

EQUITY NOW IN THE KNOW

EQUITY NOW



Winter 2024

A Note from CEO Shomari A. James

As we come to the close of another impactful year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the strides we've made together and express my gratitude for your continued support. This year has been one of growth, innovation, and lasting impact for the children and families we serve.

In 2024, we hosted a series of transformative programs that have furthered our mission to equip our community with the financial tools and leadership skills necessary for a bright future. Our Summer Investment Summit brought financial education to middle school students, helping them understand the power of investing at an early age.

The [Financial Education Summit](#) provided adults with essential financial education while our youngest entrepreneurs competed in a Youth Shark Tank. Fourth grader Lula Million took home the top prize (\$250 in seed capital!) with her pitching skills and business acumen.

Meanwhile, our experiential [Real World Leaders](#) cohort program offered mentorship and leadership training through hands-on experiences such as interviewing CEOs and site visits at cutting-edge companies, inspiring participants to envision futures filled with possibility. If they can see it, they can become it.

One of the most inspiring moments of the year was honoring six remarkable youth with the [Strother Maxwell Awards](#), awarding funds directly into their custodial trading accounts to foster the habit of investing in their futures. We believe in teaching our scholars to invest beginning in kindergarten. It is never too early to start building wealth for your future.

None of this would have been possible without you, our dedicated donors, who share in our vision of a more Financially Educated and empowered generation. Thank you for making our mission your mission. Your support is creating real change in the lives of our community members, helping to close the wealth gap, and we are deeply grateful.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to build on this momentum. In 2025, we're launching our highly anticipated [Global Youth Summit and Regional Shark Tank](#), which will bring together talented young entrepreneurs from across the Northeast to compete for seed funding for their business, and mentorship to take their startup businesses to the next level.

Additionally, we'll be unveiling [The Network](#), a dynamic platform to further expand access to Financial Education for all ages. Keep a look out as we plan to launch next year.

As we wrap up 2024, I want to wish each of you a joyful holiday season filled with the company of those who matter most. Thank you again for being an essential part of the Equity Now community. Together, we are building pathways to financial empowerment and economic growth for generations to come.



Consumer Spending Trends: Be Mindful of Your Money

We're seeing a growing divide in consumer spending habits, particularly across income groups. Whether you're feeling financial stress or enjoying some security, now is the time to adopt smarter spending habits.



For Those Feeling the Pinch:

- **Focus on Essentials:** Tightening your budget? Prioritize your needs—cutting back on non-essential spending can help you navigate these challenging times more efficiently.

For More Financially Stable Consumers:

- **Mindful Consumption:** Even if your finances are steady, the trend toward thoughtful spending is growing. Before making a purchase, ask yourself: Do I need this? Now is the time to make conscious choices that align with your long-term goals.



Strother- Maxwell Awards

Each year, Equity Now selects Legends Charter School students to be honored as recipients of the prestigious Strother-Maxwell Award. Those vying for recognition must excel in several areas: citizenship, academics, and financial acumen. This October, \$1400 was awarded by way of direct investment in their custodial accounts.

Congratulations to our honorees, we are so proud of you and excited for what you will accomplish in the future!

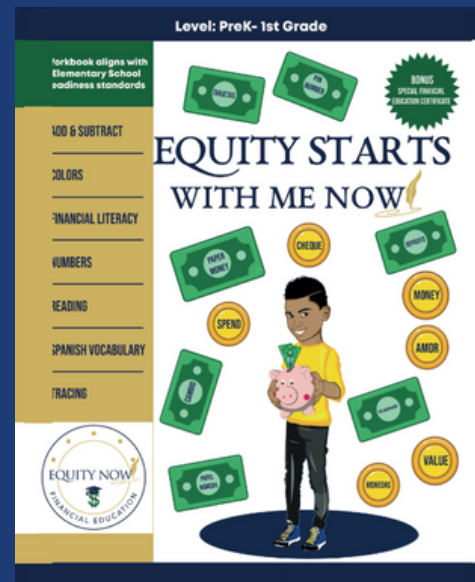
Strother-Maxwell



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.

PreK – 1st grade Financial Education Workbook



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SUPPORT

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.

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