



EQUITY AVENGERS

#EquityChat - October 5, 2024

Guest: Sen. Steven Bradford (@SenBradfordCA), California State Senator

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

Welcome to [#EquityChat](#) w/ your [@equityavengers](#) hosts [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) - we are honored tonight to have [@SenBradfordCA](#) representing CA35. <https://sd35.senate.ca.gov/news/2024-09-26-governor-signs-senator-bradford%E2%80%99s-legislation-promoting-black-student-success...> Welcome Sen Bradford!

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#) · 37s

Thrilled to be here with [@SenBradfordCA](#) in celebration of the new Black Serving Institutions designation & California's commitment to racial equity and uplifting Black Excellence!

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

Q1 [@SenBradfordCA](#). As you engage in equity-focused work, what is your walk-up song or anthem? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Senator Steven Bradford](#)

[@SenBradfordCA](#)

Music has always been a huge part of me. I used to be a club music promoter back in the day! And 21 years ago, I co-founded the Gardena Jazz Festival that attracts thousands each summer. That said - my walk-out song is California Love by Tupac Shakur & Dr. Dre. [#EquityChat](#) (1/1)

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

Q2 [@SenBradfordCA](#). SB1348 introduces a new minority-serving institution designation—Black Serving Institutions. What catalyzed your drive to champion this bill, and what do you see as the immediate impact for California's higher education landscape? [@DrPamLuster](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [#EquityChat](#) [#EquityAvengers](#)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA](#) · 1m

This BSI designation addresses a direct need in California. This bill effectively recognizes the commitment of California colleges and universities that are making significant investments in ending historic disparities for Black students. (1/4)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#) · 1m

Replying to [@SenBradfordCA](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#) and [@DrPamLuster](#)
We are so grateful for your leadership in acknowledging, amplifying, and supporting the work being done across the state. I am proud to serve the [@PeraltaColleges](#), where all four colleges meet the BSI designation.

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA · 1m](#)

This designation will be similar to the existing federal recognition of HSIs and AANAPISIs and allows institutions to set a high bar for schools and showcase their focus on Black students. (2/4)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA · 43s](#)

These designations require a certain percentage of enrollment come from those respective groups. Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) require at least 40% Black identifying students (3/4)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA · 13s](#)

...meaning they essentially follow the location patterns of HBCUs & very few institutions in the West could ever be recognized for serving Black students. [#EquityChat](#) (4/4)

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

Q3 @SenBradfordCA. What are the unique challenges faced by Black students in California that the "Black Serving Institutions" designation seeks to address, and how will this legislation advance racial equity in higher education?

@DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry #EquityAvengers

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA · 22s](#)

The issues this new designation is designed to address are not new for Black students. Affordability, academic support, student services, finding belonging on campus – these are all things that HBCUs provide to Black students. (1/3)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA · 56s](#)

We are looking to create a similar experience right here in California for our students too. To qualify for a BSI designation, an institution must have 1) a student success program for Black and African American students (2/3)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA · 48s](#)

2) a robust African American studies program, 3) cocurricular learning opportunities or campus affinity centers and 4) outreach programs and services that demonstrate a commitment to Black and African American student success. (3/3) [#EquityChat](#)

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

Q4 @SenBradfordCA. What role do you envision California's "Black Serving Institutions" playing in supporting community engagement, particularly in underserved areas?

@DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA](#)

There are four major areas in this legislation that will address community engagement.

1) It will increase access to educational resources for Black students. (1/4)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil · 23m](#)

This is such an important component that is often overlooked. [@CalCommColleges](#) educates the most significant number of Black-identified students but gets funded \$13,378 per FTES versus \$22K for CSU and nearly \$35K for UC.

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA · 2m](#)

2) it incentivizes institutions to be more engaged in their community outreach and support. 3) The requirement for co-curricular opportunities, affinity centers, and African American studies programs can create a supportive campus environment. (2/4)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA · 58s](#)

We know that underserved areas often lack diverse cultural representations and see this as an opportunity to make a significant difference in helping students feel included and motivated to succeed. (3/4)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA · 51s](#)

Lastly, 4) it incentivizes students success programs, encouraging institutions to provide tailored support mechanisms that will help Black students in their academic journeys.

[#EquityChat](#) (4/4)

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

Q5 [@SenBradfordCA](#). What partnerships and collaborations are critical to ensuring the success of Black Serving Institutions, and how can community colleges be central to these efforts?

[@DrPamLuster @DrTammeil #EquityChat #EquityAvengers](#)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA · 19s](#)

BSIs are a step in a long pathway of support that starts in early childhood. BSIs must collaborate with local K-12 districts. These institutions must find meaningful connections with local industry that will lead to good paying jobs for Black Californians. (1/3)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA · 14s](#)

The partnerships between community colleges and four-year institutions must be strengthened and I see tremendous potential for collaboration with nonprofits and community-based organizations. (2/3)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA · 53s](#)

Most importantly, lawmakers and government entities need to be involved to ensure BSIs receive the necessary funding, policy support, and resources. [#EquityChat](#) (3/3)

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

Q6 @SenBradfordCA. To do this work, we must continue learning and partnering with others. How do you educate yourself, and who informs your practice as you champion equity in legislation?

@DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA](#)

I am always learning. I truly believe in being a lifelong learner. I recently spent two years serving on the CA [#Reparations](#) Task Force. This was a profound honor for me. It was also extremely educational. [#EquityChat](#) (1/4)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA ·4m](#)

I thought I knew a lot about our state's and our nation's history, but as our task force researched the history and harms of chattel slavery, my eyes were opened even more. Even though CA entered the Union as a free state, it was a free state in name only. [#EquityChat](#) (2/4)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA ·4m](#)

California acted like the Southern slave states. We had a fugitive slave law to capture and return people who had escaped their bondage. If you were a slave and gave birth to a child, that child was considered a slave. CA's first Governor even owned slaves. [#EquityChat](#) (3/4)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA ·3m](#)

So experiences like this one along with studying the work of other policy makers like Mervyn Dymally, Diane Watson, and Barbara Lee help to inform my work to create positive change. [#EquityChat](#) (4/4)

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

Q7 @SenBradfordCA. As you reflect on your equity work, what gives you hope?

@DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

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

Q8 @SenBradfordCA. What advice would you give to higher education practitioners looking to support legislation that promotes racial equity and access in their own institutions?

@DrPamLuster @DrTammeil #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA](#)

Get to know your local leaders and support each other. Think about the bigger picture of how to support your region, and don't worry about political party. (1/2)

[Senator Steven Bradford @SenBradfordCA ·40s](#)

It's more important that we are getting resources into the hands of the people that need them, and there's no better way to do that than creating partnerships between leaders and organizations. [#EquityChat](#) (2/2)

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

Great advice...all the work we do benefits our college, cities, counties and regions...and understanding who you serve and how best to reach them and truly serve is the secret sauce.

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

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez@DrPamLuster ·11s](#)

TY [@SenBradfordCA](#) for joining us on [#EquityChat](#) and for your deep commitment to [#highered](#) [#racialequity](#) - your work will lift many aspiring scholars! Join us next week as we learn from [@25thHourComm](#) [@JenAries4](#) [@CBerry_313](#)! Don't miss it [@lamkeithcurry](#) [@DrTammeil](#) [@DrPamLuster](#) OUT!