

# EQUITY NOW IN THE KNOW



February 2025



## Forward Momentum: February at EN

,Hello Equity Now Family,

On behalf of the Community Engagement Team, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for the incredible support you've shown this year. Whether you are a donor, prospective or current volunteer, collaborating organization, or community member seeking resources —you are an essential part of our mission to remove barriers and ensure our neighbors have access to the necessities that support a high quality of life.

Over the past few months, we've hosted food and toy drives, coat collections, and school supply events that have collectively served hundreds of families. Because of your generosity and involvement, more children started the school year prepared, more households stayed warm during the colder months, and more families enjoyed joyful holiday moments. These are victories we celebrate together.

But the work is far from over. As we plan for the rest of the year, we invite you to join us in our continuing efforts. Here are a few ways to get involved:

**Volunteer:** We're always seeking passionate individuals to help with event setup, distribution, and administrative support.

**Donate:** Your contributions—whether financial or in-kind —allow us to expand our reach and serve more families in need.

**Partner:** We love collaborating with local businesses, nonprofits, and community groups to amplify resources and share best practices. If you have an idea or project, we'd love to hear it!

**Spread the Word:** Help us reach new audiences by sharing our mission with friends, family, and colleagues or by promoting our events on social media.

Keep an eye on your inbox and our social media channels for updates on upcoming Community Engagement work. Your presence and involvement—big or small—make all the difference in creating a community where everyone has a chance to thrive.

Thank you for being part of the Equity Now family. Together, we are changing lives and nurturing a future filled with opportunity for all.

With gratitude,  
Antoine Williams,  
Co-founder/  
Director of Community Engagement and Finance



A man and a woman are in a modern kitchen. The man, wearing an apron, is pointing at a smartphone held by the woman. They are both looking at the screen. In the background, there is a microwave on a shelf and a window. In the foreground, there are some vegetables like bell peppers and a cutting board.

## Simple Financial Wellness Tips You Can Start Today

### 1. MEAL PLANNING:

Save more by planning meals ahead of time. It cuts down on expensive takeout and reduces impulse food buys—simple changes that add up to big savings.

### 2. REVIEW SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Subscriptions are sneaky budget busters. Review recurring expenses and cancel anything you're not using or that doesn't add value.

### 3. BUILD YOUR EMERGENCY FUND:

With mixed economic signals, prioritizing your emergency fund is more important than ever. Aim to set aside 3-6 months of living expenses so you're prepared for whatever comes next.



# Financial Education

## Fin Ed Summit at T.H.R.I.V.E.

Last month, Equity Now traveled to Atlanta for a dynamic, weeklong Financial Education Summit at T.H.R.I.V.E. Christian Academy—serving everyone from first graders to the school’s administrators. Through interactive workshops, students explored the basics of saving, budgeting, entrepreneurship and investing, learning how small actions today can lead to long-term financial security.

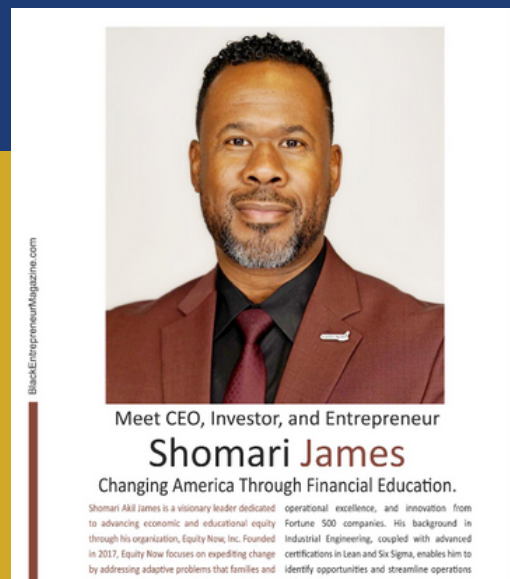
Teachers and staff also received tailored sessions on weaving Financial Education into everyday lessons, ensuring the entire school community continues to benefit long after our visit. It was inspiring to watch such enthusiastic participation and to witness firsthand how early exposure to financial education can spark empowerment and confidence.



# CEO Spotlight

We're excited to share several recent milestones achieved by our visionary CEO, Shomari James, and his impactful podcast, *Expediting Change*. Shomari was honored with a feature in *Black Entrepreneur Magazine*, showcasing his dedication to empowering underserved communities through financial literacy and generational wealth strategies. He will also be recognized as an honoree at the Black Tie for Black History event in Buffalo, further underscoring his ongoing commitment to transformative leadership.

*Expediting Change* continues to make waves, having been invited to film live at the upcoming CIAA conference. This opportunity will bring the show's insightful conversations on entrepreneurship, wealth-building, and community engagement to a broader audience. Early this month, *Expediting Change* hosted the THRIVE "Four More" Dinner at CNS in Atlanta, where entrepreneurs and thought leaders gathered to strategize on building and sustaining community financial wellbeing over the next four years. Together, these achievements reflect Shomari's unwavering focus on elevating communities and sparking meaningful dialogue around economic empowerment.



**[CLICK HERE](#) to read Black Entrepreneur Magazine's feature on CEO James**



## 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!**





## Community Engagement

This year, we are working to bring the mobile dental van back into the neighborhood, offering essential dental services for children who might otherwise go without. We're also planning community food and supply drives focused on ensuring access to necessities for those who need it most.

Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for official details—whether you'd like to volunteer, donate, or help spread the word, there will be plenty of ways to get involved and support our neighbors!



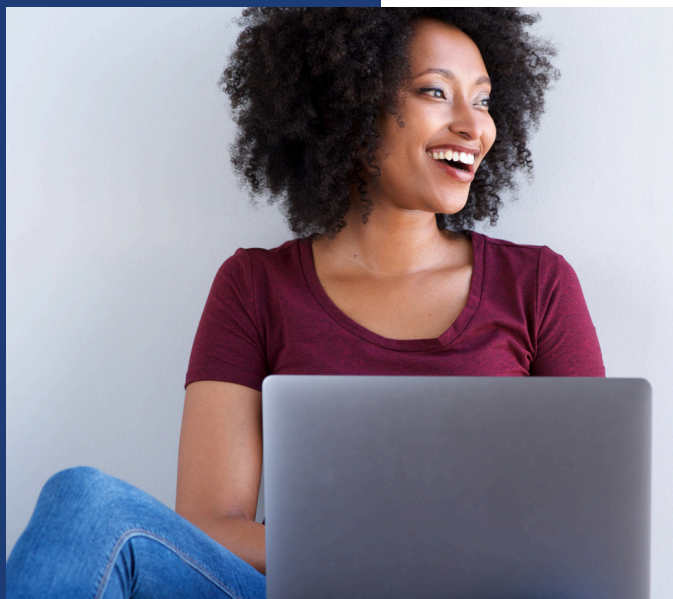
### **Join The Network**

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 experts and influencers to discuss their insights, experiences, and strategies for success.

