



# EQUITY AVENGERS

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Today's election day! Don't forget to make your voice heard and vote!

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## Dr. Keith Curry to speak at the California Association of Black School Educators Conference



Dr. Keith Curry will speak at the 8th Annual California Association of Black School Educators (CABSE) Conference on November 8, 2024, at 12:15 p.m.

Dr. Curry will lead the Black EdCellelence Luncheon with Max Espinoza, Senior Program Officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Cristen Moore, Strategy

Director of Equity and Inclusion for the Lumina Foundation. The session "Supporting Code Black Through Philanthropy" will focus on engaging with the philanthropy community to make a significant difference as we all address Black learner success. By stepping in to fill the funding gaps, the philanthropy community as partners, can help us sustain and potentially expand our programs and services.

## Missed the #RealCollege Curriculum?

If you missed the #RealCollege Curriculum with **Believe in Students** and **Dr. Keith Curry**, don't worry...

[Register at the link here](#) to get access!

Hear from:

**Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab**, #RealCollege Curriculum Co-Founder and Advisory Board Chair

**Dr. Jesse Stommel**, #RealCollege Curriculum Co-Founder and Lead Instructional Designer

**Dr. Keith Curry**, Compton College President and Curriculum Instructor

**Christina Hasaan**, Curriculum Instructor

**Traci Kirtley**, Executive Director, Believe in Students



## The Latest in #EquityChat



In the October 23 episode of #EquityChat, **Emmanuel "Manny" Rodriguez** from The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS) joined to discuss his work advocating for equitable financial aid in California. Manny shared how his background as a first-generation college student and son of Mexican immigrants shaped his passion for educational justice. He emphasized TICAS's efforts to make college more affordable through Cal Grants and Pell Grants, which support underserved students, and the importance of coalition-building and storytelling in driving policy change. Manny discussed challenges like political barriers and stressed the value of research-backed policy, inclusive collaboration, and ongoing implementation. He highlighted self-care practices, including sports, outdoor activities, and reading, to sustain his work.

[Read the transcript here.](#)

In the Oct. 30 episode of #EquityChat, the Equity Avengers mixed Halloween festive fun with discussions on equity in higher education. They began by sharing their Halloween "walk-up songs," with picks ranging from "Monster Mash" to "Ghostbusters," reflecting the bravery needed in equity work. The group discussed their Halloween plans, with **Dr. Luster** and **Dr. Gilkerson** reminiscing about trick-or-treating with kids. Favorite candies, like Almond Joy and Kit Kats, sparked a lively debate on Halloween treats. They also playfully debated Halloween sidekicks, favoring ghosts over vampires as symbols of ancestral strength and legacy. **Dr. Curry** recalled his son's past costume as a famous civil rights leader.

[Read the transcript here.](#)



Don't miss out! If you haven't tuned in to "Equity Avengers Assemble!" yet, you're missing some truly transformative conversations on equity in higher education. Our podcast kicked off with a powerful "Meet the Equity Avengers" episode, introducing the passion and vision behind our mission.

Since then, we've featured groundbreaking leaders like:

- Dr. [Russell Lowery-Hart](#)
- Dr. [Gina Garcia](#),
- Dr. [Eboni Zamani-Gallaher](#)
- and [our very own Equity Avengers](#), Drs. Curry, Luster and Gilkerson

...who've shared game-changing insights into creating equitable, inclusive campuses.



[Listen to the podcast now.](#)

Whether you're in higher ed, an equity advocate, or just passionate about social justice, these episodes are filled with actionable ideas and inspiration. Be part of the conversation and stay ahead on the latest in equity-driven change.

**Attention! Are you or someone you know engaged in exciting, transformative equity work? Let us know!**

We are always looking for more guests for #EquityChat and *Equity Avengers Assemble!*

Whether you are a practitioner, researcher, policymaker, advocate, leader, student or organizer, [we want to get to know you!](#)

**Be our guest!**

### About the Equity Avengers

The [Equity Avengers](#) are Dr. Keith Curry, President/CEO of Compton College, Dr. Tammell Gilkerson, Chancellor of Palmdale Community College District, and President Emerita Dr. Pamela Luster of San Diego Mesa College. The Equity Avengers have made it their mission to lead the charge for a more equitable higher education landscape, increasing access for those historically marginalized by academia.

The Equity Avengers host the popular #EquityChat on Wednesday evenings on X/Twitter and are regularly invited to speak at state and national conferences to share their vision. The College Futures Foundation has generously supported the Equity Avengers' mission through a grant, allowing them to support and develop leaders who act and drive large-scale change toward achieving racial equity in higher education nationwide.



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