

Heidi Tsue

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September 18, 2024

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

Welcome to #EquityChat with your @equityavengers hosts @lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil & @DrPamLuster - our guest tonight is Heidi Tseu AVP, National Engagement for @ACEducation She will share ACE's national policy to foster civic engagement at the state level-Welcome Heidi!

[Dr. Keith Curry #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @lamkeithcurry](#)

Let's Go... I am here and ready to engage with the dream team.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Also, a special day for [@DrPamLuster!](#) HBD!!!

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

[red heart][red heart]

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

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

[ACE @ACEducation](#)

I'll say We're Not Gonna Take It by Twisted Sister! There's a lot to do and it's time to get energized!
[#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Keith Curry #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @lamkeithcurry](#)

I am feeling that one. Time to get energized and ready...

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

Classic choice! And such a great anthem for right now!

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

YES!!

"We've got the right to choose, &
There ain't no way we'll lose it
This is our life, this is our song
We'll fight the powers that be, just
Don't pick on our destiny, 'cause
You don't know us, you don't belong
We're not gonna take it"

<https://t.co/ubtCvETOio>

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

Q2 Heidi @ACEducation. Was there a defining moment or experience that catalyzed your journey to engage in this work specifically around #highered public policy strategies and community engagement initiatives?
@DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

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My family journey. Both my parents left homes as children due to war. Through parallel journeys, they immigrated to the US because of our world class higher education system. It forever improved all our lives. True access to education has the power to change everything [#EquityChat](#)

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

Q3 Heidi @ACEducation. What prompted ACE to create a national engagement initiative? Can you share how you lead the implementation of this strategy as AVP of National Engagement? @DrTammeil @iamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityAvengers

[ACE @ACEducation](#)

(1/3) Our strength lies in our diverse membership of more than 1,600 higher education institutions – we're the only major association that represents all degree-granting colleges & universities.

[ACE @ACEducation](#)

(2/3) ACE launched the National Engagement office to respond to the escalating state-based policy challenges higher education as a whole is facing. It started with what was branded as DEI, CRT, and "divisive concepts," but it has quickly grown to encompass a range of other areas.

[ACE @ACEducation](#)

(3/3) Our goal is collective empowerment! Higher education builds stronger communities. We're here to help colleges share their impact and work together for a better future [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Singing my song..."Collective empowerment!" We've got to engage better with each other (institutions) and all the individuals impacted by higher education! What we could do together!

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

And lean in to each others progress and leap frog to the next great barrier removal!

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

You are so right! We must be less competitive and laser-focused on "great barrier removal"! Love that.

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

Q4 Heidi @ACEducation. How do election cycles influence the prioritized policies and initiatives? What impact does this have on ACE's ability to effect meaningful policy change? @DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityAvengers

[ACE @ACEducation](#)

(1/3) It's so important and it was just National Voter Registration Day! [#VoteReady](#)
<https://usa.gov/confirm-voter-registration...> ACE released an updated issue brief on student voting and campus political campaign activities -

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

Checked my voter reg yesterday her in California-super easy to do

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Let's go, Luster!

[ACE @ACEducation](#)

(2/3) Our community has a hugely impactful voice and down-ballot voting is critically important. The past year proves that state elections and local policies can significantly shape the national narrative around higher ed.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

This is such an important point! It's not just the top of the ticket! State and local elections have a significant impact on higher education. GOTV! Grateful for your work!

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

So true- all politics are local

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(3/3) State political diversity is testament to our democracy. ACE's approach is two-fold. We need to be responsive to state policy dynamics & focused on the long game – proactive, strategic & mutually sustainable engagements between higher ed and our state communities [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

You are so right! We need to host a whole Equity Avengers Assemble podcast episode on this topic.

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

This will take a big lift-to get us to the point where we can get folks into spaces where diversity, inclusion, curiosity and world-view are valued. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

You know me, [@DrPamLuster](#)...

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

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

Q5 Heidi @ACEducation. Can you share some of the most innovative or impactful partnerships you've formed to advance ACE's national engagement strategy? [@DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat](#)

[ACE @ACEducation](#)

(1/3) We launched Advancing Higher Education in our States: The Case for Engagement. This webinar series highlights innovative partnerships and strategic thinking around state engagement by bringing in on-the-ground higher ed practitioners to share best practices with colleagues across institutions and state borders.

[ACE @ACEducation](#)

(2/3) You can check out our webinars! <https://acenet.edu/Events/Pages/Advancing-Higher-Ed-States.aspx...> and <https://acenet.edu/Events/Pages/Growing-Business-Leaders-Problem-Solvers.aspx>

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(3/3) National Engagement also partnered with Katharine Meyers [@BrookingsEd](#) to co-author "Beyond the Culture Wars: The Real Story of State Policy and College Campuses"
<https://higheredtoday.org/2024/09/06/beyond-the-culture-wars/...> [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

A must read!

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

Q6 Heidi @ACEducation. 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

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There are great ways to stay informed – <https://equityinhighered.org> [@ucfreespeech@georgetowncew](mailto:ucfreespeech@georgetowncew), but what energizes me are the human connections with drivers of this work and our higher ed partners all around the country. People in higher ed are tremendously motivated to serve our communities and that energy is infectious [#EquityChat](#)

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

Q7 Heidi @ACEducation. 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

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Democratizing access to the real story and critical data! Student success is our democracy's success and reaching our communities with evidence-based data that tells the clear story of why and how racial equity, access, and belonging benefits us all would be incredibly powerful [#EquityChat](#)

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

Q8 Heidi @ACEducation. What words of advice would you give to practitioners who are passionate about engaging in equity work but are unsure of where to start or how to make a meaningful impact? @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil @CollegeFutures #EquityChat

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Give us a call! Everyone can play an important role in advancing equity in higher education and telling the real story of how we build America. We'd love to work with you [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#)

Appreciate you!

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

Thank you!

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

Thank you @ACEducation Heidi Tseu for sharing your important work w/us-happy to fire up civic engagement @ colleges and universities! Next week join us w/ @Dr_KurtHoffman @alleganycollgmd @lamkeithcurry @DrTammeil @DrPamLuster @equityavengers OUT