Modesto Junior College
Umoja Community of California Community Colleges
Application to Become an Affiliated Program

Definition of an Umoja Community Affiliated Program - A California Community College with a new or existing program focusing on the success and retention of African American students based on the Umoja Community model. Colleges wishing to affiliate with the Umoja Community are required to join the Umoja Community Consortium and program staff are required to attend the Umoja Community Summer Learning Institute (SLI).

Does your college have an existing program with an African American focus? Yes ___ No __X__

Describe how your Umoja Community program will align with your college’s mission, vision, strategic plan or equity goals.

The Umoja Community Program aligns with the college equity goals. Currently at MJC, the two most disproportionately impacted populations of students are African American and Hispanic. The college Student Equity Plan delineates the need to address issues of access, basic skills completion, course completion, degree/certificate completion and transfer velocity among both of these groups. Scorecard rates for the college, including the disparate impacts across populations, are documented here: http://scorecard.cccco.edu/scorecardrates.aspx?CollegeID=592#home

Describe how your Umoja Community program will align with the Umoja Community mission, educational philosophy and organizing principles?

The program is still in its planning stages. The Umoja component will launch in Fall 2017 as part of the larger umbrella effort “RISE UP!”. The college has achieved the following:

- Students are being recruited for linked classes to create Umoja-themed learning communities
- The college has classified staff—Student Success Specialists—that will intensively work with students in the program
- The college has counselors and instructional faculty committed to the program
- The college will provide core services to students, and will make sure students in the program fully matriculate and receive follow-up services
- The college has designated a space—the Multicultural Center—for Umoja and other equity and community activities to take place.
Please indicate program model:

_X_ Learning Community (Umoja students taking two or more linked classes)
___ Cohort (Umoja students enrolled in classes within the general population)
___ Other (please describe):

Please provide department names, course titles and unit values of program courses to be included in your Umoja Community program.

The college is considering a wide array of courses, and is in the process of recruiting interested faculty, but our first cohort of students will most likely take:

- Guidance 110 Introduction to College (.5 Unit) or Guidance 111 Career Exploration (1 Unit)
- College Skills 100 Foundations for First Year College Success (3 Units)
- English 45 Accelerated Reading, Writing and Reasoning
- One History or Sociology Course, 3 Units

Program services you intend to offer:

_X_ Orientation _X_ Counseling _X_ Tutoring _X_ Cultural Activities/Workshops

Program Readiness Assessment:

1. Has work already been done on your campus that would help support an effort to bring an Umoja Community program to your campus? If you have an existing program, how might you start to work with the statewide Umoja Community movement and how might you evolve to adapt your program to take on the Umoja Community model. Please explain in detail.

The college has been seeking a way to engender success for African American and Hispanic students, and in particular, men of color on campus. The college is dedicated to culturally responsive curriculum and acknowledges the success of Umoja with African American students. The college has had broad conversations about the need to focus on our disproportionately impacted students and the necessity of addressing equity in our classrooms and across the campus.
2. Do you have potential students for your Umoja Community program? What strategies can you outline at this point for doing outreach to those students? Do you know of community resources (i.e. churches, community centers, youth organizations, etc.) where you could do outreach? If you have an existing program, please explain your current method of identifying students.

The RISE UP! team of faculty, administrators and staff have discussed several strategies of recruiting students, including at local high schools and community organizations. The incoming class of 40 students for Umoja at MJC should be attainable, and recruitment strategies will be developed in the coming year.

3. A very important part of an Umoja Community is a dedicated space. Can you identify a space on your campus where staff and students could work and study and gather; where Umoja activities and African/African American culture can be expressed and celebrated? Can you begin to strategize how you could identify and even secure a dedicated space for you Umoja Community program?

The college has designated a space—the Multicultural Center—for Umoja and other equity and community activities to take place.

4. Mentoring is a core component of the Umoja Community. Some campuses are using peer mentors, some are using campus mentors, and some are using mentors from the community. Briefly discuss what type of mentoring your Umoja Community program will develop.

The college is still developing its mentoring and student coaching plan. There is ample energy and commitment to engaging students in the RISE UP! program. Faculty, including instructors in learning communities and counselors, have expressed interest in devoting and focusing their professional time on working the students enrolled in RISE UP!. Additionally, staff—known as Student Success Specialists—have been trained in growth mindset and coaching, and they will work closely with these students as part of their assigned cohorts.
5. What campus shared governance committees will assist you in laying the groundwork for an Umoja Community? Please explain how you would go about sharing with them.

The MJC Academic Senate and the Student Success and Equity Committee are two key sites for engaging faculty, administrators, staff and students in the planning of the Umoja Community efforts. Regular input will be sought, and regular presentations will be made in order to ensure college buy-in and commitment from all constituent groups.

6. One goal of the statewide Umoja Community is for campus Umoja Community programs to be intentional and deliberate about sharing and integrating into the broader campus community. The statewide Umoja Community does not support affiliated programs that operate in isolation. Can you identify what kind of integrating activities you would do on your campus? (For example: participation on committees, hosting breakfasts for staff and community members, sharing assessment data, presenting to boards and the like, etc.)

The RISE UP! program and its Umoja components will not work in isolation. The program is already holding a series of workshops in the Multicultural Center, and the Academic Senate has hosted a workshop for faculty. Members from RISE UP! will regularly report to the SSEC and Academic Senate on progress being met by the program and to receive critical input from campus constituency groups and participatory governance bodies.

7. Please outline your strategy for funding your Umoja Community program. Funding would include release time for a coordinator and an instructional leader, clerical support, supplies, materials, and staff development. (Instructional and counseling time may not require additional funding; rather it would require a commitment from the college and department.)

The College has a Dean of Equity and Student Learning, who would be the key administrator overseeing the program. In terms of coordination, the college has two dedicated Student Success Specialists that work with men of color on campus, and their efforts will be more focused on the RISE UP! program and its Umoja component. The counselors involved in the program will work with the Dean of Equity to best facilitate core services for the students enrolled in RISE UP!. Additionally, the college Student Equity Plan has dedicated funds for stipends that can be utilized to help to support
instructional faculty efforts in the design of learning communities and workshops for students.

8. Please provide name, title, telephone and email of all potential program staff and supervising administrator(s).

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