



Download *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* "Unapologetically Working for Change: Moving Forward to the Future"

Thursday, January 23rd
2 pm ET | 11 am PT

VIRTUAL FORUM SERIES

Unapologetically Working for Change: Moving Forward to the Future

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION | ASCENDIUM



The first recording of the virtual forum series "Unapologetically Working for Change" with Dr. Keith Curry and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, is now available on-demand. This episode's featured guest is Sophie Nguyen, Senior Policy Manager at New America.

In this session, Dr. Curry unpacks pressing challenges facing campus leaders today, offering bold, unapologetic leadership strategies to ensure institutions remain committed to their social mobility mission—even amid shifting policies and political pressures.

The next virtual forum drops April 8 from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

[Watch the full recording here!](#)

Equity Avengers Present Basic Needs at CCLC's Legislative Conference



This past weekend, Dr. Tammell Gilkerson and Dr. Keith Curry joined forces with Dr. Torrence Powell and Dr. Diana Z. Rodriguez at the Community College League of California's Legislative Conference. Their session, Prioritizing Basic Needs within California Community Colleges, explored innovative strategies to address critical student needs.

National Rainbow College Fund Opens Inaugural \$500K Scholarship Application Cycle for LGBTQ+ Students in California



National Rainbow College Fund

The National Rainbow College Fund, powered by the [San Diego Foundation](#), has launched its inaugural scholarship cycle, offering up to \$500,000 in awards to LGBTQ+ students in California, with \$2,500 per student.

The fund seeks to ease financial barriers for those pursuing higher education. Applications are open until March 5, 2025.

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

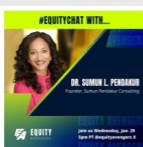
Dr. Luster to Moderate Panel during Larger Community Foundations Annual Conference

Dr. Pam Luster, Board Chair for the San Diego Foundation, will moderate panel session "Universities as Crucibles for Equity" during the [Larger Community Foundations Annual Conference](#) in San Diego, Calif. The annual conference is a private event for leaders of some of the largest community foundations in the United States.

Panel members include James Harris, President, University of San Diego; Pradeep Khosla, Chancellor, University of California San Diego; and Dr. Ellen Neufeldt, President, California State University San Marcos.



The Latest in #EquityChat



In the latest episode of Equity Chat, Dr. Sumun L. Pendakur, DEI strategist and Founder of Sumun Pendakur Consulting, delivered powerful insights on the evolving landscape of equity in higher education amid current political challenges.

She emphasized the importance of resisting fear-driven tactics in response to executive actions targeting DEI efforts. Dr. Pendakur urged for institutions to stay strategic, with clear communication to the community. She reminds us that "equity work can take on other names - as long as it achieves the outcome we aim for."

[Read the full transcript here!](#)

Up Next:

We are joined by Dr. Amer F. Ahmed, a nationally recognized DEI leader and Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence at the University of Vermont.

Dr. Ahmed has been at the forefront of building institutional capacity for equity and belonging. He brings a collaborative approach to enacting change, from overseeing identity centers to guiding university-wide DEI strategy.

Don't miss this engaging conversation on **February 5 at 5 PM PT on X!**



What's new on *Equity Avengers, Assemble!*



Streaming now:

The Equity Avengers welcome 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. The discussion will focus on critical funding issues, including Title III and Title V, and the steps community colleges must take to remain relevant and impactful in serving students and their

communities.

[Listen here now!](#)

Up Next:

In this episode of *Equity Avengers Assemble*, the Equity Avengers sit down with Dr. Frank Harris III, a nationally recognized expert on racial equity and student success in higher education. Dr. Harris shares insights from his groundbreaking research, his perspective on the future of equity at state and national levels, and his vision for transforming community colleges to better serve Black learners and other historically marginalized populations. He will also explore what lies ahead for his own research and the equity movement in higher education.

[This episode drops Friday, February 7!](#)



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 social equity in higher education nationwide.



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