

EQUITY NOW IN THE KNOW



September 2025



The Prosperity Gala

In just three weeks—on Saturday, October 11, 2025—we'll gather at the College Park Marriott for Equity Now's Prosperity Gala, an evening that celebrates possibility, partnership, and the truth we live by: Financial Education is Not a Luxury.

This isn't just a night out. It's a night forward. Your ticket fuels year-round programs—from early lessons that help students become confident savers and investors, to adult workshops, mentorship, and our Real-World Leaders experiences that connect young scholars with CEOs and industry pros. When you join us, you're helping move families from "getting by" to building wealth with purpose.

We're in the final stretch. If you've been meaning to secure your table, sponsor a student, or upgrade to VIP—now is the moment. Tables are limited and final seating assignments close soon.

Thank you for standing with Equity Now, Inc. Together, we're proving that when families have the tools, knowledge, and support to make confident money decisions, prosperity becomes a community standard—not an accident. We can't wait to celebrate with you on October 11.

—Equity Now Team

PURCHASE TICKETS

Shomari's Financial Playbook:

Investing for Generational Wellness & Financial Liberation

September 2025:

SCARED MONEY DOES NOT MAKE MONEY!

My dad instilled this lesson in me from the moment I could understand the value of money, constantly reminding me that building wealth starts with small, consistent steps, not huge lump sums. Unfortunately, I hear hesitation from so many people who delay investing because they believe they need thousands of dollars just to get started. That's simply not true. Even starting with \$25 or \$50 a month puts you ahead of those waiting for the "perfect" time. The earlier you begin, the better, because time and compounding work in your favor, but no matter what your age or financial situation, it's never too late to take control of your financial future and start investing today.

If you started investing \$100 a month in the S&P 500 ten years ago, you would have around \$19,000 to \$20,000 today, assuming an average 9% annual return. The stock market has historically returned 8-10% per year, meaning even small, consistent contributions can grow into significant wealth over time. If you invested \$100 per month for 30 years at a 9% return, your portfolio would be worth approximately \$197,000 to \$200,000, while your total contributions (what YOU actually put in out of pocket) would only be \$36,000. In contrast, if that same \$100 per month sat in a savings account earning just 0.5% interest, it would grow to barely \$40,000, with most of the total coming from your own deposits rather than investment gains. Inflation has averaged around 3% per year, constantly erodes the value of cash, meaning money that isn't invested is losing purchasing power over time. The key to wealth-building isn't about having a lot to start, it's about consistently putting your money into assets that appreciate, whether that's stocks, real estate, or businesses. Need help getting started? Are you a part of our online community? Join Equity Now The Network to learn what about investing and how to build wealth with community guidance and support.

CEO SHOMARI JAMES HONORED WITH



We are thrilled to share some exciting news: our CEO, Shomari A. James, has been named a 2025 Black Achievers Award winner by Buffalo Black Achievers, Inc.

This recognition highlights Shomari's lifelong commitment to service and his leadership in building Equity Now into the best financial education company for children and families. While the honor was awarded to him personally, Shomari has emphasized that it reflects the collective effort of the entire Equity Now team and community.

"I cannot do this work without each of you," Shomari shared. "This recognition belongs to all of us as we continue expanding the reach and impact of our mission."

[You can learn more about the award here.](#)

Real World Leaders returns for class of 2025/26

Real World Leaders returns in October! This initiative connects our middle school scholars with executives, entrepreneurs, and changemakers who open doors to knowledge, networks, and new possibilities.

Real World Leaders is more than just a program—it's an experience. Each year, participants sit down with CEOs, business leaders, and professionals across industries to hear unfiltered insights on leadership, resilience, and building careers with purpose. They ask questions, tour workplaces, and see firsthand what it means to navigate the real world with confidence.



Alumni of Real World Leaders tell us these conversations changed the way they see themselves and their future. They leave empowered, motivated, and better prepared to take ownership of their goals.

**"The Real World Leaders Program has
been a game-changer for me."
-Amira, 8th grade**

As we welcome the Class of 2025/26, we celebrate the return of this transformative experience—and we thank our partners and supporters for making it possible. Together, we're building the leaders of tomorrow, today.

Save the Date!

The Equity Now, Inc. Annual Gala will be held

October 11, 2025

Join us for an elegant evening of vision, community and impact!

[CLICK HERE FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES](#)



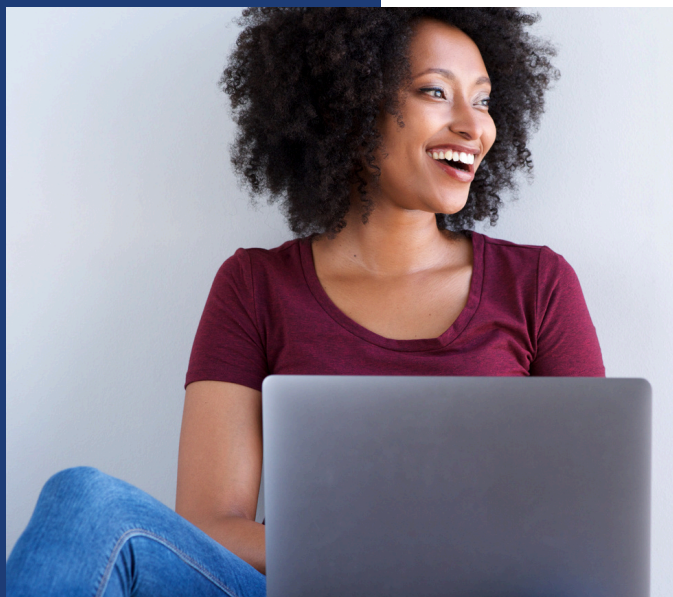
Join The Network

The Network is an online community platform designed to connect professionals from various industries and backgrounds. It allows members to discuss, share insights, seek advice, and collaborate.

Would you like to be part of our Community Engagement team?

Fill out our volunteer interest form to get involved!

Apply Now



GIVE

Your tax-deductible gift to Equity Now, Inc. provides Financial Education and other services designed to eliminate the wealth gap, improve community engagement, and advocate for social equity.

About Equity Now, Inc.

At Equity Now, we believe that Financial Education is a fundamental right, not a privilege. This is why we are dedicated to developing and implementing comprehensive Financial Education programs tailored for those historically underserved.

As the premier Charter School and Education Management Organization, our commitment to educational excellence is unwavering. We pride ourselves on fostering a dynamic learning environment that empowers students, engages dedicated educators, and embraces innovative teaching methodologies.



Expediting Change

Welcome to a podcast dedicated to empowering individuals and communities through Financial Education and personal growth. Join host Shomari James as he sits down with Jnane Tamsna founder Meryanne Loum-Martin to talk about her international journey from attorney to hotelier.

