

Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner

President & CEO, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

September 4, 2024

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

Welcome to (can you believe it?)... to Season 5 of #EquityChat w/ur @equityavengers hosts @lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil & moi @DrPamLuster we kick off w/a national treasure on the #highered scene. @TincherLadner Pres/CEO of @PHITHEKAPPA ! Welcome!!

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Season FIVE!!!

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

Nice [@DrTammeil!](#)

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

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

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

That's easy! Firework by Katie Perry. That song gives people a much-needed lift and keeps you going when things get tough—and things always get tough. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Awww, what a selection! [@katyperry](#)'s anthem is a lift & reminder that we should have pride in ourselves and our work. [#EquityAvengers](#)

'Cause baby, you're a firework
Come on, show 'em what you're worth
Make 'em go, "Oh, oh, oh"
As you shoot across the sky

<https://t.co/2KhGrjfb5e>

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

Q2 @TincherLadner. Was there a defining moment or experience that catalyzed your journey to engage in this work, serving and championing community college students? @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(1/2) I don't know if I was born first or started working at a community college first. I have had many roles. But, from the beginning as a math and physics faculty member, I knew the community college mission was what I was meant to do with my life.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Your response brought a smile to my face. I love that. Community colleges, our mission, and work are in your blood. Let's go, math and physics!

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(2/2) Students do not accidentally get math problems right! Being the right teacher at the right time was fulfilling for them and me. I helped create a lot of engineers out of students who thought they couldn't do math or physics – love seeing them thrive. [#EquityChat](#)

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

Q3 @TincherLadner. In your work with @PHITHETAKAPPA, what student engagement strategies have proven most effective in creating lasting change for underrepresented students? @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityAvengers

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(1/3) Everything we do at PTK is research-based, but when you listen to students talk about their PTK experience, I think the most important things we do is increase their self-efficacy and provide a sense of belonging.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

I couldn't agree more. I've seen the power PTK membership has on students and advisors. It's transformative to see how working together in campus chapters and larger convenings provides the space for creativity and defining success for every individual.

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(2/3) As a step ONE to success, students must mentally get there. They must believe they can do things they can't do right now. PTK helps with this mental transformation, and this is particularly important for underrepresented students.

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(3/3) We validate them with recognition and then create a space for growth and opportunity. The students most engaged with PTK are the ones NOT getting self-efficacy and a sense of belonging somewhere else. [#EquityChat](#)

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

Q4 @TincherLadner. You have been an active partner in the @Education4All Student Voter Campaign. What are some ways @PHITHETAKAPPA is promoting and engaging student members around civic responsibilities? @DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityAvengers

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(1/3) PTK's hallmark of service ensures a thread of civic responsibility flows through the work our members do on campus and in their communities. This year, PTK, along with many other groups, are laser focused on getting voting rates up among community college students.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

[@EquityAvengers](#) is ALL IN on civic responsibility and the connection encouraging community college students to vote! Grateful to you and the [#Education4ALL](#) team, who've helped spearhead this comprehensive campaign with critical educational partners!
<https://efastudentvote.org>

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(2/3) What is on the ballot (everywhere) this year affects higher education more than any other time I know of, and especially for underserved students. We have released some initial communications to advisors and college presidents through our work with [@Education4All](#)

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(3/3) But our main plan is to beat the drum hard before and on September 17, National Voter Registration Day. If students register by this day, they beat the deadlines in all the states—and this will be an effective way to message to our national audience [#EquityChat](#).

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Let's get out there and register to vote!

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

Q5 @TincherLadner. How do you balance the immediate needs of students with the long-term goals of equity-focused work? @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(1/2) We address immediate needs by increasing campus engagement, and direct access to scholarships and professional development. I am super-proud of our latest member benefit, which leverages open AI technology, the FAFSA Mentor <https://ptk.org/fafsa-mentor/>.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Wow, this is a fantastic tool! The FAFSA is complicated and so important.

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(2/2) In the long term, we leverage what I love most about community colleges—their diversity, and PTK is like diversity on steroids. Being a part of the organization gives you an opportunity to develop inclusive leadership skills, and still be your unique self [#EquityChat](#).

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

"PTK is like diversity on steroids" and so much more. [#Caring4Students](#)
[#Caring4StudentSuccess](#) [#Caring4CommunityColleges](#) <https://t.co/CiK9E0nKs5>

[Katrina Bailey M.Ed. @kitty73990](#)

It's where I learned mine! [#PTK4life](#)

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

Q6 @TincherLadner. 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

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(1/3) We stay informed on current research and put it into practice through our programs. Personally, I like reading dissertations on equity topics, because the review of literature gets me involved in the nooks and crannies of small and big finds.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Please share! I love being exposed to scholars writing dissertations on equity topics. Those nooks and crannies are the best.

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(2/3) Good ideas are one thing, but only assessment tells you if you are tracking towards impacting student success. Research – practice – assessment – adjust and change – repeat.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Say it again! Research-practice-assessment-adjust and change-repeat.

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(3/3) I want to shout out to [@Education4All](#), [@WHEF_Get2College](#), [@LuminaFound](#), [@AchieveTheDream](#), [@Comm_College](#), [#CCCSE.org](#), [@CCTrustees](#) – all these orgs help inform our efforts.

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

Q7 @TincherLadner. If you could achieve one breakthrough in racial equity that would have the most significant impact on student success, what would it be? @DrPamLuster @IamKeithCurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(1/3) It may sound simple, but I believe access to postsecondary education is the breakthrough we are all (still) looking for. It is right in front of us. We know that completing a degree or credential is a pathway out of poverty.

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(2/3) We also know that minority students have less access to higher education. Access means giving students the tools to get to and through college. That means financial aid policies and affordability, but it also means preparedness and career exploration.

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(3/3) Everyone should have access to an education beyond high school that can lead to meaningful employment. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Barbara Taylor @bltmacomb](#)

It also means access to education in their preferred mode of instruction (online, distance ed, in-person). Many in higher ed are forgetting this & rolling back to majority in-person which isn't feasible for many students. The times have changed & students want a diff experience.

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

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

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(1/2) If you ever have any doubt that this is important work, have a conversation with a student. Listen to their story and it will propel you forward.

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

(2/2) In addition to PTK's Board of Directors, I rely on my personal Board of Directors made of mentors, encouragers, truth-tellers, connectors. Together, they keep me grounded. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Thank you for joining us tonight! I'm inspired!

[Lynn Tincher-Ladner @TincherLadner](#)

Thank you all for having me!

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

TY so much for kicking off Season 5 of #EquityChat @TincherLadner ! We so appreciate you and your work ! Join us next week as we host @InverHillsCC #ShannonWilliams @Shannonmar60223 until then @iamkeithcurry @DrTammeil & @DrPamLuster @equityavengers OUT!