

## **ATTACHMENT I**

### **Umoja Community Education Foundation Program Summary**

#### **Umoja Community History**

The Umoja Community movement began at the Umoja I conference held at Diablo Valley College in October of 2006. In March, 2007 a follow-up conference, Umoja II, was held at Chaffey College in southern California. At that time, there were 15 identifiable programs in the California Community College system using culturally relevant African American student success practices. Some of these programs were longstanding and some were relatively new.

In the summer of 2007, a steering committee consisting of 23-faculty, administrators and classified volunteers came together and began to intensively collect, research and organize information from eleven of these colleges to develop a statewide model program. A leadership team of five of the program coordinators was also formed to further the development of a statewide program. The original 23-member steering committee also had as their goal to become an expansive curriculum/professional development resource for community colleges wishing to better serve underachieving African American students.

The leadership team and the steering committee logged thousands of hours working together, largely on a volunteer basis, connecting with partners and working across the state to research, develop, pilot and gain recognition for a statewide core program and resource focused on culturally responsive curriculum and practices effective for African American students.

In 2008, Board of Governors recognized Umoja as a statewide student success program. The Umoja program provides access for all California community college students with a focus on the African American student population.

#### **Umoja's Practices and Framework**

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. A foundation of our mission, 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. The Umoja program 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.

#### **Sample of Student Component**

- Enroll in Guidance/Counseling courses
- Participate in diagnostic assessment
- Address basic skills needs necessary for success in college-level work
- Develop/update comprehensive Student Educational Plan
- Meet with a counselor twice per semester
- Participate in core Umoja sponsored program activities

### Sample of Instructional Component

- College Guidance Courses
- English Reading and Writing Courses
- Mathematics Courses
- Library Information Literacy Courses
- African/African American-Centered Courses
- Accelerated Courses
- Supplemental Instruction

### Sample of Support Services Component

- Orientation
- Financial Aid/Scholarships
- Academic Support
- Cultural Activities
- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Counseling Services (Intrusive Counseling)
- Workshops

Many Umoja programs have demonstrated their effectiveness in improving the retention and success of African American students. When compared to African American students who do participate in an Umoja community, Umoja students:

- Are 25% more likely to remain in community college;
- Have a higher grade point average;
- Are more likely to pass basic skills courses and be ready for transfer-level work in a shorter time frame.

### **Today and Going Forward**

Up until 2015, Umoja Community was solely funded by affiliated college contributions of \$1,000 annually and dependent on thousands of hours of volunteer time. With the financial support the Chancellor's Office provides, Umoja has grown to over 45 programs by 2016. Given the engagement and our reach around the state, Umoja has 20+ community college campuses interested in having an Umoja program, which will be comprised of approximately 65 programs in 2017. We currently serve more than 4,000 first-year students; however, Umoja is unique in that it continues to offer student support services to all Umoja students throughout their transfer experiences.

By approval of the Board of Governors, the Chancellor's Office has supported the Umoja program with more than \$2 million dollars in grants where Chaffey College serves as the fiscal agent for these funds. With this transition of new financial support, Umoja grew from a grassroots program to a state-level funded program, Umoja Community Education Foundation. Umoja can better serve campus programs which directly impact the service to community college students.