

Cassandra Flandre-Ngyuen, SSCCC President, Orange Coast College

Crystal Carrier, Student Mentor and SGA Secretary, Lee College

April 3, 2024

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

Welcome to #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures w/your hosts @lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil & @DrPamLuster. Tonight we kick off #CommunityCollegeMonth with CC students @ngu61364 of @orangecoast and Crystal Carrier of @leecollege

[Crystal Carrier @LCCrystalC](#)

Thank you all for this opportunity! I am delighted for being here. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

WE are delighted to have you!

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

Q1 Cassandra @SSCCC\_Official, Crystal @lccrystalc. As you engage in equity-focused work, what is your walk-up song or anthem? @DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Student Senate for California Community Colleges @SSCCC\\_OFFICIAL](#)

My walk-up song or anthem would definitely be Lady of Namek by Tory Lanez! [@DrPamLuster](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Crystal Carrier @LCCrystalC](#)

My anthem is Dreams and Nightmares by Meek Mills. I chose this song because I find it energizing. It helps me get my day going, ready to take on any challenge. [#EquityChat](#) [@SSCCC\\_OFFICIAL](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [@equityavengers](#)

[5:11 pm] [Dr. Keith Curry \(@lamkeithcurry\)](#)

Q2 Cassandra @SSCCC\_Official, Crystal @lccrystalc. Our education, background, and experiences make us who we are. Please tell us more about what makes you, you. @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Student Senate for California Community Colleges @SSCCC\\_OFFICIAL](#)

Hello everyone! I am a first-generation high school graduate from a French and Vietnamese family. I'm the eldest daughter of four and I work in environmental consulting. A large part of my identity stems from my role as caretaker of my younger siblings. [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

So many community college students are parenting students and caretakers generationally. We must discuss this reality and how we can better support students.

[Crystal Carrier @LCCCrystalC](#)

(1/2) I'm a current student at [@LeeCollege](#) majoring in social work. Education was instilled in me at an early age by my parents. I was taught to pursue education because it would open many doors of opportunity. Throughout my life, I have experienced many obstacles and hardships,

[Crystal Carrier @LCCCrystalC](#)

(2/2) but my commitment to education has led me. My experience at Lee has helped me shape who I am. These experiences have given me the knowledge about life and lessons on how to navigate through it. I'm proud of myself and Lee College will always remain in my heart.

[#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

And I'm sure you've helped shape [@leecollege!](#)

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

Q3 Cassandra @SSCCC\_Official, Crystal @lccrystalc. Was there a defining moment or experience that catalyzed your journey to engage in your current student leadership roles as President SSCCC and SGA Secretary? [@DrTammeil](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Student Senate for California Community Colleges @SSCCC\\_OFFICIAL](#)

It'd be hosting the first student forum of the term with Ventura CCC District. This was one of the first times I got to directly talk to a variety of students about the pressing needs of their community, and it was truly inspiring connecting with the student leaders. [#Equitychat](#)

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

What an empowering demonstration of the value of your work, and that you as a student invest your time, energy and passion into your work is inspiring! [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Let's go!

[Crystal Carrier @LCCrystalC](#)

(1/2) When I got the opportunity to meet the CEO of ACCT, Mr. Lee, and got the honor of giving him a tour of our new Student Center. I was so happy to show him the resources I used to make my life successful here at Lee College.

[Crystal Carrier @LCCrystalC](#)

(2/2) This was one of my proudest moments at Lee College and made me full of joy to think about how far I've come. [#EquityChat @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

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

President Jee Hang Lee of [@ACCT](#) is a wonderful leader and I am so happy that you got to meet him, show him your work, and highlight the work of [@leecollege!](#) A plus...he and I both grew up in [@SanJoseCA](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

I didn't know that! A lot of smoke coming from [@SanJoseCA](#)

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

It's an east side/west side thing!

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Your voice and your experience matter, Crystal. I'm glad Mr. Lee got the chance to learn from your brilliance!

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

Q4 Cassandra [@SSCCC\\_Official](#), Crystal [@lccrystalc](#). What are some of the most pressing needs of community college students, and how can we address them? [@DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[Student Senate for California Community Colleges @SSCCC\\_OFFICIAL](#)

Basic Needs is the most pressing issue for us. We have too many students having to sleep in their cars and not eat to fund their education. We need to uplift these students' stories and support legislation that helps alleviate this issue. [#EquityChat](#)

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

Absolutely right-so much to do, and I'm glad that its at the center of our work now. Not glad that its a challenge for our student scholars. [#EquityChat](#)

[Crystal Carrier @LCCrystalC](#)

(1/2) Some of the most pressing needs for community college students are for single parents and students who are homeless. My recommendation is that colleges designate employees to serve as resources for those students.

[Crystal Carrier @LCCrystalC](#)

(2/2) Hopefully after I get my degree I can come back and get that job!!! [#EquityChat](#)  
[@lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil @DrPamLuster @CollegeFutures](#)

[5:32 pm] [Dr. Curry \(@iamkeithcurry\)](#)

Q5 Cassandra @SSCCC\_Official, Crystal @lccrystalc. How would you encourage other students to participate in student leadership roles? How can we support students who want to become involved? [@DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat](#)

[Crystal Carrier @LCCrystalC](#)

I would say if you see or hear about an event, go! Show up and ask questions. I have learned at Lee College, building relationships and advocating for yourself helps you get what you need. [#EquityChat @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures](#)

[Victoria Marron @DoctoraMarron](#)

Love how you tell them this at new student orientations and "say HI when you see me!"

[Student Senate for California Community Colleges @SSCCC\\_OFFICIAL](#)

I would strongly encourage students to be involved in student leadership by reaching out to their current student representatives and being in general know of what their student government is doing.

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

Q6 Cassandra @SSCCC\_Official, Crystal @lccrystalc. What has supported you most during your educational journey? What events or programs would you recommend institutions implement to support students? [@DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[Student Senate for California Community Colleges @SSCCC\\_OFFICIAL](#)

My college's student equity program provides vital support to me with textbook support and grocery gift cards, enabling my education. Other institutions should emulate such initiatives to enhance student support on their campuses. [#equitychat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Thank you for demystifying and sharing how important these resources are for you and your education Cassandra!

[Crystal Carrier @LCCCrystalC](#)

(1/2) The Student Resource and Advocacy Center has helped me most while at Lee College. I've also found the Math Lab, Learning Hub, Writing Center, TRiO Student Support Services, and Career and Transfer Services have been helpful.

[Crystal Carrier @LCCCrystalC](#)

(2/2) I would recommend that institutions implement any programs to support single parents and students' basic needs. [#EquityChat](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#)

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

Sounds like an amazing and accessible set of resources! [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Our student support services are key in supporting students' learning and success. Proud to support and have used these services in my own education! [#TRIOWorks](#)

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

Q7 Cassandra @SSCCC\_Official, Crystal @lccrystalc. As you reflect on your work and experience as a student leader, what gives you hope? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Student Senate for California Community Colleges @SSCCC\\_OFFICIAL](#)

What gives me hope is seeing the growth of faculty-student collaboration towards these student-centric initiatives. Students have been doing their best to make their voices heard, and the role of faculty uplifting their voices has proven effectiveness. [#EquityChat](#)

[Crystal Carrier @LCCCrystalC](#)

(1/2) I am energized at the prospect of being a social worker to help others who may be experiencing similar challenges as I have had. I am a single mother. I have been homeless. I get public benefits.



[Crystal Carrier @LCCrystalC](#)

(2/2) I am hopeful of the future where I can positively impact others and give back to a community that I am deeply rooted in. [#EquityChat](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@CollegeFutures](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Thank you for sharing your experience and showing that you aren't a single story or identity, Crystal. Simply Amazing.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

It feels good to be deeply rooted. Never forget your roots!

[5:53 pm] [Dr. Curry \(@iamkeithcurry\)](#)

Q8 Cassandra @SSCCC\_Official, Crystal @lccrystalc. Final question to close tonight's chat, what advice would you give to other equity practitioners? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Student Senate for California Community Colleges @SSCCC\\_OFFICIAL](#)

The advice I would give is you don't always have to reinvent the wheel to help students. There are a lot of existing initiatives that just need a student's perspective to make it effective, so call on the students in your area to speak. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Yes, yes!

[Crystal Carrier @LCCrystalC](#)

Educate yourself and others...Listen to your students' needs...Have zero tolerance for discrimination...Encourage diverse campus organizations...Host inclusive events...Gain faculty support...Create safe spaces for all students...Show kindness [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

I love this...

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

Thank you @ngu61364 of @orangecoast and Crystal Carrier of @leecollege for sharing your wisdom w/us! Your perspective has us thinking about how we can move barriers for our students! Stay tuned for next weeks guest... [@iamkeithcurry](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) [@equityavengers](#) OUT!