



EQUITY AVENGERS

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Happy Friday, Equity fam!

Check out what's new with the Equity Avengers!

Join us in supporting CA Senate Bill 1348: Black-Serving Institutions

Have you heard about [Senator Steven Bradford's legislation SB 1348](#)? The bill, approved by the California Senate and awaits signature from CA Gov. Gavin Newsom, would create a state-level designation for Black-Serving Institutions of Higher Education.

Equity Avenger and Peralta Community Colleges Chancellor Dr. Tammell Gilkerson explains why, [in a recent Op-Ed](#), this designation is significant:

"Our incredibly diverse district in the East Bay includes Berkeley City College, College of Alameda, Laney College, and Merritt College. Over 30% of our students identify as Latinx, and all four colleges are either designated as Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) or are on the path to that designation. 20.8% identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander, again with our colleges designated as Asian American, Native American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) or on that path. The HSI and AANAPISI designations and resulting grants allow our colleges to support these historically marginalized communities with programs tailored specifically for these student cohorts.

Frustratingly, there is no such designation for Black-Serving Institutions. And there should be. Research shows Black students face unique challenges in their educational journey. They are more likely to delay attending college after high school, more likely to attend college part-time, less likely to earn a degree, and more likely to take on a more significant amount of student debt than other student groups. Collectively, 19.1% of students at the Peralta Colleges identify as Black, surpassing the 10% enrollment threshold required by SB 1348. This statistic is not just a number; it reflects our ongoing need for creating and sustaining educational environments where Black students can excel."

Learn more about [Black-Serving Institutions, here](#).

Dr. Keith Curry serves as moderator for the National LEVEL UP & Get REAL Webinar



Missed the National Level UP and Get REAL Webinar on September 12, 2024? Watch the replay featuring Dr. Keith Curry and a distinguished panel of experts as they explore actionable strategies to improve Black Enrollment & Retention in higher education. This insightful conversation covers the current status of Black learners and provides valuable resources and innovative solutions for educators, policymakers, nonprofit leaders, and learners.

This event also marks the release of the National Level UP policy and interactive playbook, offering tools to drive meaningful change.

Key Highlights:

- Effective strategies for improving Black Enrollment & Retention
- The role of higher education institutions in fostering equity
- Access to the National Level UP Interactive playbook
- Expert insights and actionable takeaways
- Watch now to learn how you can contribute to building a more equitable future for Black learners!

[Watch the play back here.](#)

Equity Avengers on the road!



Next week, Dr. Keith Curry will be in Detroit, Michigan for a Black Learner Summit. The theme for this summit is Real Data, Real Action, Real Results.

Dr. Curry will kick off the Summit with a keynote speech, then participants will engage in a policy forum and breakout sessions focused on how colleges are holding courageous conversations, examining disaggregated data, as well as taking action and seeing results while maximizing equitable outcomes for students. This Summit focuses on driving action and results and how we can support

Black Learner Excellence in higher education, unapologetically.

Equity Avengers in the news!

We love this article "[An Equity Avenger Continues to Advocate for Social Justice](#)" in *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* about Dr. Tammell Gilkerson!



Season Five of #EquityChat continues with civic engagement discussions with practitioners from ACOE and Inver Hills CC



We are diving into the topic of civic engagement! We spoke with Shannon Williams, Community-based Learning Coordinator at Inver Hills Community College on September 11 for our second episode of Season 5.

[Read the transcript here.](#)

Next, we chatted with Heidi Tseu, Assistant Vice President of National Engagement at the American Council on Education on September 18.

[Read the transcript here.](#)

Check out #EquityChat! Join us on Wednesdays from 5 - 6 p.m. PT on X! Follow @EquityAvengers, @IamKeithCurry, @DrTammell and @DrPamLuster.



Check out our podcast!

Tune into our second episode "[Leading with Conviction: Unapologetic Leadership](#)" and join us on the journey to disrupt and advocate for greater racial equity in higher education.

Equity Avengers Assemble!, presented by [25th Hour Communications](#), promises to engage, educate, and inspire listeners to take action for a more equitable academic landscape.



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 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.



Equity Avengers | 2017 O Street | Sacramento, CA 95811 US

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