



# EQUITY AVENGERS



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## #EquityChat 2.0 is here!



This Wednesday, April 9, we are excited to announce the return of #EquityChat with incredible guests, both familiar and brand new to the Equity Avengers universe.

After receiving feedback from our community, we knew we needed to grow and move beyond our previous format. Thanks to this incredibly supportive community of higher education leaders, practitioners and equity warriors, we are now transforming #EquityChat into something bigger and better than before.

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, April 9 at 5 p.m. PT** and tune into our social media accounts to see (and hear!) the latest and greatest in the Equity Avengers evolution.

## Join us at the AACCC Annual Conference!



Are you attending the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Annual Conference? If so, you have two chances to see the Equity Avengers!

Dr. Gilkerson will keynote a pre-conference workshop on **April 12 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** The session, **"Finding Your Groove During Challenging Times: Shaping the Future of Higher Education"** is hosted by the National Asian Pacific Islander Council (NAPIC), National Community College Hispanic Council (NCCHC) & National Council on Black African Affairs (NCBAA). This workshop explores how courageous leadership can spark lasting change and drive innovative solutions in higher education.

- ☐ Finding Your Groove During Challenging Times: Shaping the Future of Higher Education
- ☐ Saturday, April 12
- ☐ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Then, on **April 15 from 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.**, the Equity Avengers will be leading a session on **"Building a Culture of Equity at Your Institution."**

Creating a culture of equity in higher education requires intentional action, systemic change, and visionary leadership. Drawing from their collective experiences in leading equity-driven transformation, the Equity Avengers will explore practical strategies for fostering an inclusive and equitable institutional culture.

- ☐ Building a Culture of Equity at Your Institution
- ☐ Tuesday, April 15
- ☐ 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

We hope to see you there!

**Dr. Gilkerson recognized by The Golden State Warriors and PG&E**



Shoutout to Dr. Gilkerson, who was recently recognized as an Impact Warrior by the Golden State Warriors and PG&E for her outstanding work in advancing equity and social justice in education!

A true Equity Avenger, she's out here making moves for students and pushing for better access to education, not just in the East Bay, but all over the Golden State.

At a recent Warriors game, Tammeil was honored with a custom jersey and plaque, handed off by Oakland Interim Mayor Kevin Jenkins and PG&E's Sarah Yoell.

Lots of cheers and love. We're so proud; she deserves it!

**Register now for *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* Basic Needs webinar**





VIRTUAL FORUM

## What It Really Takes to Meet Students' Basic Needs

Dr. Keith Curry and Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson are jumping back into the conversation as featured guests on *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* virtual forum series, ["Unapologetically Working for Change: What it Really Takes to Meet Students' Basic Needs."](#)

Keith, Tammeil and Ian will explore ways to rethink old systems and develop new creative and innovative strategies, empowering student success for all.

- ☐ Unapologetically Working for Change: What it Really Takes to Meet Students' Basic Needs
- ☐ Tune in Thursday, April 10 at 11 a.m. PT / 2 p.m. ET
- ☐ [Register here to join the convo.](#)

More sessions are coming throughout 2025, so don't miss this one!

## Compton College is All In for Nursing 2035



Compton College is stepping up in a big way to help tackle LA's nursing shortage. Through the LA County Nursing 2035 Initiative, the college is partnering with the Los Angeles Regional Consortium (LARC) to make nursing education more accessible and to make sure students have clear, real paths to long-term careers in the field.

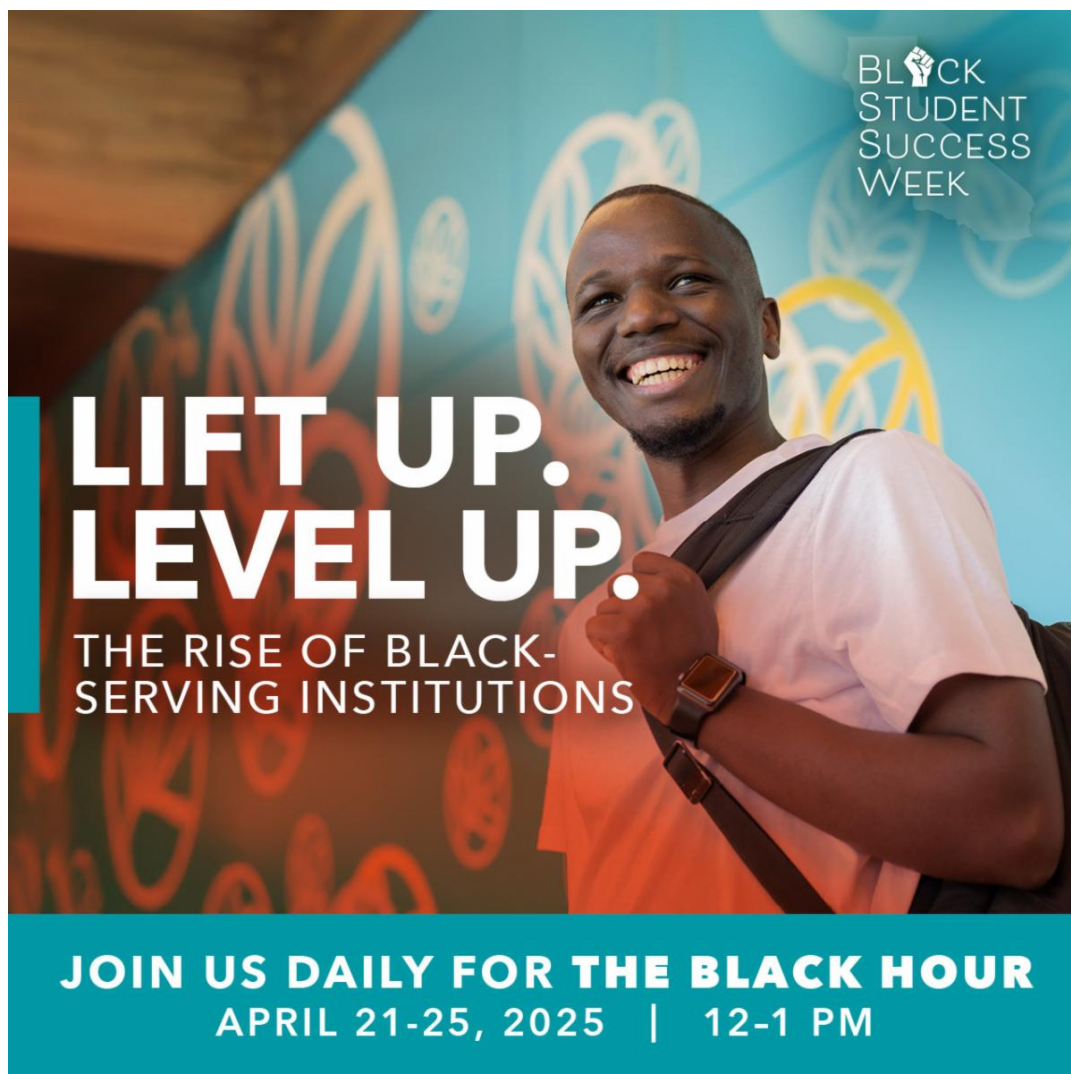
The big picture? This initiative will help more students enter the profession and help the region avoid a major care crisis down the line.

*"By working collaboratively across education institutions and industry leaders, we must create a sustainable career pipeline for students to complete nursing training and secure meaningful employment within the Los Angeles County."*  
- Dr. Keith Curry

The full plan (set to wrap by Fall 2025) will include workforce projections, strategic goals, key policy, and budget recommendations at state and local levels. It's a solid example of what happens when schools think bigger and work directly with their communities.

[Read more about the LA County Nursing 2035 Initiative here!](#)

## Register Now for Black Student Success Week!



**Black Student Success Week (BSSW) will be here before you know it!**

This annual event is all about uplifting and empowering Black students in higher ed, celebrating the commitment of students, educators and professionals who support their success.

The theme for this year's sixth annual BSSW is **"Lift Up, Level Up: The Rise of Black Serving Institutions,"** spotlighting the growing energy and support for the success of Black students in community colleges and beyond.



## Statewide panel to offer insights into Affordable Student Housing in California



Dr. Keith Curry is joining a virtual panel hosted by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to talk about a big issue facing students across the state: affordable housing.

The forum, **"Championing Legislative Advocacy for Affordable Student Housing"** brings together leaders from across California to dive into what students are really facing and how legislative action can help fix it.

- Championing Legislative Advocacy for Affordable Student Housing
- Thursday, April 10, 2025
- 10 - 11 a.m. PT

Dr. Curry will be in great company!

- Jeff DeFranco, Superintendent/President, Lake Tahoe Community College
- Laura Metune, Senior Director of Government Relations & Grant Development, LTCC
- Andrew Nickens, Legislative Director for Assemblywoman Heather Hardwick

□ [Follow this link to register now!](#)

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



### Streaming now:

In this episode of *Equity Avengers Assemble!*, we sit down with **Dr. Tia McNair**, partner at [Sova](#), an organization that collaborates with higher education systems and institutions, associations, and philanthropies to achieve large-scale change through careful attention to actionable strategy and practical implementation support.

[Listen now.](#)

## Up Next:

In this episode, the Equity Avengers welcome Dr. Sumun Pendakur, a transformative leader in fostering belonging and inclusion within educational and corporate settings.

A former #EquityChat guest, Dr. Pendakur, founder of Sumun Pendakur Consulting and a former board member of NADOHE (The National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education), has more than two decades of experience empowering agents of change towards social justice and racial equity.

She discusses practical strategies for creating environments that celebrate and support diversity through belonging and inclusion, and how her personal journey has influenced her professional endeavors.



**u 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 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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