Dr. Scott Thayer

President, Cypress College

January 17, 2024

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

We're back for another #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures w/your hosts @Iamkeithcurry @DrTammeil & @DrPamLuster. This week, we're excited to chat w/Dr. Scott Thayer (@swthayer), as he begins his new role as President @CypressCollege. Welcome Scott!

> Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer
> Thank you for having me back on the #EquityChat. I am excited to be here and thrilled about the opportunities for @CypressCollege — especially for building community. I have been learning about the campus, the people, and I'm fortunate to follow in large footsteps. (1/2)

> Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer·1m
> We are just about to start the semester and I'm looking forward to the campus life that returns with vigor once our students are here. Serving our students and meeting their needs to help foster their success is at the top of our priority list. #EquityChat (2/2)

> Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster·52s
> Replying to @swthayer @equityavengers and 4 others
> It's such an exciting time! Congratulations on your new role as President of @CypressCollege !
> #EquityChat

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

Q1 @swthayer. As you engage in equity-focused work, what is your walk-up song or anthem? @DrPamLuster @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

> Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer·1m
> Music has always been an integral part of my life and has informed my perspective and approach to this work. I would say a few songs resonate with me as a walk-up song: God's Plan by Drake, My Philosophy by KRS1 (1/2)

Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer·25s
I want to always remember what is occurring, who is impacted and why we do this work. It is important to hear different stories and celebrate their successes and validate their experiences(2/2).

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

Q2 @swthayer. This month, you started your new role as President @CypressCollege. Was there a defining moment or experience that catalyzed your journey to engage in this work in a leadership role? @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer·1m
I have had numerous experiences in my life that have really impacted why I want to be a position to share my vision. I started college at the age of 4 (my Mom went back to school to earn her degree); (1/2)

and I sat in class with her. I learned early on that knowledge was powerful and wanted to absorb as much of it as possible (2/2) #EquityChat

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

Q3 @swthayer. How are your experiences from your previous roles informing how you approach and embed racial equity into your work in your newest role as President @CypressCollege? @DrTammeil @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer·1m
My past experiences have provided me with humility. I understand that things don't always work out initially as we planned; but through perseverance, anything is possible. My students have shown me that numerous times over the years #EquityChat (1/2)

If a student shows up to our college to learn; it is our responsibility to teach them and provide them with the resources they need to achieve their dreams; that is how we change lives #EquityChat (2/2)

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

Q4 @swthayer. @CypressCollege reaffirmed its commitment to being an anti-racist institution following the SCOTUS ruling on AA. As President, what are your top 3 priorities for supporting this commitment? @DrPamLuster @Iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

> Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer·2m
> 1) Serving 100% of our students equitably; 2) Ensuring that we meet the needs of all of the communities we serve; 3) Providing an education with purpose and preparing alumni who will prosper and who bring skill and value to their jobs. #EquityChat (1/3)
>
> We committed to: "support, fight for, and ensure the rights of all students to an equitable education"; and affirmed that we "will continue to serve, all students seeking a better future through education." #EquityChat (2/3)
>
> By being accessible to all who desire a higher education we are engaged in equity work. But we as educators are only successful if our students are successful in their pursuits. So, this is our shared journey, mission and responsibility #EquityChat (3/3)

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

Q5 @swthayer. From your perspective, what are the biggest challenges #highered leaders face under the current national climate and how are you navigating those challenges as you transition into a new leadership role? @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

> Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer·1m
> A portion of our broader community is questioning the value of higher education. This is a political effort to undermine our work and it has a direct and dire impact on those students who need us most. #EquityChat (1/2)
>
> Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer·6s
> As leaders, we need to focus on what we can control and on living our institutional mission. Doing what's right isn't always popular. But it's necessary to ensure our students are successful. #EquityChat (2/2)

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

Q6 @swthayer. 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 #EquityAvengers

> Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer·42s
> We have some extraordinary leaders and organizations in California Community Colleges who are keeping us informed on the best practices to serve our students @EquityAvengers, @A2MEND2006, @CCCOLEAGAS, @APAHENATIONAL, @COLLEGEOPP #EquityChat (1/2)
>
> Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer·1m
> I have been fortunate to teach in the doctoral program at SDSU and stay connected to practitioner's who are equity minded and future leaders in education. We learn from each others experiences. #EquityChat (1/2)

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

Q7 @swthayer. We all have a vision of 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

> Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer·46s
> My freedom dream is to empower our students to be able to achieve the educational goals that they have set for themselves, without limitations and with enthusiasm. To let the nurture the dreams of students #EquityChat (1/2)
>
> Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer·39s
> I see these possibilities in my daughters who are navigating education and showing me that I can be most effective when I listen, pay attention and take action; I've learned that their ideas can help others and I don't have to have all the answers #EquityChat (2/2)

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

Q8 @swthayer. 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. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer·1m
I love exercise and also need to schedule more time to do that. I find it important to compartmentalize things so that I can be fully present. I mentioned my daughters and where they're at lifecycle wise. They help me keep connected to trends. #EquityChat (1/2)

This is hard work. It is taxing. But it's critical work, especially in this time. So, we have to be mindful of our own wellness and look after ourselves but we need to remember if not us, then who? #EquityChat (2/2)

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

TY @swthayer for sharing your work on #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures, we look forward to seeing you soar @CypressCollege Stay tuned for next week's guest announcement, & coming soon...to a pod near you...@Iamkeithcurry @DrTammeil @DrPamLuster @equityavengers #unite!

Dr. Scott W. Thayer @swthayer
Thank you for having me. We are fortunate to be in this space together and we must embrace the responsibility we have been trusted with. #EquityChat