What Is Umoja?

**UMOJA**
(A Kiswahili word meaning **UNITY**) is a community and critical resource dedicated to enhancing the cultural and educational experiences of African American and other students.
What Is Umoja?

At Umoja, we believe that when the voices and histories of students are deliberately and intentionally recognized, the opportunity for self-efficacy emerges and a foundation is formed for academic success.

Umoja actively serves and promotes success for ALL STUDENTS through a curriculum and pedagogy responsive to the legacy of the African and African American Diasporas.
Chancellor’s Umoja Office collaborates with campuses on a local level in order to ensure the integration of the core Umoja Community Practices.

Umoja continues to recruit and train students, staff and faculty through regular seminars, conferences, and other professional development opportunities.
How Did Umoja Begin?

• “Umoja” began in 2006, with 23 committed faculty and staff members, based out of Diablo Valley College, that were committed to improving the success of African American Students.

• They began with no money and no permission to take on this project. From 2006-2008, they developed a unique strategy and model based upon the Daraja Project at Chabot College, in Hayward, CA.
How Did Umoja Begin?

- In 2008, they made a presentation to the California Community College’s Board of Governors and became legitimately recognized as a statewide success program for African American Students.

- In this same year, Umoja was awarded a $1 million/year grant from the Chancellor’s Office for a period of 5 years!
In schools where the success of Umoja students has been tracked, Umoja students have been shown to perform exponentially higher than other similarly positioned non-Umoja students.
Other Umoja Successes...

- In Spring 2016, Umoja signed a MOU with the University of California Office of the President.
- The UC System now recognizes the Umoja Community as a student success program and is working with counselors to actively support Umoja students.
Other Umoja Successes...

- In addition, the UC System is also providing the Chancellor’s Umoja Community Office with financial support and helping to create better pipelines for Umoja students to UC Schools.

- Chancellor’s Umoja Office just received a $250,000 Wellness Grant to help African American students move into the health fields, particularly the fields of mental health, physical therapy, and more.
Other Umoja Successes...

- Umoja Board Member, Elaine Moore, was one of the pilot directors who helped to create a transfer agreement between the California Community Colleges and nine historically black colleges and universities.

- The HBCU (Historically Black College and University) Transfer Agreement provides guaranteed admissions to California Community College Students who complete certain academic requirements.
Where Are Umoja Programs?

- 45+ California Community Colleges
- Over 20 counties
- 4000+ students served in California
- Highline College in Washington State
- California State University, East Bay
- 20+ Colleges are waiting to become a part of the Umoja Consortium in 2017-2018.

THAT IS ALMOST HALF OF ALL CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE NEXT YEAR!
Why Umoja?

Low Academic Performance.
Once students of color are in the system, their outlook for academic success is dismal. Most earn lower grade point averages, have lower rates of success in their courses, and persistence from term to term is lower as compared to all other ethnic groups.

Lack of Confidence.
Both students and teachers struggle with confidence. While students struggle to believe in themselves, teachers are struggling with lower expectations, negative perceptions, and minority stereotyping leading directly to feelings of alienation and abandonment in the classroom for students of color.

Substandard College Readiness.
Sixty-five percent of students are students of color in the California Community College system, the highest proportion in the country. A closer examination of this data finds that students of color are at the bottom across all grade levels for any ethnic group and income level.

Sixty-Five Percent of students in the California Community College system are people of color - the highest proportion in the country.

Umoja Communities actively serve the highest proportion of students, who derive from the lowest income group in the nation.
AVC Umoja Community

- AVC became a part of the Umoja Consortium in the Spring of 2016.
- Summer 2016, seven staff & faculty attended Umoja’s Summer Learning Institute for an intensive training.
- Fall 2015 and 2016, AVC took a total of 62 students and 26 staff/faculty to the Umoja Conferences in Oakland and Los Angeles, CA.
- January 2017, 4 AVC Staff and Faculty attended the Umoja Winter Retreat for training.
- Summer 2016, AVC took 20 students on HBCU tour and 7 students were accepted to multiple schools on the spot.
- In Spring 2016, Chancellor’s gave AVC funding to create an Umoja Village.
CAMPUS BASED RESEARCH:

COURSE COMPLETION

<table>
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<th>Target Populations</th>
<th>Enrollment Count</th>
<th>Success Count</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
<th>Comparison to Average/PPD**</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black/African-American</td>
<td>8,469</td>
<td>4,666</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
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<td>123</td>
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<td>Asian</td>
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<td>1,378</td>
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<td>310</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Non-Hispanic</td>
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<td>7,198</td>
<td>76.75%</td>
<td>7.82%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AVC Credit Courses Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>28,030</strong></td>
<td><strong>68.92%</strong></td>
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Promoting & Building Culturally Responsive Learning Communities.

**student empowerment**

The Umoja Community fosters civic engagement so that all participants, students and educators alike, integrate learning and service.

**culturally responsive practices**

We provide support and resources to help educators and counselors guide their students from A to Z.

**transfer readiness**

Umoja community programs have demonstrated their effectiveness in improving the retention and success of African American students.

Faculty & Staff Experiences
Join us for the LAUNCH of Antelope Valley College’s Umoja Community!

FEBRUARY 23 – 24, 2017

**COMES ENJOY A FREE**

Musical Performances & Spoken Word

*February 23rd @ 6:00 PM*

AVC Performing Arts Theatre

with performances from

Kelvin Truitt and The Philosophers
Maurice Smith
African Soul International
Karega Bailey & SOL Development
Real Tahl Raps
Tabitha Christopher
MAJOR.

**AVC STUDENTS, STAFF, & FACULTY**

**REGISTER TO ATTEND**

Umoja Convocation Professional Development

*February 24th 12:00 PM – 7:30 PM*

with Keynote Speaker:

NATE HOWARD

Enjoy Training From

Saleem Gilmore & the Maafa Experience

Expect thrilling speakers, thought-provoking workshops, and a dynamic day of insight.

Dinner & a live concert will be provided to during the closing ceremonies.

All Faculty will receive a $150 stipend for their all day participation.

All Staff are strongly encouraged to participate with the approval from their supervisor.

For More Information and To Register Visit AVC Student Equity’s Page:

https://www.avc.edu/administration/organizations/equity

UPON REQUEST FIVE BUSINESS DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT, REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED TO FACILITATE THE PARTICIPATION OF COVERED DISABILITIES. FOR INFORMATION, CALL 661-722-6860 (VOICE, RELAY)
How To Become A Founding Umoja Student

**ALL STUDENTS**
- Complete an AVC Umoja Application
- Attend AVC Umoja Convocation
- Attend AVC Umoja Intensive Workshop
- Have an updated Student Education Plan
- Meet with an Umoja Counselor and Umoja Coordinator

**FIRST YEAR UMOJA STUDENTS**
- Attend (2) Umoja Supported or Umoja Related Courses
- Attend (3) Umoja Sponsored Events per semester
- (5) Hours of Umoja Approved Mentoring per semester
- (5) Hours of Umoja Approved Volunteering per semester

**SECOND YEAR UMOJA STUDENTS**
- (15) Hours of Umoja Approved Volunteering per semester
- (15) Hours of Umoja Approved Mentoring per semester

**OR**
- (10) Hours of Umoja Approved Mentoring per semester
- (10) Hours of Umoja Approved Volunteering per semester
- Attend (5) Umoja Sponsored Events
- Participate in Umoja Required Reading

**Benefits of Being an Umoja Student**
- Books H.E.L.P. Priority
- Student Bus Pass Program Priority
- ASO Sticker/Discounted Parking Pass
- Faculty, Staff, and Peer Support
- Umoja Scholarships & Grant Opportunities
- Priority Registration for Umoja Conferences and Events
- Umoja Sponsored Fieldtrips
- Priority HBCU Tour Registration
- And More!

For More Information & To Sign Up Visit AVC Student Equity’s Page:
https://www.avc.edu/administration/organizations/equity
Partner with Umoja
And Make A Difference!

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