

Amber Angel

Program Officer, ECMC Foundation

September 27, 2023

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

Welcome back to Season 4 [#EquityChat](#) sponsored by [@CollegeFutures](#) w/your hosts [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@DrTammeil](#) & [@DrPamLuster](#). It's [#StudentParentMonth](#) & tonight we're excited to have [@AmberMAngel](#) as our guest! Hit the bubble and use [#EquityChat](#) to join the convo. Welcome Amber!

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·32s](#)

Thrilled to be here and hear from all of you!

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

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

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel](#)

[@GwenMcCrae](#) Keep the Fire Burning. This song will reinvigorate the most tired! You can't listen to this bassline and not want to get up and dance! "You gotta stay on your J.O.B. You gotta give a little, take a lot Give it all you got, oh"

[Amber Angel](#)

[@AmberMAngel](#)

What are some of yours?!

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

I'm every woman-Chaka version

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers·41s](#)

We're glad you asked [@AmberMAngel](#) -- check out our [#WalkUpAnthems](#) right here -- it's a LIST that will keep you inspired to do the work!

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

Q2 [@AmberMAngel](#) It's [#NationalStudentParentMonth](#). Tell us more about your experience attending college as a [#studentparent](#). What were some key resources & services that supported you in your educational journey? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·14s](#)

As the youngest of 8, I am the 1st in my family to go to college. My daughter and I started [@LAValleyCollege](#) the same day in 2011. I thought bc she was at on-campus childcare I would be set. Wrong! It was HARD to balance school, work, parenting and feeling like I belonged. 1/3

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·4m](#)

My last semester [@LAValleyCollege](#), my water broke in my 8am math class with my 2nd daughter. I came back to school 13 days later bc I didn't know about TitleIX protections. I was pumping in a bathroom stall and at risk of dropping out because I didn't feel like I belonged. 2/3

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·4m](#)

Finding [@LAVCFRC](#) changed my life. I had access to mental health supports, parenting classes, playgroups, and [#basicneeds](#) support like diapers, wipes, and baby clothes. Meeting other [#studentparents](#) made me feel less alone and encouraged me to keep going! 3/3

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster·8m](#)

Community colleges are incredible places...inspiring, welcoming, transformative and loving

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson@DrTammeil](#)

I am simultaneously frustrated, amazed, and not surprised about your story! TY for sharing. We can do better and should do better. Your story of finding a way despite barriers is the story of so many of our [@CalCommColleges](#) students, but it shouldn't be this hard or othering.

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·3m](#)

We love to glorify the strength in the struggle, but it doesn't need to be so. Thank you for your questions and commitment to [#equity](#) for student parents!

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

Q3 @AmberMAngel You've been a Parent Advisor for @AspenAscend and recently attended their #ParentAdvisorConvening. Can you tell us more about their #2Gen approach to building family well-being and educational success? @DrTammeil @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·2m](#)

The [#2Gen](#) approach is really being intentional about working with adults and their children, together. [#Studentparents](#) are parents first and their children are their greatest motivator, not barrier. [@AspenAscend](#) really uplifts that. 1/3

Education boosts family economic security, period! A parent's education is a strong predictor of a child's success. I broke generational poverty through education. Conversations at the dinner table are about what my daughters' study in college, not if college is a reality. (2/3)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil·24s](#)

"I broke generational poverty through education. Conversations at the dinner table are about what my daughters study in college, not if college is a reality." Break it down now, [@AmberMAngel!](#) [#EquityChat](#) [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) [@equityavengers](#)

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·2m](#)

Core to [@Ascend](#) and [@ECMCFoundation](#)'s Single Mother Student Success Initiative is engaging [#studentparents](#) as the experts in their lived experience. We have a lot to learn about how to support [#singlemomsinhighered](#) when we're equitable in giving them the mic and listening! 3/3

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

Q4 [@AmberMAngel](#) How does your work [@ECMCFoundation](#) supporting [#studentparent](#) initiatives like the Single Mother Student Success Initiative, impact racial equity? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@Iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·1m](#)

According to research conducted by [@ECMCFoundation](#)'s Single Mother Student Success grantee, [@IWPResearch](#), 74% of Black mothers who attend [#communitycollege](#) are single mothers. Supporting [#singlemomsinhighered](#) IS racial equity work. 1/3

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·1m](#)

We need to highlight the intersectionality parenting students represent and listen to their needs. "Advancing equity in attainment for Black single mothers in college will also require centering their voices and experiences in higher education." 2/3

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil·4m](#)

The fact sheet & report highlight important information that we need practitioners & policymakers to understand if we are going to address economic mobility and building healthy and thriving communities.

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·50s](#)

By continuing to uplift powerful stories that represent the diversity of [#singlemomishighered](#). Check out the newest video from [@ECMCFoundation](#) grantee, [@WorkingNation](#) 3/3

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

Q5 [@AmberMAngel](#) More than 1 in 5 college students are parenting. From your perspective, how can [#higher](#) leaders better support the [#studentparents](#) on our campuses? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·4s](#)

First, by identifying who their student parents are! Lack of data is a massive roadblock to equitable outcomes for [#studentparents](#) and particular [#singlemomsinhighered](#). Once institutions know who their student parents are, they can advocate for their needs. 1/3

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil·7m](#)

We are working hard on this [@OfficialEVC](#)! It has been a struggle since information about [#studentparents](#) isn't readily available through our "traditional" systems. We've been making strides and had our [#studentsparents](#) mixer a couple of weeks ago. I learned so much!

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·21s](#)

Then, look to the incredible work from [@ECMCFoundation](#) grantees around [#TA](#) to better serve [#studentparents](#), like [@CCTrustees](#) [@urbaninstitute](#) [@CalCompetes](#) [@eddesignlab](#) [@SupportGenHope](#) [@NewAmerica](#) [@AchieveTheDream](#) [@familyscholars](#) [@AspenAscend](#) [@VFCCE](#) [@JSIhealth](#) 2/3

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·37s](#)

Learn from [#directservice](#) providers who are doing amazing work. [@RaiseTheBarr](#) [@JeremiahProgram](#) [@newmomschicago](#) [@ICSTucson](#). Gather research from [@IWPRResearch](#) and take note of [#advocacy](#) and awareness building strategies from [@HigherLearnADV](#) [@WorkingNation](#) [@ThreeFrameMedia](#) 3/3

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

Q6 [@AmberMAngel](#) 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](#)

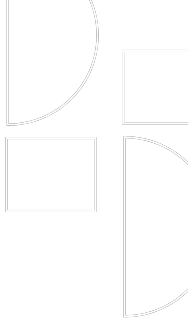
[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·1m](#)

I pay attention to what students are saying, what the field is learning and where learning gets stuck. 1 of the 1st actions I took at [@ECMCFoundation](#) was as a founding member of a California Statewide Student Parent Pooled Fund, led by [@Michelson20MM](#) to make [#collectiveimpact](#) 1/2

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·2m](#)

I love learning from you all and collaborating with other funders in this space on their equity visions for student parents. Shout out to a few of my colleagues [@ViniceinED](#) [@enyiokebugwu](#) [@MarieHocker1](#) [@queenahoang](#) 2/2

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



Q7 @AmberMAngel 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 for its future? @DrPamLuster @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·9s](#)

[#Studentparents](#) identified as an [#equity](#) group and adequate funding for [#realcollege](#) students. My daughters, Lennon and Everly, will forever be my hope and the over 4 million student parents in higher ed today (and their children) are our collective future!

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

Q8 @AmberMAngel 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

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·2s](#)

Well... I just started riding motorcycles, I call it [#windtherapy](#)! My brain shuts off and I just get a moment to appreciate the beauty [#California](#) has to offer! 1/3

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·6s](#)

My advice is find your version of [#windtherapy](#). Be kind to yourself, you don't know what you don't know. Stay curious. Speak your truth and be a voice to the voiceless. And... show some love and appreciation to a [#singlemominhighered](#) 2/3

[Amber Angel @AmberMAngel·4s](#)

Last but certainly not least...stay engaged with us [@ECMCFoundation](#) 3/3

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

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster·6s](#)

TY [@AmberMAngel](#) for sharing your story w/us [#EquityChat @CollegeFutures](#). We appreciate the work you're doing & recs for supporting [#studentparents](#). Next week's guest is [@NJodaitis](#) Dir. Higher Ed [@ImmigrantsRise](#)-Join us! [@Iamkeithcurry @DrTammeil @DrPamLuster @equityavengers](#) OUT!