



CA Senate Bill 1348: Black-Serving Institutions: SIGNED ☐

□ [SB 1348](#), legislation authored by Sen. Steven Bradford, was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom, creating a new, state-level designation for Black-Serving Institutions of Higher Education. □

Read more about the bill, [here](#).

Check out Education for All's Student Voter Brief



EFA UPDATE: Higher education administrators! Listen UP!

Postsecondary institutions can play a critical role in supporting our democratic process by ensuring that all students have access to resources and are encouraged to engage in our electoral process. In fact, promoting access to voter registration is a federal requirement associated with participation in the federal student aid programs. Institutions can even use Federal Work-Study positions at their institutions or with federal, state, local, and tribal government agencies to provide voter registration and other nonpartisan get out the vote activities.

[Education for All](#) and the associations and state systems that have signed on to our campaign are committed to creating a culture of civic responsibility. [Click the link to access resources](#) to help college leaders promote student civic engagement.

Black Student Success Week 2025 Theme Announced!



The sixth annual Black Student Success Week is scheduled for April 21-25, 2025!

This year's theme is Lift Up, Level Up: The Rise of Black Serving Institutions.

The 2025 Black Student Success Week will emphasize how we are serving Black and African American students to support and ensure their success in community colleges and beyond.

Check out the [Black Student Success Week](#) website and follow on [X/Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

Equity Avengers Speaking Engagements

Next week, Dr. Keith Curry will be speaking with the Grantmakers for Education about the LEVEL UP (Leveraging Explicit Value for Every Black Learner, Unapologetically) Initiative.

During this engagement, Dr. Curry will be advocating for policies that address the staggering loss of Black learners from higher education over the last 20 years. Focused on driving action, LEVEL UP advances actionable policy solutions and improved institutional practices to create more equitable systems of learning. This session will provide deep context as well as strategies and resources for attendees to be utilized by a diversity of stakeholders, driving impact collaboratively.



Season Five of #EquityChat continues with Dr. Kurt Hoffman and CA Sen. Steven Bradford, author of BSI legislation

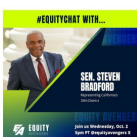


In the September 25, 2024, #EquityChat, Dr. Kurt Hoffman, Senior Vice President of Instructional and Student Affairs at Allegany College of Maryland, highlighted the importance of civic engagement in student success and racial equity. He discussed initiatives like establishing a campus polling place, teaching critical thinking around political information and fostering student involvement through civic responsibility embedded in the curriculum. Dr. Hoffman emphasized that meaningful engagement in

equity work requires institutional commitment, and he shared his vision for bridging opportunity gaps to create a more equitable world for students.

[Read the transcript here.](#)

In the October 3, 2024, #EquityChat, California State Senator Steven Bradford discussed his leadership in championing SB1348, establishing the Black Serving Institutions (BSI) designation. Bradford highlighted the unique challenges faced by Black students, such as affordability and belonging, and outlined how BSIs can address these issues through academic and student support programs. He emphasized the importance of community engagement, partnerships, and legislation in promoting racial equity in higher education, stressing the role of local leadership in securing resources for underserved communities.



[Read the transcript here.](#)

Check out our podcast!

What's up with HSIs? Dr. Gina Ann Garcia, renowned scholar whose work focuses on Hispanic-Serving Institutions, joins us for a robust discussion around "servingness." What makes a successful HSI? How do we define and measure success at an HSI? How can leaders create a culture of servingness at their institution? Tune in to learn about these topics and more on this episode of *Equity Avengers Assemble!*

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 Peninsula 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.

