EQUITY NOW IN THE KNOW

EQUITY NOW

May 2025

Expanding Access to Fin Ed

Dear Equity Now Family,

Every once in a while, a season arrives that feels charged with possibility—where bold ideas, tireless preparation, and community support converge into genuine momentum. That is exactly where we stand today. Over the past year, our workshops, summits, and school partnerships have helped thousands of learners take their first steps toward financial freedom. Now, we are poised to scale that impact in ways we once only imagined.

I'm thrilled to announce the official launch of The Network: Equity Now, Inc.'s on-demand learning hub and community that puts step-by-step Financial Education in the palm of every participant's hand. From interactive budgeting modules to live Q&A sessions with investment professionals, The Network will serve as a 24/7 gateway to the knowledge and help to provide the confidence people need to build generational wealth. Whether you're a parent saving for college, a recent grad tackling student loans, or a veteran educator looking to enrich your classroom, The Network will meet you where you are and move you forward.

Our mission would not be possible without you—our donors, volunteers, and partners—who believe, as I do, that Financial Education is not a luxury but a right.

Thank you for standing with us. Here's to the next chapter of empowering every learner to thrive.

With gratitude,
Shomari Akil James
Chairman and Co-founder

Financial Education

To close out Financial Education Month, Equity Now teamed up with Breaking Barriers Buffalo to host the city's first Financial Empowerment Summit at the Northland Workforce Training Center. The day-long event drew residents, small-business owners, and college students eager to chart a clearer path to financial security.

Our Director of Financial Education, Justin Devose, led a series of hands-on workshop sessions that broke big topics into practical steps— budgeting, credit-score rehab, and an investing primer that let participants test their skills in a live stock simulator. Dozens of attendees filled out "Wealth Workbooks," set first-month savings goals, and walked away with a free trial of The Network, Equity Now's soon-to-launch digital learning hub.

The buzz in the room was undeniable: participants swapped success stories, signed up for follow-up coaching, and asked when the next workshop would hit their neighborhoods. For Equity Now, the summit underscored our mission to put actionable financial knowledge within everyone's reach—and it offered a real-time preview of the interactive style you'll find inside The Network.

CEO Spotlight

Equity Now's CEO Shomari A. James has been on the move this spring, championing financial empowerment and celebrating the educators who make lasting change possible. At the Breaking Barriers Buffalo Financial Empowerment Summit on April 26, Shomari delivered the keynote address, urging attendees to see Financial Education as a pathway to justice and shared prosperity. His message reached community members, small-business owners, and students alike, underscoring Equity Now's belief that everyone deserves the tools to build generational wealth.

A week later, Shomari traded his conference mic for a tuxedo at Buffalo's Excellence in Education Awards. Equity Now was proud to help sponsor this black-tie gala at Roswell Park's Hohn Auditorium on May 3, honoring teachers, principals, and school staff who go above and beyond for their students.

Click below for CEO Shomari James' recent feature on the Breaking Barriers Buffalo podcast

May 2025: "Own the Summer Economy: Literally!"

Summer is a time of spending on vacations, theme parks, flights, concerts, and new clothes, right? Wrong! Instead of just being a consumer, be an owner too.

Invest in the companies you’re already spending money with. If you’re flying with Delta, own Delta stock. If you’re buying sneakers, invest in Nike or Adidas. If you’re going to Disney, own Disney stock. You have an iPhone, Apple TV, a MacBook and a tablet but do you own Apple stock?

Over the past 25 years, Apple's stock has experienced remarkable growth. On March 31, 2000, Apple's stock closed at $25.94. As of February 28, 2025, the stock closed at $241.84. This substantial increase reflects Apple's successful innovations, as well as strong revenue from services like the App Store and subscription models. Consequently, Apple has become a cornerstone investment, delivering substantial returns to long-term shareholders.

If you’re spending money with a company, you should also be earning from it. The goal isn’t just to work for money but to own the businesses making money from you. Every time you buy from a brand, ask yourself if you also own a stake in its success. Shifting from a consumer mindset to an ownership mindset is a key step toward building generational wealth.

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

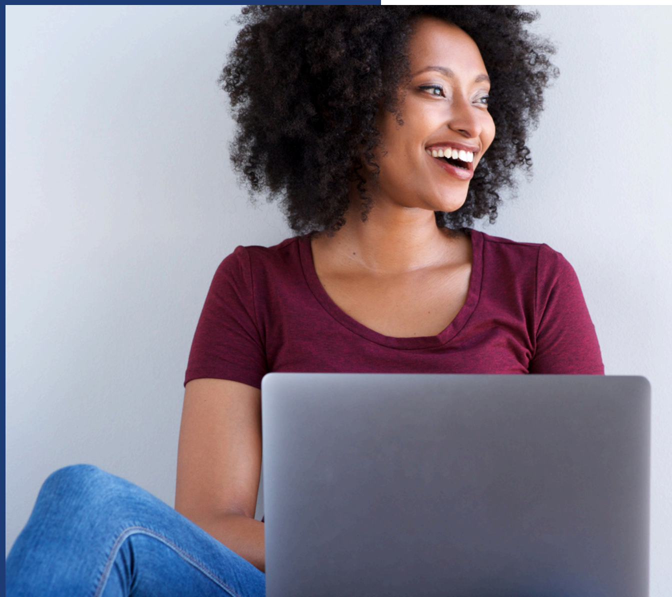
Join The Network

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 T.H.R.I.V.E. Founder and Principal Dr. Monica Hall to talk servant leadership and leveraging access to empower the next generation.