#### WHAT YOUR COLLEAGUES ARE SAYING . . .

This book is written for the education practitioner, who's actively engaged in teaching and learning within K–12 classrooms and wants to better understand their own experiences to help their students uncover meaning in theirs. This book is also for the school leader, who wants to set the example and uncover their own academic identity and navigate through the Entry Points of Equity with their staff and school community at large. I see the importance of this text for school leadership teams, to engage in the real conversations on how to move all teaching and learning practices towards more equitable systems for all students. In short, everyone in education, needs to read this.

—Rebecca Davis-Dobson, Educator, NWEA

The balance of qualitative story telling combined with reflective practices is brilliant. This book covers vital topics, the practice of reflecting on equity, mindset, blind spots, microaggressions, and academic identities. The author draws you quickly into a space of vulnerability, and the structure of the book allows you to connect with the stories and reflect on your own academic identity, messages you may have received from your family, educators, peers and how that has impacted your own journey with equity. The structure allows you to become curious about potential biases or microaggressions you may have about yourself or others.

—Piper Sherman Nichols, Clark County Region 2 Leadership Support, NWEA

Equity is an area of grave concern especially in light of the past fallouts from the pandemic such as the Black Lives Matter campaigns and COVID 19 hate crimes. The six entry points support moving all students forward that they may have a quality of life in the future that spells success and not failure based on the assumptions, attitudes and biases of the general public or society. Equity has always been an issue, however, the light was shined on it again when the pandemic came up, as a way to say, we have not solved this issue; let's dig deeper. This publication can be another opportunity to dig deeper. I would buy copies of this for my school as I serve at a school that is predominantly African American and Hispanic population and equity is always an issue.

-Mitzi Mack, Librarian



# THE EQUITY EXPRESSION

To Finley Hubbard, my dad, and to the memory of Beverly Hubbard, mom—my first and best teachers.

To our young people—may we always continue to learn from you!

To my ancestors—my words are the voice of your souls.

## THE EQUITY EXPRESSION

Six Entry Points for Nonnegotiable Academic Success

**FENESHA HUBBARD** 





#### FOR INFORMATION:

Corwin
A SAGE Company
2455 Teller Road
Thousand Oaks, California 91320
(800) 233-9936
www.corwin.com

SAGE Publications Ltd. 1 Oliver's Yard 55 City Road London EC1Y 1SP United Kingdom

SAGE Publications India Pvt. Ltd.
B 1/I 1 Mohan Cooperative Industrial Area
Mathura Road, New Delhi 110 044
India

SAGE Publications Asia-Pacific Pte. Ltd. 18 Cross Street #10-10/11/12 China Square Central Singapore 048423

President: Mike Soules

Vice President and Editorial Director:

Monica Eckman

Program Director and Publisher:

Dan Alpert

Acquisitions Editor: Megan Bedell Content Development Manager:

Lucas Schleicher

Content Development Editor:

Mia Rodriguez

Senior Editorial Assistant:

Natalie Delpino

Editorial Intern: Lex Nunez

Production Editor: Melanie Birdsall

Copy Editor:

Typesetter: Exeter Premedia Services

Proofreader: Indexer: Cover Designer:

Marketing Manager: Melissa Duclos

Copyright © 2024 by Corwin Press, Inc.

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by U.S. copyright law, no part of this work may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

When forms and sample documents appearing in this work are intended for reproduction, they will be marked as such. Reproduction of their use is authorized for educational use by educators, local school sites, and/or noncommercial or nonprofit entities that have purchased the book.

All third-party trademarks referenced or depicted herein are included solely for the purpose of illustration and are the property of their respective owners. Reference to these trademarks in no way indicates any relationship with, or endorsement by, the trademark owner.

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 978-1-0718-9994-6

This book is printed on acid-free paper.

23 24 25 26 27 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

DISCLAIMER: This book may direct you to access third-party content via web links, QR codes, or other scannable technologies, which are provided for your reference by the author(s). Corwin makes no guarantee that such third-party content will be available for your use and encourages you to review the terms and conditions of such third-party content. Corwin takes no responsibility and assumes no liability for your use of any third-party content, nor does Corwin approve, sponsor, endorse, verify, or certify such third-party content.

## **BRIEF CONTENTS**

Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	1
Academic Identities	13
2. Mindsets	29
3. Relationships With Educators	45
4. Relationships With Students	65
5. Products	73
6. Processes	87
7. Spaces	109
8. Systems	121
9. Activating the Entry Points	139
Epilogue	161
Glossary of Terms	163
Further Reading	167
References	169
Index	173
About the Author	177

This is my first experience with an author who is thinking about equity through a lens to positively impact all students. It is a book for practitioners willing to tackle hard truths through reflective exercises that allow participants to reach into their deepest layers of self to identify what they believe, why they believe it, and what can be done; so they can work strategically towards a uniform solution. Readers will be captivated by the non-threatening way in which the author challenges all of us to look at ourselves and to do better, while offering a set of tools to identify problems of practice as well as creating strong implementation plans through the six entry points for equity. Practitioners, leaders, and adults committed to helping students will be interested in this book, as it puts the onus of learning on educators while also providing concrete sequential steps needed to work towards meaningful solutions. and ultimately to embed equity into every learning culture.

—Tara Isaacs

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This book started as a position statement for equity that evolved into a series of professional learning workshops for teachers. It takes courage to be a conduit for the people, especially when your ways of thinking differ from the norm. I am grateful for the educators across the nation that I've worked with the past two decades that welcomed me into their classrooms, schools, and hearts. They were always willing to join me in thinking about things differently and approaching learning from a new perspective. Their love of teaching and passion for learning are key factors in the equity expression.

The COVID-19 pandemic seemed to take months from my life, thus interrupting the writing of this book. I am fortunate to have family and friends that always support my ideas, stand by me, and cheer me on. Their support helped me bring The Equity Expression to life. I appreciate my sister and friend Aleata Hubbard Cheuoua—she is the smartest woman I know, and often she knows me better than I know myself. Aleata, thank you for always helping me to be my best self. I am extremely and forever grateful for my Dad and sisterfriends, especially Lynjunita Matsey, for keeping me nurtured, sane, and taken care of while writing this book. And for my coach, Dawn Albert, who helped me make sense of my writing journey and continued professional growth.

Thank you to my editors Dan Alpert and Megan Bedell for believing in my vision, and to Jacob Bruno for trusting my leadership. I am so grateful for the compassion and encouragement from Jaime Vazquez, who constantly reminded me that my voice needed to be heard. I work alongside wonderfully talented designers that make this content come alive, and I am so appreciative of you– Amber McKinney, Erin Beard, Joyce Smith, and Wendy St. Michell.

Very special thanks to my team at NWEA for giving me the space and tools to create with structure and soul. I am grateful to work with an organization that supports innovation in education. There are too many people at NWEA to name, but among those that helped ensure the success of this project are (some are also listed under contributors):

Amber McKinney*	Joanne Luzietti	Simona Beattie
Chase Nordengren	Joyce Smith	Tammy Baumann
Erin Beard*	Kim Baker	Vicki McCoy
Fred McDaniel	Melissa Johnston	Wendy St. Michell*
Jacob Bruno	Monica Rodriguez	Yolanda Wallace
Jaime Vazquez	Sharron Stroman	

Thank you to everyone who contributed their stories\* to The Equity

Expression. Lisa Lee Sarah Whitney
Anita Brown Mary Resanovich Tami Hunter
Erin Washington Moira Judd Tara Isaacs
Greg King Nick Joe Vicky Tusken

Alex Rozga, your design of the entry points for equity graphic is excellent. Thank you.

#### **PUBLISHER'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Corwin gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following reviewers:

Melissa A. Campbell

K-5 Mathematics Specialist, Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative
The University of Alabama in Huntsville

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Huntsville, AL

Rebecca Davis-Dobson Educator, NWEA Chicago, IL

Mitzi Mack Librarian Tampa, FL

Saundra Mouton International Baccalaureate Coordinator, Reading Specialist Briarmeadow Charter School Katy, TX

Piper Sherman Nichols Clark County Region 2 Leadership Support, NWEA Las Vegas, NV

Aspen Rendon Partner in Equity, Culture, and Community Engagement Cherry Creek School District Aurora, CO