonight our guest is [@AmandaOLatz](#) & we're talking about [#studentmentalhealth](#) To participate, hit the bubble, use [#EquityChat](#) to join the convo. Welcome Dr Latz!

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz-46s](#)

Hey, hey, y'all! <3 Thanks for being here! [#EquityChat](#)

[5:05 pm] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q1 [@AmandaOLatz](#) As you engage in equity-focused work, what is your walk-up song or anthem? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz-2m](#)

Oooooooh! This is such a good and hard question. If you only knew the depth of my [#PsychTape](#) library (former athlete here)! [#EquityChat](#) (1/4)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz-2m](#)

So I consulted with my students on this last night in class. And one of them literally created a playlist for me for this chat, which is amazing! Thank you, Des! <3 [#EquityChat](#) (2/4)

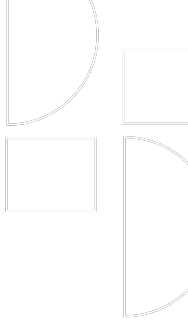
Now, I have not listened to this playlist, but I am leading with trust here! This is it – Dr. Latz Vibes <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6PslViQkAPuONsGQm32qaZ?si=be6fea9905d042b9...> Haha! I love my students so much. [#EquityChat](#) (3/4)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz-4m](#)

In all seriousness, I would probably pick something from Sweet Honey in the Rock. I've had the good fortune of seeing them live twice. Could not stop the tears. Absolutely NOTHING like it. Ysaye Maria Barnwell's voice is enchanting. [#chills](#) [#EquityChat](#) (4/4)

[5:11 pm] Dr. Keith Curry (@Iamkeithcurry)

Q2 [@AmandaOLatz](#) Your new book tackles student mental health – a critical topic among community college leaders. What surprised you most when researching and writing this book? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)



[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz·35s](#)

The thing that surprised me most at the time was how many community college faculty were willing to participate and talk with me about this topic. It was overwhelming in the best way. They were ready and eager to talk about this issue and had a lot to share. [#EquityChat](#) (1/3)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz](#)

In a lot of ways, the approaches, methodologies, and methods we use as researchers can feel extractive to respondents/participants/collaborators. I think (hope) the participants in the study were affirmed and validated through the interviews. [#EquityChat](#) (2/3)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz·37s](#)

Spending time with them in focused conversation, being curious and empathic (as a former community college adjunct faculty member) about their experiences, and making space for their stories, hopefully, felt good to them. I learned so much and am so thankful. [#EquityChat](#) (3/3)

[5:18 pm] Dr. Luster (@DrPamLuster)

**Q3 @AmandaOLatz Based on your research, how do the lived experiences of faculty impact the way they work directly with students? @DrTammeil @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers**

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz](#)

This is a complex question. As has been articulated by [@garyrhoades](#), faculty working conditions are students learning conditions. Moreover, we teach who we are. That's from [@parkerjpalmer #EquityChat](#) (1/3)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz·1m](#)

Empathy goes a long way here, as does pedagogical training—plus experience (doing) and expertise (studying). Do faculty see themselves as teaching Chemistry, English, Carpentry, Dental Hygiene? Or do they see themselves teaching STUDENTS those disciplines? [#EquityChat](#) (2/3)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz·29s](#)

Mental health is health, and everyone has mental health. What I call “pedagogical ontologies” in the book really frame the way faculty approach and humanize (or not) the classroom (broadly defined). [#EquityChat](#) (3/3)

[5:25 pm] Dr. Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

**Q4 @AmandaOLatz From your perspective, how do you see the findings in your research on student mental health having an impact on racial equity? @DrPamLuster @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers**

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz](#)



We have to assess and understand our students. How can we know what our students need if we do not ask? How do we know how they are doing in terms of mental health? The first step is becoming students of students. How can we get curious? [#EquityChat](#) (1/4)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz-27s](#)

From there, data disaggregation is paramount. That is the only way we can see equity gaps/institutional performance gaps related to students' racial-ethnic identities. Then, we must continue asking questions of the data and our students. [#EquityChat](#) (2/4)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz-28s](#)

We have to be identity-conscious. Why are some students engaging in help-seeking more than others? Why are some students experiencing more anxiety and depression than others? Thinking in terms of ecosystems is fruitful here. [#EquityChat](#) (3/4)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz-2s](#)

From that point, in culturally affirming and sustaining ways, we can build programming and resources around specific student needs. Remove barriers! It takes a campus, though, and this is just one component of the equity-minded student success work we must do. [#EquityChat](#) (4/4)

[5:32 pm] Dr. Curry (@lamkeithcurry)

**Q5 @AmandaOLatz Your research also focuses on visual methodologies in #highered, particularly photovoice methodology. Tell us more about this method and how we can utilize it to understand student needs.** @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz-1m](#)

YES! The photovoice methodology is a huge passion of mine. For a quick snapshot of the approach, take a look at this video <https://youtube.com/watch?v=l4zAdktMUNg&t=6s...> [#EquityChat](#) (1/?)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz@AmandaOLatz-16s](#)

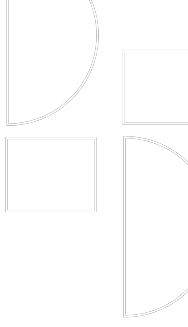
I've also written a book on [#photovoice](#):

<https://routledge.com/Photovoice-Research-in-Education-and-Beyond-A-Practical-Guide-from-Theory/Latz/p/book/9781138851481...> [#EquityChat](#) (2/?)

Let me use this platform to boost some amazing scholars doing some amazing work! Check out these sites, for example: <https://fatoncampus.com> from [@TerahJay](#) [@DrBreedon](#) and team. [#EquityChat](#) (3/?)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz-1m](#)

Lemme also boost [@rzaratedu](#)'s work. See <https://zarar300.wixsite.com/from-the-lens-of-in...> [#EquityChat](#) (4/?)



[5:39 pm] Dr. Luster (@DrPamLuster)

**Q6 @AmandaOLatz To do this work, we must continue learning and partnering with others. How do you educate yourself and who is informing your practice? @DrTammeil @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat**

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz](#)

[@AmandaOLatz](#)

YES. I read as much as I can. There is never enough time to read! In preparation for the book, I tried to read literally everything I could find on [#comm\\_college](#) student [#mentalhealth](#) [#EquityChat](#) (1/?)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz·1m](#)

That said, all the pieces I cited in my book fueled and informed me and allowed me to situate my study within the broader literature. Go read their good work! Mine is one voice among many. [#EquityChat](#) (2/?)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz·1m](#)

My students teach me so, so much. [#EquityChat](#) (3/?)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz·1m](#)

All the good folks doing [#RealCollege](#) work (s/o to [@saragoldrickrab](#)) are an inspiration. [#EquityChat](#) (4/?)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz·6s](#)

Literally everything informs my practice. I also wanna shout out all the [@CSCCRResearch](#) scholars out there doing the good and necessary work for this vital sector of higher education! Much love. Too many to name. Wishing I had more time! [#EquityChat](#) (5/?)

[5:46pm] Dr. Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

**Q7 @AmandaOLatz We all have a vision for the future we want to live in. What is your freedom dream for higher education and what gives you hope in its future? @DrPamLuster @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers**

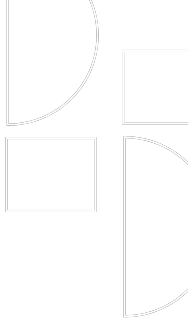
[Dr. Amanda O. Latz](#)

[@AmandaOLatz](#)

I dream about what could be possible if students had no barriers. I dream about a higher education system divested from capitalism. I dream about students living and learning in ways that give them pathways to liberation. [#EquityChat](#) (1/1)

[5:53 pm] Dr. Curry (@Iamkeithcurry)





**Q8 @AmandaOLatz** The road to racial equity is long. How are you sustaining yourself? What practice would you recommend to other #EquityAvengers? @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz](#)

We have to focus on what we can control. And we have to let the rest go. SO hard. SO necessary. [#EquityChat](#) (1/?)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz-37s](#)

I'm not great at it, but I sustain myself by accepting love from others, reaching out for help when necessary, being more than my job, doing the best I can with my health, and making space for JOY! [#EquityChat](#) (2/?)

[Dr. Amanda O. Latz @AmandaOLatz-1m](#)

We have to remember to hold onto ourselves, because this work will take everything. Our institutions cannot love us (not my words, but I don't have the citation at hand). Remember that. Take care of YOU above all else. [#EquityChat](#) (3/?)

**[6:00 pm] Dr. Luster (@DrPamLuster)**

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster-1m](#)

TY [@AmandaOLatz](#) for joining us on [#EquityChat @CollegeFutures](#) -we are grateful for your work & encourage folks to get your book! Next week our guest is [@AmberMAngel @ECMCFoundation](#) Program Officer-join us! [@lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil @DrPamLuster @equityavengers](#) OUT!

