



San Diego Foundation Commits \$4M to Support Underserved Students



The San Diego Foundation has committed \$4 million to help underserved students access higher education. This investment will support numerous local nonprofit organizations, providing vital services such as tutoring and college application assistance to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. This initiative highlights the Foundation's ongoing efforts to increase equity in education and improve educational outcomes for all. **Dr. Pamela Luster** serves as Board Chair for the San Diego Foundation.

For more information visit [San Diego Foundation Commits \\$4M](#).

Dr. Keith Curry featured in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* Forum Series

Dr. Keith Curry will join *The Chronicle of Higher Education* to participate in a webinar forum series, *Unapologetically Working for Change: Moving Forward to the Future*.

Dr. Curry will share bold unapologetic leadership strategies during the discussion. He will be joined by [Sophie Nguyen](#), senior policy manager, higher education, for New America.

Tune in for the first of the series on **January 23, 2025, at 2 p.m. ET.**

For more information, visit the [Unapologetically Working for Change: Moving Forward to the Future](#) forum page.



Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson featured panelist on *EDUCATE. ELEVATE.* podcast covering Black Serving Institutions Designation



Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson joins the *EDUCATE. ELEVATE.* podcast, presented by [iCanGoToCollege.com](#), as a panelist for a discussion led by **Dr. Abdimalik Buul**, Visiting Executive of Institutional Equity, Innovation and Strategic Impact at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (and a previous [#EquityChat](#) guest), on the new [Black Serving Institutions Designation](#) in California.

The panel also includes **Dr. Luke Wood**, Sacramento State University President (and also [previous #EquityChat](#) guest); **Pamela Haynes**, Los Rios Community College District trustee and California Community Colleges Board of Governors member; and **Joia Miller**, Mt. San Jacinto College biology student, who plans to transfer to a four-year university to double major in biochemistry and neurology.

Press play on the video preview above or click the button below to watch now.

Watch now

Compton College Partners in \$1M Healthcare Grant to Boost Career Pathways

The Compton Community Health Professions Partnership has secured a \$1 million grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation. The grant will be used toward creating a channel that leads to careers in healthcare. The funding will be used by Compton College, a partner in the initiative, to establish clinical rotation sites, provide student internship opportunities and develop outreach efforts to recruit students into health programs.

Follow [this link](#) to learn more.

The Latest in #EquityChat



Dr. Linda Garcia, Executive Director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE) at the University of Texas at Austin kicks off our first #EquityChat for 2025.

Dr. Garcia highlighted key strategies for advancing student engagement, including academic planning, high expectations, and intentional support services. She also stressed the importance of addressing basic needs and incorporating equity-minded practices into all aspects of the student experience.

[Read the full transcript here!](#)

What's new on *Equity Avengers Assemble*



Streaming now:

Carrie Warick-Smith, Vice President of Public Policy at Association of Community College Trustees, dropped by [#EquityAvengersAssemble!](#)

Carrie shares her thoughts on the impact of the new presidential administration, financial aid access, and advocacy needed to secure the future of community colleges.



Up Next:

We are joined by **David Baime**, Senior Vice President for Government Relations at the American Association of Community Colleges. As a national advocate for nearly 1,200 community colleges, Baime shares his insights on the future of community colleges in an era of skepticism about the value of higher education. [This episode drops on Friday, January 24.](#)

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. Tammeil Gilkerson, Chancellor of Perla 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.

