

Ms. Joyce Abbott
Namesake of Emmy Award Winning TV Show
December 4, 2024

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

INTRO: Welcome to #EquityChat with Joyce Abbott, the inspiring educator behind the name of Quinta Brunson's hit show *Abbott Elementary!* Tonight, we'll discuss her remarkable journey in education and her impact on students and communities.

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott 40m](#)

Replying to [@DrPamLuster @equityavengers and 2 others](#)
So happy to be here! Thank you for having me [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster 40m](#)

Replying to [@therealmsabbott @equityavengers and 2 others](#)
We are honored to have you, and excited to hear about your journey! [#EquityChat](#)

[5:06 pm] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q1 @therealmsabbott: What is your 'walk-up' song or anthem that best reflects your passion and dedication to education? [@DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry #EquityChat](#)

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott](#)

Man in the mirror/ Michael Jackson is one of my all-time favorite songs! Making a change starts with us. "Who am I to be blind, pretending not to see their needs?" The needs of the many children who are being pushed through a system designed for them fail - as an educator, how can I not be empowered to make a change? This song reflects my passion for education. [#EquityChat](#)

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott](#)

Of course the system isn't designed for the failure of ALL students. However, where I am from and the communities I have served, I've seen this firsthand. It has only empowered me all the more to commit to making a lasting positive impact! [#EquityChat](#)

[5:14 pm] Dr. Keith Curry (@lamkeithcurry)

Q2 @therealmsabbott: Q @therealmsabbott: Quinta Brunson's *Abbott Elementary* shines a spotlight on the challenges faced by underfunded schools. What lessons from your career do you think are most important for addressing inequities in these schools? @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @DrPamLuster #EquityChat

[Joyce Abbott](#)

[@therealmsabbott](#)

Focusing on creating a learning space where every student felt seen, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential, regardless of their background. So often the expectations are lower, and the belief that the students will achieve is dismal in underfunded schools. However, when you develop a full understanding of the population you serve, albeit underfunded, you come to understand the brilliance that is found there, and often, much greater resilience and determination to achieve. It starts with creating spaces truly conducive for learning and growing for every student. [#EquityChat](#)

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers](#) · 27m

Although we primarily occupy the community college space, you're speaking our language, [@therealmsabbott!](#) Inclusion and belonging are essential to student success.

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott](#) · 27m

Absolutely ESSENTIAL!!!!

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

[@DrPamLuster](#)

we see it continually in messages students receive about the value of attending [#communitycolleges](#) despite the obvious and demonstrable value that it brings! [#EquityChat](#)

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott](#) · 22m

Exactly!!! My sister graduated from Community College of Philadelphia as a product of the inner-city and went on to achieve INSURMOUNTABLE success!!! The narratives and systems must shift!

[5:21 pm] Dr. Pam Luster (@DrPamLuster)

Q3 @therealmsabbott: If you could make one systemic change in education to better support students and teachers, what would it be? @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @DrPamLuster #EquityChat

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott](#)

Eliminate systems that prevent certain groups from accessing resources, opportunities, or fair treatment. The zip code in which a school is located, should not be the determining factor for the above stated. That is, however, not the case. The areas with the greatest need lack resources. Students and teachers are not given the same opportunities as their counterparts in other zip codes. [#EquityChat](#)

[5:28 pm] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q4 @therealmsabbott: In your experience, what are the biggest barriers that students in low-income and inner-city areas face in accessing quality education, and how can educators and leaders help level the playing field? @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @DrPamLuster #EquityChat

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott](#)

Educational barriers in low-income areas – whew! Where do we begin? Inadequate funding leading to limited resources, understaffed schools with less experienced teachers, lack of access to advanced coursework, high student-to-teacher ratios, unstable home environments, and limited access to support services to name a few - all of which can hinder their academic achievement. Educators and leaders can help level the playing field by advocating for equitable funding, providing targeted support programs, recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers, creating enriching learning environments, and collaborating with community organizations to address students' needs outside of school. [#EquityChat](#)

[5:35 pm] Dr. Keith Curry (@lamkeithcurry)

Q5 @therealmsabbott: What challenges did you face during your career, and how did you overcome them to make such a lasting impact in your community? @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @DrPamLuster #EquityChat

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott](#)

Moving students academically, who had always been below basic. I did this by putting in the hours outside the normal school day to tutor, and by finding creative ways/methods to teach below level students to achieve growth. Including parents as important stakeholders. I worked hard to build meaningful and productive relationships at the start

of the school year and remained consistent with them. Building confidence and self-esteem in students who had lost hope. I recognized their strengths and celebrated their success, no matter how small, using positive affirmations daily. [#EquityChat](#)

[5:41 pm] Dr. Pam Luster (@DrPamLuster)

Q6 @therealmsabbott: To be a lifelong educator, we must continue learning. How have you grown as a professional over the years, and who has informed your practice? @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry #EquityChat

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott · 22m](#)

I have grown professionally through reflective practice. This involved regularly reflecting on my teaching methods, assessing my strengths and weaknesses, and evaluating areas for improvement. My practice was informed the most from my students, by observing their participation

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster 15m](#)

So true-we walk into classrooms with plans and info and emerge better educators when we listen and lean in [#Equitychat](#)

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott · 15m](#)

Absolutely!!!

[5:47 pm] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q7 @therealmsabbott: You've impacted so many lives through your teaching and leadership. What is your 'freedom dream' for the future of education, and what gives you hope? @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry @DrPamLuster #EquityChat

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott](#)

An educational space that is grounded in racial equity. A growing awareness of the need for diverse and equitable education access for all! [#EquityChat](#)

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

Q8 @therealmsabbott: The road to equity is long. How are you sustaining yourself, and what advice do you have for other educators striving for change? @DrTammeil @DrPamLuster #EquityChat

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott](#)

I try hard to prioritize self-care. I have been building strong support networks with like-minded educators, continuously learning from and supporting vast collaborations geared towards making significant changes. For educators seeking change, actively engage in professional development. Most importantly, listen to your students' voices and experiences. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster·9m](#)

We are definitely stronger when we build coalitions and relationships-leapfrogging the work only makes us better with each leap! [#EquityChat](#)

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

CLOSE: Thank you, @therealmsabbott, for sharing your story and inspiring so many through your work and legacy! #EquityChat continues the mission to uplift educators and build a brighter future for students.

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott·13m](#)

For more insight on my thoughts and best practices, grab my book “Teaching the Ms. Abbott Way: Lessons in Learning, Leadership & Life!”

[Equity Avengers @equityavengers·5m](#)

immediately adds to my holiday wishlist

[Joyce Abbott @therealmsabbott·17m](#)

Absolutely!!! What a blast!!! Be sure to check out my linktree for all the ways to stay connected