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The Equity Avengers Community has had an incredible 2024!
Here's a look back at some of the highlights:



January 2024

[Dr. Tammell Gilkerson Begins Chancellorsip at Peralta Community College District](#)

[Dr. Pamela Luster Selected to Chair the San Diego Foundation](#)

[Dr. Gilkerson Begins ACCCA Presidency](#)

February 2024

[LEVEL UP Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill](#)

[Dr. Curry Recognized as a 2024 Diverse Champion](#)



April 2024

[Black Student Success Week Marks its 5th Year](#)

June 2024

[Kendrick Lamar visits Compton College Commencement](#)



September 2024

[Black-Serving Institutions Becomes Law in California](#)

[Equity Avengers Launch their podcast Equity Avengers Assemble!](#)

[Dr. Curry Moderates the National LEVEL Up and Get REAL Seminar](#)

[Dr. Gilkerson Featured in Diverse: Issues in Higher Education](#)

October 2024

[Dr. Curry Selected for 2024 UCSC Alumni Achievement Award](#)

[Dr. Curry publishes "Unapologetic Rules of the Road for Higher Ed Partnerships" in The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)



November 2024

[Compton College Measure CC Passed](#)

[Dr. Gilkerson Keynotes Women's Conference](#)

December 2024

[Sixth Annual Real College Basic Needs Summit](#)

Real College California

The Latest in #EquityChat



We were delighted to feature Chazz Robinson, Education Policy Advisor at Third Way Education.

Chazz discussed how his personal experiences growing up in Milwaukee shaped his passion for equitable access in higher education. The conversation highlights themes including affordability, transparency, and the role of class as an often-overlooked identity. He emphasized systemic solutions, like accurate financial aid letters and fixed costs, to help students thrive without "survival mode" stress.

Chazz highlighted bipartisanship, cultural competence, and community as vital to progress, acknowledging unsung heroes—teachers, workers, and families—who inspire his "freedom dream" of upward mobility for all. He also shared strategies for self-care, including faith, jogging, and building supportive communities.

[Read the full transcript here](#)

On our Dec. 4 episode, we were thrilled to host Ms. Joyce Abbott, the educator, who once taught Quinta Brunson and is the namesake and inspiration behind the hit show, Abbott Elementary.

Joyce shared insights from her career, emphasizing the need for racial equity, resource access, and creating spaces where students feel seen and empowered. She highlighted the challenges faced by underfunded schools, including inequitable funding, high ratios, and limited support services.

Her solutions focus on advocacy for equitable funding, strong community partnerships, and high-quality teaching. Joyce reflected on overcoming challenges through tutoring, parental engagement, and fostering confidence in students.

Her "freedom dream" envisions education grounded in equity and diversity, and she sustains herself through self-care, support networks, and lifelong learning.

[Read the full transcript here](#)



Last week's guest was Dr. William Perez, Professor and Chair of Educational Leadership at Loyola Marymount University.

Dr. Perez discussed supporting undocumented, multilingual, and immigrant students amid rising challenges. He emphasized creating safe spaces, offering mental health and legal resources, and training faculty through ally programs. Key systemic solutions include equitable scholarships, policy protections, and fostering inclusive environments.

He highlighted undocumented students' resilience, multilingual skills, and social justice commitments as assets enriching campuses. Promising models like TheDream.US and UndocuAllies programs were cited as effective approaches.

For equity-minded educators, he urged advocacy for policy reforms like in-state tuition and expanded DACA protections, leveraging platforms for systemic change. Dr. Perez expressed hope in the courage and activism of undocumented youth, calling for continued advocacy and comprehensive reform to ensure their success.

[Read the full transcript here](#)

Equity Walk-Up Anthems Season Five of #EquityChat



Tunes to keep you MOTIVATED in your equity work

Just our way of thanking you and all of the Equity Avengers Community members who make this hard work just a little bit easier.

[Season Five Playlist](#)

Here's To 2025 & The Work Ahead!

See you next year, Equity Avengers!

About the Equity Avengers
The Equity Avengers are Dr. Keith Curry, President/CEO of Compton College, Dr. Tammell Gilkerson, Chancellor of Peralta 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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