

## INTRO

5:00 PM – Dr. Pam Luster (@DrPamLuster)

Welcome to #EquityChat! Today, we're thrilled to have Dr. BJ Snowden (@docsnowden) with us, Exec Dir. of the CSU statewide Center for Black Student Success. Let's delve into his insights and celebrate the impact of his work during Black Student Success Week (@cablackstudents).  
@DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden · 48s](#)

I'm so excited to be a part of this chat. Let's go!!!

[@DrTammeil · 29s](#)

At least I get the chance to chat with you online [@docsnowden](#)! Looking forward to it!

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

Let's Go!

5:06 PM – Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q1 [@docsnowden](#), to start us off, what is your walk-up song or anthem that inspires your dedication to education and racial justice? #EquityChat [@DrPamLuster](#) [@lamkeithcurry](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil · 35s](#)

Alright, now, [@docsnowden](#). I'm with "Squabble Up" all day. Resilience, transformation, independence...Never underestimate...it's the long game, baby.

[Dr. Keith Curry #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @lamkeithcurry · 1m](#)

That song hits in so many different ways. I am so Compton that I play it at least once a day. [@sounwave](#) and [@kendricklamar](#)

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster · 38s](#)

Glad so many are in it for the duration-times are hard and sometimes it feels heavy [#EquityChat](#) [@kendricklamar](#)

5:14 PM – Dr. Keith Curry (@lamkeithcurry)

Q2 @docsnowden, as a planner for Black Student Success Week, could you share with us the history of this important event? What motivated its inception and how has it evolved over the years? #EquityChat @DrTammeil @DrPamLuster

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden · 1m](#)

Its's about tangible action to transform institutions into spaces where Black students can thrive. I think the evolution may include large regional watch parties or mini-conferences to really dive deep into the topics [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden · 2m](#)

[@cablackstudents](#) started as a call to action and a recognition that Black students face systemic barriers in higher ed that demand intentional focus. Over the years, it has evolved into a statewide movement, uniting educators, policymakers, and students. [#EquityChat](#)

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

[@docsnowden](#), you want to let the big surprise out. On Friday, April 25, 2025, as part of Black Student Success Week, regional sneakers ball events will be held in partnership with [@lclangotoCollege](#) and [@iHeartRadio](#) at [@CalCommColleges](#).

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil · 6m](#)

Love this! You wearing your chucks?

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden · 9m](#)

Bigger and Better every year.

5:21 PM – Dr. Pam Luster (@DrPamLuster)

Q3 @docsnowden, tell us – what new and exciting things can we expect for this year's Black Student Success Week? #EquityChat @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry

5:28 PM – Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q4 @docsnowden, in recognition of Black History Month, can you discuss how Black Student Success Week contributes to a broader understanding and celebration of Black history and culture in academia? #EquityChat @DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden](#)

Black Student Success Week is a continuation of Black history in action. It connects our history to the present fight for equity in higher ed. It also centers Black joy, innovation, opportunity and scholarship. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil · 3m](#)

The student voices on the panels are inspiring for current students and educators. Alums illuminate the ways we help and harm and give us hope about eradicating barriers to their success. It is precisely that: joy, opportunity, scholarship, and innovation combined. [#Grateful](#)

[Dr Pamela Luster #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @DrPamLuster · 4m](#)

Beautifully stated-I would use that whole paragraph every time!!! [#EquityChat](#)

5:35 PM – Dr. Keith Curry (@lamkeithcurry)

Q5 @docsnowden, considering your role in certifying institutions as Black Serving Institutions, what impact do you foresee this certification having on campuses and their surrounding communities? [#EquityChat](#) @DrPamLuster @DrTammeil

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden · 5m](#)

Black Serving Institution (BSI) certification is about more than numbers, it's about accountability and commitment. It signals that an institution is actively working to dismantle barriers, increase Black student success, and invest in Black faculty and staff. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil · 3m](#)

So proud of all the advocates who worked on the BSI designation as a recognition of the commitment to Black Excellence and Success! Proud of [@MerrittCollege](#) [@LaneyCollege](#) [@CollegeAlameda](#) [@berkeleycc](#) all BSI eligible institutions working hard for our community.

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden · 6m](#)

It means a stronger pipeline of graduates prepared to lead and give back. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden · 4m](#)

I really think this designation will help black students and their families in our state make more informed decisions on where to attend school. [#EquityChat](#)

5:41 PM – Dr. Pam Luster (@DrPamLuster)

Q6 @docsnowden, looking ahead, what's your freedom dream for the future of education,

especially concerning Black student success? How do you envision achieving these goals in the current educational landscape? #EquityChat @DrTammeil @lamkeithcurry

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden · 3m](#)

My freedom dream is an education system where Black students don't just survive but thrive where anti-Blackness is dismantled, and Black talent is nurtured. We get there by embedding racial justice in policy, curriculum, and leadership. [#EquityChat](#)

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil · 3m](#)

Yes! From the root to the fruit. We must make this investment in all these spaces.

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden · 2m](#)

We have the talent on our campuses right now!

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

So much talent!

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden · 4m](#)

We must also invest in Black educators and researchers who reimagine what education can be. [#EquityChat](#)

5:47 PM – Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q7 @docsnowden, reflecting on the current social and political climate, how do you sustain yourself personally and professionally? What practices would you recommend to others working toward racial justice in education? #EquityChat @lamkeithcurry @DrPamLuster

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden · 5s](#)

I sustain myself by being in community with people who remind me why this work matters, students who inspire me every day. To those in this fight: Protect your peace, find joy in the small wins, never forget it's a marathon. [@NipseyHussle #EquityChat](#)

5:53 PM – Dr. Keith Curry (@lamkeithcurry)

Q8 @docsnowden, you've been engaged in this work for a long time. Tell us what are the signs of progress that inspire you to continue in this vital work? #EquityChat @DrTammeil @DrPamLuster

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden · 28s](#)

I see progress in the increasing number of Black students demanding change and institutions listening. I see it in faculty, staff, in policies shifting, and in the spirit of those who refuse to accept the status quo. Progress may be slow, but it is steady. [#EquityChat](#)



**EQUITY**  
AVENGERS

[Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden:4s](mailto:Dr. BJ Snowden @docsnowden:4s)

Student voices are power!



EMAIL  
WEBSITE