

# EQUITY NOW IN THE KNOW



March 2025



## A note to our supporters

,Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership and generosity. Your support is making a powerful impact, helping Equity Now, Inc. transform lives through essential Financial Education and empowerment services.

Your contributions this past year have enabled us to expand our reach, launch inspiring programs such as the Global Youth Summit and Youth Shark Tank, and strengthen collaborations with local partners—all crucial steps toward building financial stability and equity within our community.

Looking forward, we're excited about new opportunities to amplify our mission, including furthering our educational offerings, fostering innovative community partnerships, and hosting events designed to empower and equip the next generation of leaders.

We recognize you have many options when deciding how to make a difference, and we are honored you continue to choose Equity Now, Inc. Thank you for investing in a brighter, more equitable future for all.

With heartfelt appreciation,  
–The Equity Now Development Team

# Financial Education

# Global Youth Summit & Shark Tank

## April 19

Excitement is building as our talented youth teams finalize their preparations for this year's Global Youth Summit and Youth Shark Tank competition.

These passionate young innovators have dedicated countless hours to developing their business ideas, sharpening their pitches, and preparing to showcase their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

Stay tuned as we share updates and team highlights leading up to the event. We're proud of these future leaders and can't wait to see their hard work come to life on stage!

[CLICK HERE](#) to register!





## Global Youth Summit & Shark Tank

The 2025 Global Youth Summit & Shark Tank on April 17th is designed to empower the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators. This Summit will unite young minds to participate in a dynamic learning environment focused on entrepreneurship, leadership, and personal finance.

**THANK YOU TO OUR  
COMMITTED SPONSORS!**





# CEO Spotlight

Equity Now CEO Shomari James' leadership continues to make significant strides both locally and nationally. This month, Shomari was appointed to the Buffalo State University Foundation Board at his alma mater, where he will leverage his expertise and passion to help guide strategic initiatives and foster meaningful connections. Buffalo State also recently featured Shomari in a powerful interview, highlighting his inspiring journey, leadership philosophy, and ongoing contributions to education and community empowerment.

Additionally, Shomari represented Equity Now, Inc. as a featured speaker at the EdOps School Leader Panel held in Washington, D.C., sharing valuable insights with fellow educational leaders and policymakers. He also took his "Expediting Change" podcast on the road, filming six dynamic new episodes at the CIAA event in Baltimore, where he engaged with influential voices in education, financial empowerment, and social impact. We're incredibly proud of Shomari's dedication, vision, and the positive impact he continues to make across our community and beyond.



"What I learned at Buffalo State":  
Shomari James talks persistence, passion,  
and progress

March 3, 2025  
By Sabrina Kibwezi



**[CLICK HERE to read Buffalo State's](#)**  
**feature on CEO James**

# Shomari's Financial Playbook:

## Investing for Generational Wellness & Financial Liberation

### March 2025: "Tax Refund? Invest, Don't Splurge!"

Most people get excited about a big tax refund, but a large refund means the IRS has been holding your money all year, for free. They make money on your money earning your interest and then give it back to you as a "refund". What could you do with that money if it was in your pocket and not theirs?

Instead of letting the government use your cash, consider adjusting your paycheck withholdings so you keep more of your paycheck throughout the year. Use this as an opportunity to kick start the concept of paying yourself first. That extra money can be invested right away into dividend stocks, index funds, or even used to start a small business. If you're getting a refund this year, put a portion to work for you. Wealth is built by owning assets, not just earning income, but a key is to make your money work for you.



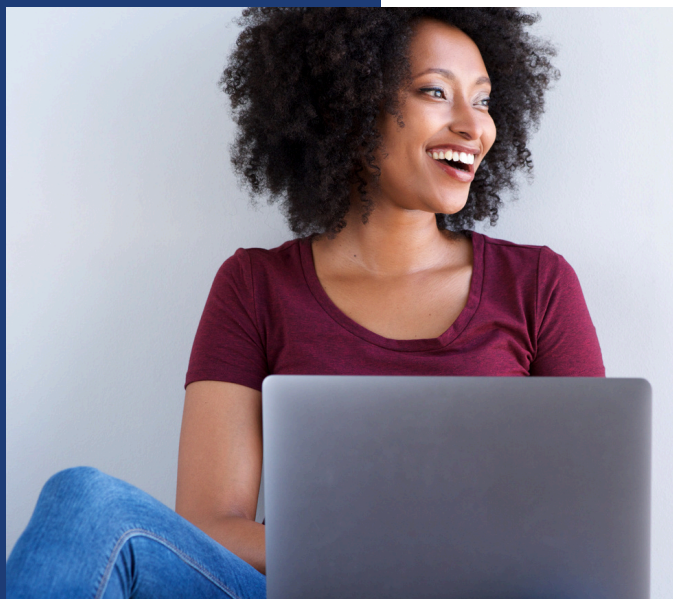
### **Join The Network**

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 Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman to discuss her insights, experiences, and strategies for success.

