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**Mission:** Umoja African-American Success Through Excellence and Persistence (ASTEP) is a program that integrates academics, support services, and African-American culture. We seek to educate the whole student - body, mind, and spirit - through an ethic of love. African and African-American histories and voices are deliberately and intentionally acknowledged and are woven into the learning experience, and this integration is seen as empowering to students and as foundational for their academic and personal success. Students are full participants in their learning and growth. Umoja ASTEP aims to develop students into leaders and role models in their college and larger community.

**Umoja ASTEP TEAM**

Dr. Paula Parks - Umoja ASTEP coordinator/English professor

Mr. Jonathan Ward - Umoja ASTEP counselor

Ms. Faith Bradham - Umoja ASTEP Librarian

Ms. Kalisha Hudgins - Umoja ASTEP math instructor

Mr. Julian West - Education Advisor

Mr. Christopher Parks Anderson - math expert

**Learning Community Model:** students enroll in required linked courses

**Year 1**

**Summer 2017**

Welcome to the ASTEP Community - August 9, 10, 14, and 15

**Fall 2017**

10:30 to 12:35 Monday to Thursday

English 53: Reading, Reasoning, and Writing (4 units)

Student Development 2: Lifelong Learning and Career Planning (2 units)

**Spring 2017**

11:10 to 12:35 Monday to Thursday

English 1a: Introductory Composition (3 units)

Student Development 6: Tools for College Success (3 units)

Library 1 (1 unit)

**Requirements**

* meet with Umoja ASTEP counselor twice a semester
* meet with mentor twice a month
* participate in SI and Village study sessions each week
* return progress reports

**Year 2**

Umoja2: Special Projects/Special Studies class: community leadership component

(1 unit)

**Important fall dates:**

**August 31- Mentor-mentee Indaba**. Fireside Room at 6 p.m. on Thursday Indaba is an important meeting with important people. Mentors and mentees will be introduced and share words of wisdom, hope, and commitment.

**September 23 - Why and how to transfer to a UC.** Bakersfield College and tentatively 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Presented by Elroy Pinks, UC Davis

**September 30 - Umoja ASTEP conference** at CSUB 9-4 on Saturday. The conference is organized by Umoja2. The theme is "Pushing Through: I Owe it to me and to us." Keynote is Lawrence Ross, Jr.

**October 20 - Umoja Day at CSUDH** 9-2 on Friday. lunch, tour, and workshops. Transportation provided.

**October 28 - Polishing your UC application**. At Bakersfield College, a follow up to the Sept. 23 workshop. Presented by Elroy Pinks, UC Davis.

**November 3-4 - Umoja conference** in Sacramento. Keynotes are Tim Wise and Cornell West. This is a tremendous opportunity, and students should make every effort to be eligible and available. Transportation provided.

**Nov. 9 - showing of *13th.*** 6 p.m. in Lev. 40

**Dec. 13 - Mentor Appreciation and Milestone Celebration**. Fireside Room at 6 p.m.

**Umoja ASTEP is a part of BC's Student Equity Plan which is coordinated through the Office Of Student Success and Equity.** The office supports the college's mission to open more educational pathways for students from diverse economic, cultural, and educational backgrounds to earn degrees and certificates, gain workplace skills, and prepare for transfer. The office is committed to improving a campus climate of diversity and to support awareness, understanding, and respect for the many cultures that make up the BC college experience.

**Umoja ASTEP is a member of the state-wide Umoja Community.**



# Our Mission

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. 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 student success for all students through a curriculum and pedagogy responsive to the legacy of the African and African American Diasporas.

**Educational Philosophy**

Umoja is a community of educators and learners committed to the academic success, personal growth and self-actualization of African American and other students. The Umoja Community seeks to educate the whole student–body, mind and spirit. Informed by an ethic of love and its vital power, the Umoja Community will deliberately engage students as full participants in the construction of knowledge and critical thought.

The Umoja Community seeks to help students experience themselves as valuable and worthy of an education. The Umoja Community gains meaning through its connection to the African Diaspora. African and African American intellectual, cultural, and spiritual gifts inform Umoja Community values and practices. The Umoja Community seeks to nurture knowledge of and pride in these treasures. The learning experience within the Umoja Community will provide each individual the opportunity to add their voice and their story to the collective voices and stories of the African Diaspora.

African American students are inextricably connected to global struggles for liberation throughout the African Diaspora. In light of this, the Umoja Community views education as a liberatory act designed to empower all students to critique, engage, and transform deleterious social and institutional practices locally and globally. The Umoja Community will practice and foster civic engagement so that all its participants integrate learning and service. Likewise, the Umoja Community will instill in our students the knowledge and skills necessary to enable them to make positive differences in their lives and the lives of others.