

UMOJA

Umoja (a Kiswahili word meaning *unity*) is a learning community dedicated to the academic success, personal growth, and self-actualization of African-American and other students. All **Umoja** values and practices are inspired by African and African-American intellectual, cultural, and spiritual gifts.

The **Umoja** community at **MSJC** is dedicated to its students and provided them with a *"family"* environment where individuals lift and support one-another. Those within **Umoja** understand the progress made by our ancestors and strive to be as strong as they were. The **Umoja** community understands that our ancestors come from royalty, yet, we are often only taught about the struggles since our ancestors have been enslaved. However, within **Umoja**, the knowledge of the rich culture of those from the African Diaspora is sought after to help build the strength and courage needed to navigate experiences in life and navigating college.

The **Umoja** program is designed to increase retention, certificate completion, degree completion and transfer rates of African-American and other historically underrepresented students. **Umoja** students are provided with designated counselors to assist with career, educational and personal counseling.

Umoja Offers Students:

- Career, academic and personal counseling
- Umojafied courses with culturally-relevant content (degree applicable and transferable courses)
- Supplemental Instruction/Tutoring
- Academic and cultural enrichment activities
- Opportunities to attend **Umoja** sponsored events and conferences
- Increased self-confidence
- A brave place to discuss real issues that affect students and the broader community
- Mentoring
- University visits
- Resources to transfer to University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) schools, as well as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's)

Umoja Courses Offered:

ENGL-101 College Composition

ENGL-103 Critical Thinking and Writing

SOCI-101 Principles of Sociology

MATH-140 Introduction to Statistics

PS-101 Introduction to American Government and Politics

HIST-160/ETHS-160 Black History in American Context

LIT-260 Introduction to African American Literature (formerly ENGL-260)

CSCR-100 College Success and Career Readiness

Umoja Counselors:

Kelynn Johnson - kejohnson@msjc.edu

Umoja Administration:

Heather Jones - hjones@msjc.edu

Director of African American & Black Student Success Initiatives

To connect with Umoja, you can contact us here - umoja@msjc.edu

To be a part of Umoja, apply here - <https://msjc.edu/umoja/>