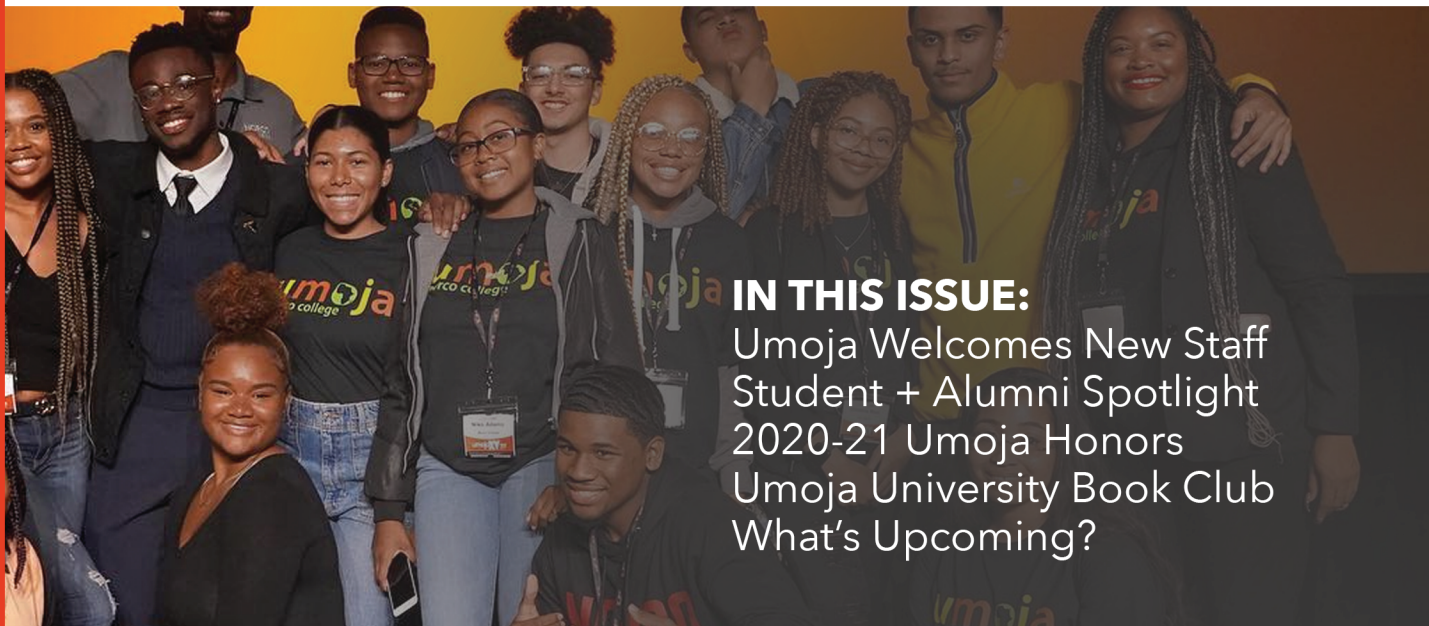


# UMOJA NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022 | UMOJA COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



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Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer

NZINGHA S.  
**DUGAS**

"Knowledge is a garden. If it isn't cultivated, you can't harvest it."

*African Proverb*



[umojacommunity.org](http://umojacommunity.org)

## » Umoja: Making Global Impact

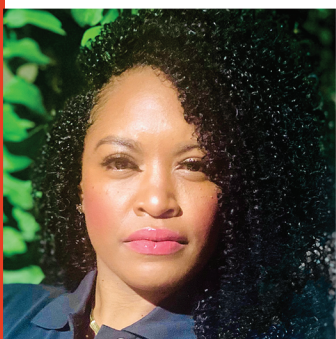
Just two years ago, our board of directors and senior leadership took on the arduous task to revise the Umoja vision. We asked ourselves questions like, "who are we" and "what do we want our legacy to be?" In those long and thought-provoking discussions, we realized that what we are doing is bigger than conferences and zoom calls. Our work is to empower a generation of leaders to achieve and create opportunities for others. We landed on this:

"Umoja is the preeminent global educational organization that provides transformative, emancipatory education to uplift and inspire academic excellence of self-actualization for students of African descent."

Take note of the word "global." Umoja started out as a small group of concerned practitioners and faculty who wanted to have a greater impact on the lives and trajectory of Black students. Many of those amazing people never would have imagined that years later, we would be a premiere student success and faculty development organization in California and Washington.

In the coming days, we invite you to celebrate Umoja's endless capacity. We are equipped with committed staff, devoted practitioners and faculty, and students who are limitless dreamers. We will advance our mission with your continued support, guidance and strength. Thank you for what you do.

## Umoja welcomes new team members!



**ANITA BAILEY** *Program Director*

Anita Bailey joins us from Norco College, where she served as a classified professional and adjunct counseling faculty for Umoja. She has coordinated and created multi-ethnic and multidisciplinary programs with an emphasis on guided pathways and closing equity gaps. Her background resides in over a decade of experience in the California Community College system, by way of developing equity-based programming that fosters a sense of belonging, student development, and retention for our scholars. As Umoja's Program Director, she will oversee the development of our regions and programs, which will play a critical role in our global expansion efforts.



**ANTHONY ROBINSON** *Region 1 Coordinator*

Anthony Robinson joins us as the Region 1 Coordinator. Anthony is a former middle school Education Specialist, Adult Education Instructor, Academics Manager for the Sacramento Job Corps Center, and English Professor for both American River and Folsom Lake Colleges. He is a graduate of Morehouse College and is currently a doctoral candidate. He brings a wealth of experience to Region 1 and we are excited about the work he's doing.



**CHRISTIE JONES** *Region 2 Coordinator*

Christie Jones joins us as the Region 2 Coordinator. Christie has worked in education for 20 years. She is a native of Los Angeles where she studied English at UCLA. She earned a Master's degree in Multicultural Education from Florida Atlantic University and a Master's degree in Journalism from the University of North Texas. She is currently studying African American Studies with a focus on Black art and culture at Arizona State University. Her passion for teaching and storytelling has created opportunities to empower students and families with literacy throughout the United States. She is eager to build relationships in the community and to preserve their experience through their eyes.



Learn more about our new team members at  
**[umojacommunity.org/staff](https://umojacommunity.org/staff)**

UPCOMING  
**2022**

Umoja Faculty Institute: June 13 -14, 2022  
Summer Learning Institute: June 15 -18, 2022  
STEM Transfer Academy: July 14 -16, 2022  
Student Leadership Summit: August 4 - 6, 2022



# Umoja Alumni Highlight



## MEET QUIEMARI MIKES

Quiemari Mikes earned her associate degree at MiraCosta College, majoring in sociology. She is currently a junior at California State University, Dominguez Hills. While at MiraCosta College, she was actively engaged with the Umoja program and worked as a Campus Aide III for the Counseling Department. She served as a tutor for the Tutoring & Academic Support Center (TASC).

Quiemari is an avid volunteer, lending her time to schedule appointments for students to see an academic counselor, and working on specialized projects. Even after transferring, she continued to serve as a sociology tutor and supported general High School courses offered at MiraCosta's Community Learning Center.

She noted that she is incredibly proud of graduating and becoming the first in her family to have a college degree. "With the help from Umoja, I am happy to say that I graduated and am on the path to receive my bachelor's degree. I am one step closer to my career goals."

Her ultimate career goal is to open up a K-12 dormitory academy specializing in undocumented, foster, and at-risk youth who need a stable environment to thrive. She wants to create a space where Black and Brown bodies are seen, heard, and nourished.

She is determined to complete her bachelor's degree in Sociology and work her way towards obtaining an Ed. D. She plans to travel to see what other countries are doing in education in order to bring that knowledge back to implement in her non-profit.

"My ultimate career goal is to open up a K-12 dormitory academy specializing in care for undocumented, foster, and at-risk youth."



Tell us about other outstanding Umoja Alumni at [umojacommunity.org/Alumni](https://umojacommunity.org/Alumni)

# 2020-21 UMOJA HONORS

## STUDENT HONORS

*Daja Robinson, Region 3*

*Matthew Perkins, Region 3*

*Sharnell Smothers, Region 3*

*Jasmin Christmas, Region 4*

*Nyah Beck, Region 4*

*Jaidalyn Bradley, Region 5*

*Hayat Sherif, Region 6*

*Inayah Abdulmateen, Region 6*

## ALUMNI HONORS

*Wiley Williams Jr.*

*University of California, Irvine*

*LeJohnnae Bertrand*

*Dillard University*

## FACULTY HONORS

*Dr. Tyffany Dowd, Santa Monica College*

*Chris Baccus, Santa Monica College*

*Jocelyn Wynn, Santa Monica College*

*Dr. Elliott Coney, Los Angeles Valley College*

*Dr. Corey Timberlake, Victor Valley College*

*Dr. Erin Charlens, San Diego City College*

*Mr. Don Love, Mira Costa College*

*Stephanie Perkins, Monterey Peninsula College*

*Denise Marshall-Mills, Cosumnes River College*

*The Umoja Honors were awarded at the virtual Umoja Conference XVII, held November 4-6, 2021. The honorees were nominated by their fellow faculty, students and staff for exemplary service to their campuses and communities. Umoja is proud of the deep commitment to student success and community engagement that our constituents hold. Each honoree will receive a certificate and gift.*

**umoja<sup>tm</sup>**  
**community**



# UMOJA CONFERENCE XVII HONORS



**Repetition is  
the mother of  
knowledge.**  
*African Proverb*

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AWARDS

**1st Place:** Foothill College, Region 3

**2nd Place:** American River College, Region 1

**3rd Place:** Bakersfield College, Region 7

## UMOJA EVENT OF THE YEAR

### **"We Ain't Crazy" Stimulus Comic Relief**

*Los Rios Community College District Umoja Programs  
and Black Student Success Centers*

### **Black History Month Programming**

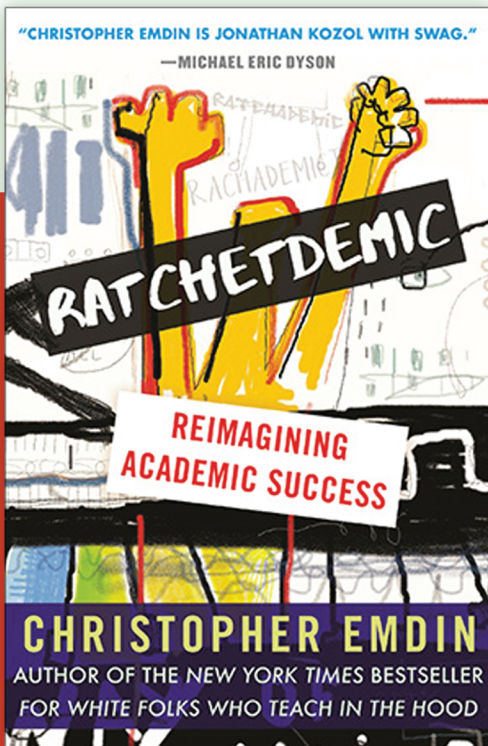
*Norco College*

## UMOJA MOST IMPROVED PROGRAM

### **Mt. San Jacinto Umoja Program**

*Dr. Von Lawson, Dean of Career and Technical Education*

*Dr. Darnell Bing, Counselor/Coordinator*



## UMOJA WILL LAUNCH 2022 BOOK CLUB

Umoja is excited to announce that Dr. Christopher Emdin's new book, "Ratchetdemic: Reimagining Academic Success" will be our 2022 Umoja University Book Club reading. Dr. Emdin describes his newest research as a "revolutionary new educational model that encourages educators to provide spaces for students to display their academic brilliance without sacrificing their identities." We look forward to creating community dialogue, sharing resources and empowering students and faculty through this discourse.



**WE WANT TO KNOW MORE  
ABOUT OUR AMAZING UMOJA STUDENTS**  
[umojacommunity.org/share-umoja-stories](https://umojacommunity.org/share-umoja-stories)



**According to the U.S.  
Department of Education:**

Black students are less likely to receive merit-based scholarships.

Whites were slightly more likely than Blacks to receive need-based awards from the institutions they attended.

**According to the National Student  
Clearnighouse Research Center:**

Black student retention and persistence is lower than counterparts at 4-year, 2-year and nonprofit educational institutions.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

[umojacommunity.org/donate](http://umojacommunity.org/donate)

**TEXT TO GIVE:**

Text **UMOJAGIVES**  
to 844-844-6844

**MAIL YOUR GIFT:**

P.O. Box 188067  
Sacramento, CA 95818  
Tax ID #: 47-3202014

# WE ARE CREATING A LEGACY WHERE STUDENTS THRIVE

The Umoja Community Education Foundation believes that equal access to education for Black students is critical. Our work to enhance the cultural and educational experiences of our students includes eliminating barriers to success.


Your financial support helps to eliminate barriers and allows our students to learn, grow and achieve. We're committed to making education affordable and possible for Black students.

# DONATE TO UMOJA!

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

[umojacommunity.org/donate](http://umojacommunity.org/donate)





#MyUmoja  
#UmojaCommunity  
#UmojaStudents

umojatm  
community

2021-22 Theme:

**"The future never  
just happened, it  
was created"**  
**Dr. Mae Jemison**

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Umoja Community Education Foundation