

Civic Engagement & Racial Equity

Dr. Jen Domalgal-Goldman, Executive Director, ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge

Chuck Black, National Voter Friendly Campus Director, Fair Elections Center's Campus Vote Project

Abdullah Aljanabi, National Programming Intern & Macomb Student Voting Liaison, Michigan Sec. of State

June 12, 2024

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

Welcome to #EquityChat sponsored by @CollegeFutures w/your @equityavengers hosts @lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil & @DrPamLuster Tonight's chat the last of Season 4! Welcome guests @allintovote @ChuckBlack12 @fairerelections & @Cvp_Abdullah to address student voice & agency in voting.

[Fair Elections Center @fairerelections](#)

Thank you for having us! I am excited to join [@allintovote](#) and [@Cvp_Abdullah](#) for this important discussion. - Chuck Black, National Voter Friendly Campus Director

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Welcome, Chuck!

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

Q1 Jen @allintovote, Chuck @fairerelections, @CVP_Abdullah. As you engage in equity-focused work, what is your walk-up song or anthem? @DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge @allintovote](#)

A1: My equity-focused anthem is Roar by Katy Perry — "Get ready 'cause I've had enough." I believe that together our "roars" combined with our actions can produce a more equitable and engaged democracy. #EquityChat

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

I can hear it now...our combined "roars"! I love the start of those lyrics, too:

"You held me down, but I got up

Already brushing off the dust

You hear my voice, you hear that sound

Like thunder, gonna shake the ground"

<https://t.co/jCISLS8mlc>

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A1 - There are so many. Right now, Rise Up by Andra Day comes to mind. One of the lyrics is "All we need, all we need is hope. And for that we have each other". Doing this work in community and remembering that we are in all it together goes a long way for me.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Rise Up has been my anthem since I was prez [@LaneyCollege](#). [@AndraDayMusic](#) is masterful. Like you, it's given me hope & reminded me that working 4 racial equity takes time.

"I'll rise up

Rise like the day

I'll rise up In spite of the ache

I will rise a thousand times again."

[Abdullah Aljanabi @Cvp_Abdullah](#)

A1: There are so many- but I must stick to a classic that never fails to keep me optimistic: Louis Armstrong - "What A Wonderful World". [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

I adore this song and the spirit of Louis Armstrong. He wasn't necessarily singing about the world then, but what he believed it could be. And most of all, he understood the power of "Love-baby, love. That's the secret." <https://t.co/F83ZbeSji7>

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

Q2 Jen [@allintovote](#), Chuck [@fairerelections](#), [@CVP_Abdullah](#). Was there a defining moment or experience that catalyzed your journey to engage in this work with civic engagement, and particularly as a Student Voting Liaison for Abdullah? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@CollegeFutures](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

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A2: I grew up believing in the power of education to transform people and communities, but came to realize that without combining it with and policy change, we would never fully realize an inclusive and equitable democracy. [#EquityChat](#)

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A2: I came to [@allintovote](#) in 2018 to ensure that [#HighEd](#) was living up to its promise to prepare students for lives as empowered change agents. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

"Lives as empowered change agents!!!"

[Fair Elections Center @fairerelections](#)

Jen [@allintovote](#), I didn't realize we started in the same year. I came to [@CampusVote](#) in 2018! The growth and progress we have seen together in this space is something to be proud of.

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

Great vision!

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

That combination is critical! Education + Action.

[Fair Elections Center @fairerelections](#)

A2 1/2 My defining moment was the first time that I attended a State Student Voting Summit. It was in Virginia in 2019 at [@JMUOfficial](#). We do Summits across the country, and they are a day of learning and networking for students. Seeing the energy around voting really

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A2 2/2 inspired me, and I love that the State Summits events have grown to be a staple in the student vote space. [@fairerelections](#) will be hosting 13 across the country in September.

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[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

WOW! That's incredible.

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

Exciting g to hear! [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

There is something very powerful about seeing something firsthand. Providing this exposure for students is so critical.

[Abdullah Aljanabi @Cvp_Abdullah](#)

Alongside the help from other members of the Collegiate Liasion task force, I've co-led efforts in hosting clerks, hosted voter registration drives, all of which have been my IT factor to continue pursuing this work. [#EquityChat](#)

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

Q3 Jen [@allintovote](#), Chuck [@fairerelections](#), [@CVP_Abdullah](#). From your experience, what significance does civic engagement play in advancing racial equity, and why is it particularly important in this coming election?
[@DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityAvengers](#)

[ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge @allintovote](#)

A3: Civic engagement is the catalyst for transforming communities. Issues drive voters and making your voice heard at the ballot box is critical for advancing racial equity. [#EquityChat](#)

[ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge @allintovote](#)

A3: Every election is important, but this year is especially impactful. Our rights are at stake and the issues that impact our communities are at the forefront. [#EquityChat](#)

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A3 1/2 Voting impacts everything. First, electing officials whose backgrounds and experiences reflect the community they represent helps to give that community a voice and power. Additionally, at any level, elected officials can be vocal advocates for equitable policies and

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A3 2/2 and forces for dismantling systemic oppression. I'm also really proud of the work the [@fairerelections](#) is doing with our Legacy Initiative Program where we support HBCU students and administrators. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

<https://t.co/TpwyXPs6cC>

[Fair Elections Center @fairerelections](#)

Thanks for sharing the page. The Insights Brief is a powerful report which can be downloaded off that page.

[Abdullah Aljanabi @Cvp_Abdullah](#)

This work is crucial for voters to influence local policies and create a reflective democracy in the political climate. As a leader in this area at Macomb, I am dedicated to educating voters about the policies on the ballot and the procedures for casting one. [#EquityAvengers](#)

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

Q4 Jen @allintovote, Chuck @fairerelections, @CVP_Abdullah. Voting rates among comm colleges are ~10 percentage points lower than 4-yr universities. What are unique barriers to this group and how can we address them? @DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures [#EquityAvengers](#)

[ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge @allintovote](#)

A4: Unique barriers to comm college students include limited time due to multiple jobs/roles. Time on campus may be limited & transitions to 4-year schools restrict the engagement cycle. Also lack of needed ID and changing addresses. [#EquityChat](#)

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A4: That's why we're teaming up with Levis, MTV, [@SLSVCoalition](#), and The Good Trouble Collective for the Community College Concert Competitions to increase comm college voter participation! Learn more: [#EquityChat](http://allin.vote/CCCC)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Oooh, I love this!!!

[Fair Elections Center @fairerelections](#)

A4 1/3 Ensuring community college students can find their voting location is crucial, especially when on-campus voting precincts are not available. Housing insecurity and frequent moves can complicate voting, particularly in states without same-day registration. Students who move

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A4 2/3 without updating their voter registration may be unable to vote on election day. Time constraints also pose a significant barrier. Many community college students are non-traditional students, juggling full-time jobs and family responsibilities. In states lacking early

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A4 3/3 voting or vote-by-mail options, having only 1 day to vote can make it extremely challenging for these students to cast their ballots. Reducing these barriers is essential to ensure that community college students can fully participate in the democratic process.

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

How fortunate we are that your orgs are focused on these issues [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Typing what I'm thinking

[Abdullah Aljanabi @Cvp_Abdullah](#)

A4: As a community college student, I help commuter students engage by working with faculty to host meetings that offer professional development, civic literacy, and some even offer extra credit opportunities for them to get involved. [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Your effort is important, and the focus on commuter students is needed! I like how you've woven together multiple areas of interest and gotten faculty directly involved.

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

Q5 Jen @allintovote, Chuck @fairerelections. Can you tell us more about the Student Voting Brief you've collaborated on with us and @Education4All? How will this support #higherled leaders with increasing civic engagement on their campuses? @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge @allintovote](#)

A5: Together we've put a number of resources in one place for community college leaders to access — from joining [#AllInToVote](#) & developing a data-informed campus action plan to participating in [#NSolve](#) to working with our friends [@CampusVote](#), we're ready to help! [#EquityChat](#)

[Fair Elections Center @fairerelections](#)

A5 1/2 We are super excited about this Student Voting Brief as it shares more information about the Voter Friendly Campus program which is an initiative that we run with [@NASPATweets](#). We had 262 campuses earn this designation for 2023-2024

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A5 2/2 , and are working on the process now for 2025-2026. Campuses can visit <http://voterfriendlycampus.org> to learn more. The brief allowed us to reach new audiences that may be unfamiliar with our work. [#EquityChat](#) <https://t.co/vrEDilLwBH>

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Congratulations to [@canyons](#) for being one of the voter friendly campuses! We need more [@CalCommColleges](#) and other IHE to join!

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We had 41 Community Colleges across the country earn the designation this cycle! I believe that we can welcome many more in 2025-2026.

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

Q6 Jen @allintovote, Chuck @fairerelections, @CVP_Abdullah. 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

[ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge @allintovote](#)

A6: We are always learning and growing as we do this work. Our partners on campuses and at other organizations from [@AchieveTheDream](#) to [@VoteRiders](#) are essential as we develop and share best practices. We gain a lot of knowledge from campuses on the ground. [#EquityChat](#)

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A6 1/2 Right now, and for the next five months, we are going to see a lot of polling and reporting on what student voters are concerned with and how, and even if, they intend to vote in November. Luckily, with our work, I can hear directly from students on the ground. We have

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A6 2/2 an incredibly talented and knowledgeable group of Student Advisory Board members & Democracy Fellows who keep us all constantly learning about the reality of student voter needs and concerns. While I know we have taught them a lot, I am also learning from them.

[#EquityChat](#)

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Students can express interest in our programming here:

<https://campusvoteproject.org/programs>.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Like I always say, students are my greatest teachers.

[Abdullah Aljanabi @Cvp_Abdullah](#)

A6: I'm lucky enough to have colleagues who are experts in election matters. Those include folks from the Michigan Department of State's Collegiate Task Force and Campus Vote Project who ensure the backend of student voting efforts is proper and provide updates. [#EquityChat](#)

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

Q7 Jen @allintovote, Chuck @fairerelections, @CVP_Abdullah. 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 @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

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A7: My freedom dream for higher education is to graduate every eligible student into active and informed members of our democracy. We want the [#StudentVote](#) to be powerful, year after year and students to know their power! [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

I vote for that!

[Fair Elections Center @fairerelections](#)

A7 1/2 Personally, my freedom dream is that everyone has access to higher education in whatever form that may take. 4-year, community college, trade schools. Education holds the key for advancement and stability for so many people, as long

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A7 2/2 as they are given the opportunity to attend. Students who are excited about voting & are leading efforts on their campuses to get their peers engaged gives me so much hope for the future. [#EquityChat](#)

[Abdullah Aljanabi @Cvp_Abdullah](#)

A7: I hope higher institutions strengthen efforts for political participation engagement on campus for more elections. I've seen amazing work happen in Michigan with institutions working with non-profits and elected officials, which gives me hope for the future. [#EquityAvengers](#)

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

Q8 Jen @allintovote, Chuck @fairerelections, @CVP_Abdullah. The road to racial equity is long. How are you sustaining yourself? What practice would you recommend to other #EquityAvengers? @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

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A8: We can't do this work when our cups are empty. I prioritize rest and recharging for myself and my team between our high-energy moments. It's a marathon and the impact of this work keeps me going. [#EquityChat](#)

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A8 - I make it a personal practice to take a walk every single day even if just around my block. It allows me to take time to unwind, and be reminded of the beauty in the world. Self-care is so important for [#EquityAvengers](#). [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

We need those reminders! Thank you for sharing your practice and for all the work you do!

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

Walking is highly underrated-even in short bursts you can regroup and breathe [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Was that for me, Prez Pam?

[Abdullah Aljanabi @Cvp_Abdullah](#)

A8: I make it a priority to have conversations with people to sustain openness and build connectivity. Whether its friends, family, colleagues, or neighbors, I find it so crucial to hear from others and figure out ways to uplift each other in life. [#EquityChat](#)

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

TY @allintovote @ChuckBlack12 @fairerelections @Cvp_Abdullah for joining us tonight-we will be watching and using your valuable guidance! TY to all of you who follow #EquityChat look for us & Season 5 soon!
@lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil @DrPamLuster OUT! <http://equityavengers.com>

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Thank you for sharing so much of your expertise with us! We are so proud to partner with all of you for the [@Ed4AllAboutAll](#) campaign. Look out for the website launch and information soon.

[ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge @allintovote](#)

Thanks for having us for a great [#EquityChat](#)!

[Fair Elections Center @fairerelections](#)

Thank you [@lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil](#) and [@DrPamLuster](#) for inviting us to this [#EquityChat](#). It was a great discussion with [@allintovote](#) and [@Cvp_Abdullah](#)! We look forward to continuing to work with all of you.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

We are in this together!

[Abdullah Aljanabi @Cvp_Abdullah](#)

Thank you for hosting us!