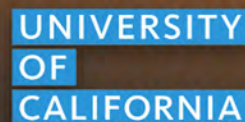


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UMOJA CONFERENCE XVII

#MyUmoja
#UmojaCommunity
#UmojaStudents
#UmojaXVI



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Umoja Community Education Foundation

1540 River Park Drive #121 • Sacramento, CA • 916. 661.6455 • umojacommunity.org

ABOUT UMOJA

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

VISION STATEMENT

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



umojacommunity



umojaedu



umoja_edu



UMOJA LEADERSHIP TEAM & STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Curriculum Designer

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Program Director

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REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Anthony Robinson	Region 1
Open	Region 2
Nzingha S. Dugas	Region 3
De'Von Walker	Region 4
Dr. Antonio Banks	Region 5
Myia Williams	Region 6
Mia Davis	Region 7



SPEAKER

WALTER KIMBROUGH

PRESIDENT, **DILLARD UNIVERSITY**

A native of Atlanta, Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough was his high school salutatorian and student body president in 1985, and went on to earn degrees from the University of Georgia, Miami University in Ohio, and a doctorate in higher education from Georgia State University. He has enjoyed a fulfilling career in student affairs, serving at Emory University, Georgia State University, Old Dominion University, and finally Albany State University in 2000 where he became the vice president for Student Affairs at the age of 32. In October of 2004, at the age of 37, he was named the 12th president of Philander Smith College. In 2012, he became the seventh president of Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Kimbrough has been recognized for his research and writings on HBCUs and African American men in college. Recently, he has emerged as one of the leaders discussing free speech on college campuses. Kimbrough also has been noted for his active use of social media in articles by The Chronicle of Higher Education, and in the book "Follow The Leader: Lessons in Social Media Success from Higher Ed CEOs." He was cited in 2010 by BachelorsDegree.org as one of 25 college presidents you should follow on Twitter. He was also cited by Education Dive as one of 10 college presidents on Twitter who are doing it right. In 2015, he was named by TheBestSchools.org as one of the 20 most interesting college presidents.

A 1986 initiate of the Zeta Pi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at the University of Georgia, Kimbrough was the Alpha Phi Alpha College Brother of the Year for the Southern Region and served as the Southern Region Assistant Vice President. Kimbrough has forged a national reputation as an expert on fraternities and sororities, with specific expertise regarding historically Black, Latin and Asian groups. He is the author of the book, "Black Greek 101: The Culture, Customs and Challenges of Black Fraternities and Sororities" and has served as an expert witness in a number of hazing cases.

Kimbrough was named the 1994 New Professional of the Year for the Association of Fraternity Advisors. In 2010, he made the coveted Ebony Magazine Power 100 list of the doers and influencers in the African American community; and in February of 2013, he was named to NBC News/TheGriot.com's 100 African Americans making history today. Kimbrough was named male HBCU President of the Year for 2014 by HBCU Digest. In 2020 he was named by College Cliffs as one of 50 Top U.S. College and University Presidents.

Kimbrough and his wife Adria Nobles Kimbrough, an attorney, are the proud parents of two children, Lydia Nicole and Benjamin Barack.



SPEAKER

TIFFANY CROSS

HOST, THE CROSS CONNECTION **MSNBC**

Tiffany D. Cross is an on-air political analyst and cable newsroom veteran. She is the bestselling author of *Say It Louder: Black Voters, White Narratives, and Saving Our Democracy* (Amistad/HarperCollins) and a Resident Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Institute of Politics (Spring 2020). Her broad experience across media, politics, and policy includes more than two decades of navigating newsrooms and campaigns while engaging different constituencies on the ground. Currently, Cross hosts *The Cross Connection* on MSNBC, airing on Saturdays.

She previously served as the DC Bureau Chief of BET News and the Liaison to the Obama Administration for BET Networks where she covered Capitol Hill, produced political specials, and oversaw the daily operations of the news department. Tiffany cut her teeth in media at CNN where she worked as an Associate Producer covering Capitol Hill for the network's weekend show unit. She also previously served as a Field Producer for America's Most Wanted and Discovery Communications.

No stranger to the campaign trail, Tiffany not only covered campaigns but worked on them as well. She has lent her expertise to numerous local, state, and federal candidates as well as issue campaigns across the country. Serving as a senior advisor to one of the country's largest labor organizations, one of Tiffany's many tentacles was organizing all communities of color on both a local and national level. Using her media background, Tiffany has helped shape the narrative around issues, individuals, and ideologies.

Leaving the campaign stump, Tiffany transitioned from the control room to the green room when she co-founded *The Beat DC*, a national platform intersecting politics, policy, business, media, and people of color. With a readership comprising influencers across the country, Tiffany led a team that made the fast moving current affairs in a busy legislative climate digestible for the political connoisseur and novice alike. She quickly became a sought after voice in the progressive discourse and is a frequent guest on MSNBC, CNN, and SiriusXM.

Known for her unique ability to engage audiences with digestible dialogue about some of today's most complicated issues, she is a sought after effervescent voice in the progressive discourse.



UMOJA CONFERENCE XVII

....VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE NOVEMBER 4-6, 2021....

AT-A-GLANCE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM OPENING CEREMONY & RITUAL
STATE OF UMOJA
CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

3:00 - 5:00 PM OPEN MIC NIGHT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021

8:45 - 9:45 AM OPENING SESSION
CRITICAL IDEA TALKS & WORKSHOPS ONE

10:00 - 11:15 AM CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. WALTER KIMBROUGH // President of Dillard University

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM UMOJA COLLEGE FAIR

1:00 - 2:00 PM CRITICAL IDEA TALKS & WORKSHOPS TWO

2:00 - 3:00 PM CRITICAL IDEA TALKS & WORKSHOPS THREE

3:20 - 5:00 PM REGIONAL STUDENT ASSEMBLIES

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021

9:00 - 10:00 AM OPENING SESSION
CRITICAL IDEA TALKS & WORKSHOPS FOUR

10:00 AM - 11:00 PM UMOJA AWARDS

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM KEYNOTE ADDRESS
TIFFANY CROSS // Host of MSNBC's Cross Connections

12:00 - 12:30 CLOSING CEREMONY

UMOJACOMMUNITY.ORG/UMOJACONFERENCEXVII

WORKSHOPS

“I AM NOT MY ANCESTOR’S WILDEST DREAMS; THEY ARE MY WILDEST DREAMS!”

DESCRIPTION:

“I am NOT my ancestor’s wildest dreams; they are my wildest dreams!” This statement offers another perspective to the all too familiar declaration, “I am my ancestor’s wildest dreams.” Join us as we grow deeper in our understanding of ancestors from a traditional African perspective. In community, we will explore how a change in perspective can illuminate and deepen our connection, love and ancestral obligation to those that came before us.

PRESENTERS

Mwalimu Denise Marshall-Mills, Cosumnes River College
Sharnette Brooks-Davis, CRC Instructional Assistant
Nalani Kennedy, CRC Umoja Diop Student
Jemirah Dillingham, CRC Umoja Diop Student
Annais Wallace, CRC Umoja Student

WORKSHOPS

AVENUEB & E BREAKING BARRIERS

DESCRIPTION:

Learn about two holistic academic support programs at UC Davis designed to support, retain, and graduate a diverse population of transfer students majoring in the Biological, Engineering and Computer Sciences. AvenueB & E cultivates a supportive community of scholars who are committed to making a difference in their fields and communities, while paving the way for students to follow in their footsteps; thereby, creating generational change. We support students in realizing their educational goals through intentional academic guidance, peer mentorship, faculty/industry mentorship, connections to internships/research opportunities, and scholarly awards to enable students to acquire STEMM degrees.

PRESENTERS:

Yesenia Cervantes-Tucker, UC Davis AvenueE
Alyssa Arnold, Director of AvenueB

WORKSHOPS

CREATING PATHWAYS TO STEM: UJIMA (COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY) GIRLS IN A ROBOTICS LEADERSHIP PROJECT

DESCRIPTION:

Research shows that Black girls and women, regardless of their academic achievements and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) interests, often encounter academic under-preparation, social isolation, exclusion, and race-gender discrimination that negatively impacts their ongoing engagement and retention in STEM. To counter these negative trends, the Ujima Girls in Robotics Leadership Project is a free, hands-on engineering and robotics program that will teach middle and high school girls engineering and leadership in a culturally-relevant environment. Aligned with Umoja's "Mentoring" and "Community-Building/Communal Intelligence" practices, Ujima emphasizes peer-mentoring by providing opportunities for Black female high school and college students to serve as counselors and mentors. Additionally, scientists and executives will serve as mentors and share their experiences to broaden participants' STEM career aspirations. During this presentation, we will share the Ujima vision and exciting leadership opportunities for Umoja college students.

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Faheemah N. Mustafaa, Assistant Professor of Education University of California, Davis
Dr. Teresa W. Aldredge, Umoja Diop Scholars Counselor/Co-Coordinator-Cosumnes River College; Umoja Board Member, UC Davis C-STEM Board Member/Senior Advisor - Ujima Girls Robotics Leadership Project

WORKSHOPS

UMOJA ALUMNI: UC THE DIFFERENCE

DESCRIPTION:

While navigating a Predominately White Institution (PWI) can present a number of challenges, this session will highlight the success of Umoja students and benefits to attending the #1 Public Research Institution in the World. Through the Ethics of Love - The Affective Domain and Gifting, a panel of Umoja alumni return to the Umoja Statewide Conference for this roundtable discussion to provide insight into their Black transfer experience to the University of California, answer your questions about how they accessed funding beyond financial aid for undergraduate research, maximized internships or other programs in preparation for their desired career paths and became involved in student leadership to impact the future of Black transfer students within UC. Through the practice of Community-Building Communal Intelligence, this session is intended to inspire current Umoja students to recognize their own excellence and ability to navigate the process of transferring to the University of California and find success once enrolled.

PRESENTERS:

Sheryl Blackshire, University of California, Davis

WORKSHOPS

ACCESSING UC: THE UMOJA WAY (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ADMISSIONS)

DESCRIPTION:

The session will introduce students, staff, faculty, and administrators to the UC system by highlighting each UC campuses and their respective focus on increasing the number of Umoja transfer students to help shape and build the UC-Umoja Community inside and outside of the classroom. The UC undergraduate admissions professionals will share what to consider as scholars apply to UC campuses and once on the campus how to help to build communal intelligence with other UC/Umoja scholars. The session will uplift the practices of Community Building-Communal Intelligence and Umoja as a Powerbase.

PRESENTERS:

Allura Davis, UC Riverside/ University of California

Sheryl Blackshire, UC Davis

Dawn Joves, UC Santa Cruz

WORKSHOPS



HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES (HBCUS): YOUR PATHWAY TO SUCCESS”

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Karen McCord, HBCU Transfer Initiative

Markisha Richardson, HBCU Transfer Initiative

“THE HBCU EXPERIENCE: AN UMOJA STUDENT PANEL”

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Arynn Auzout Settle, HBCU Transfer Initiative

WORKSHOPS

CENTERING AND AMPLIFYING BLACK AND BIPOC STUDENT CREATIVITY THROUGH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

DESCRIPTION:

There is a jarring lack of publications that center Black student voices and this workshop is designed to spark interest in Umoja students and the Umoja community, helping to create a vehicle to begin to fill that gaping void. The Califa Lit Collective will engage students to write and share their work and discuss opportunities to create online and physical publications with broader audiences. The session will uplift the Umoja Practices of Language as Power, and the Tapping African American Intellectual, Spiritual and Artistic Voices.

PRESENTERS:

Victoire S. Chochezi, Ed.D, Califa Lit Collective/Los Rios Community College District

Kakwasi Somadhi, Califa Lit Collective Founder, Cosumnes River College, emeritus professor of English

Emmanuel Sigauke, Califa Lit Collective, Cosumnes River College

Michelle A. Johnson, Califa Lit Collective, Sierra College

WORKSHOPS

CREATE YOUR FUTURE WITH YOUR WORDS. LEARNING FROM THE PAST HOW TO USE LANGUAGE AS POWER: CODED LANGUAGE, RAP LYRICS, AND THE TULSA RACE MASSACRE OF 1921

DESCRIPTION:

A review of research shows that individuals that are intentional with language and that are positive thinkers are more likely to experience reduced anxiety and stress. Visualizations and positive self-talk reduce negative thinking and intrusive thoughts and promote success in health, work, education, and relationships. Understanding that our language cannot be lazy and how we see ourselves is critical to our overall life success. The goal of this workshop is to be intentional and deliberate in giving students tools to shift their thoughts, language, and actions to improve student persistence, retention, and success. Former Professor of Hip-hop Studies and Culture at the University of Iowa, Brandon Alexander Williams interprets the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921 all while dissecting an original poem "Miss America" using the vehicle of art-integrated education. This workshop will encourage the participant to be "unlazy with language" for maximum experience.

PRESENTERS:

Brandon Alexander Williams

Rashall Hightower, Director of Student Equity, Umoja Coordinator, Antelope Valley College

Crystal Garcia, Umoja Coordinator, Antelope Valley College

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PRESENTERS:

Brandon Alexander Williams

Rashall Hightower, Director of Student Equity, Umoja Coordinator, Antelope Valley College

Crystal Garcia, Umoja Coordinator, Antelope Valley College

WORKSHOPS

SHOW ME THE RAW DATAAS! DEVELOPING AWARENESS OF TRANSFORMATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS...WHO STUDY ABROAD

Students need space, time, and energy to understand why and how transformation occurs. Leadership, development, and activism involve deepened critical self-reflection. Being reflective is the key to developing awareness of transformation of African American students (DATAAS). In this interactive session, Umoja students will network with presenters to learn how to get involved in study abroad and resource strategies for funding global education pathways. In service to uplifting AA student voice, panelists will highlight study abroad activities they attribute to self-transformation including spiritual, personal, and academic growth. Participants will better understand how heritage-based study abroad expands a sense of belonging in a global community, generates happy spirits, fosters 21st-century intercultural competency skills that employers seek, develops resiliency in leadership, and helps to dismantle White privilege in study abroad. Application of African ontology* in education will frame the discussion.

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Andrea V. Lee Professor and Department Chair of Dance Head of Sankofa Semesters Abroad, Peralta CCD/Laney College

Dr. Terence Elliott, Brothas of the Drum/Diablo Valley College

STUDENT PANELIST:

Amari Joseph (Umoja CC student/ Current HBCU student)

Aminah Muhammad (CC/UC Alumni)

Ammar Lee-Fowler (CC/HBCU Alumni)

Eye'ub Love (Current CC/ Umoja Student)

Halima Mahdee (CC/Current CSU student)

Mikala Matthews (Current CC student)

Shay Australia (CC/Private 4-yr Graduate)

Charles Johnson (CC/HBCU Alumni)

Latisha Jackson (Graduated Umoja CC student)

WORKSHOPS

CAREER READY! - EXPLORING CAREER TECHNICAL PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

DESCRIPTION:

Our community colleges offer many academic pathway options that lead to immediate career opportunities with completion of a certificate or an Associate degree. Our Career Technical Education panelists of faculty and professionals share their experience and invite others to learn and ask questions about career technology academic programs, apprenticeship programs, and emerging careers in healthcare, water technology, business/entrepreneurship, and other industries.

MODERATOR:

Workforce Dev Program Coordinator - Lisa Gwyn, Diablo Valley College

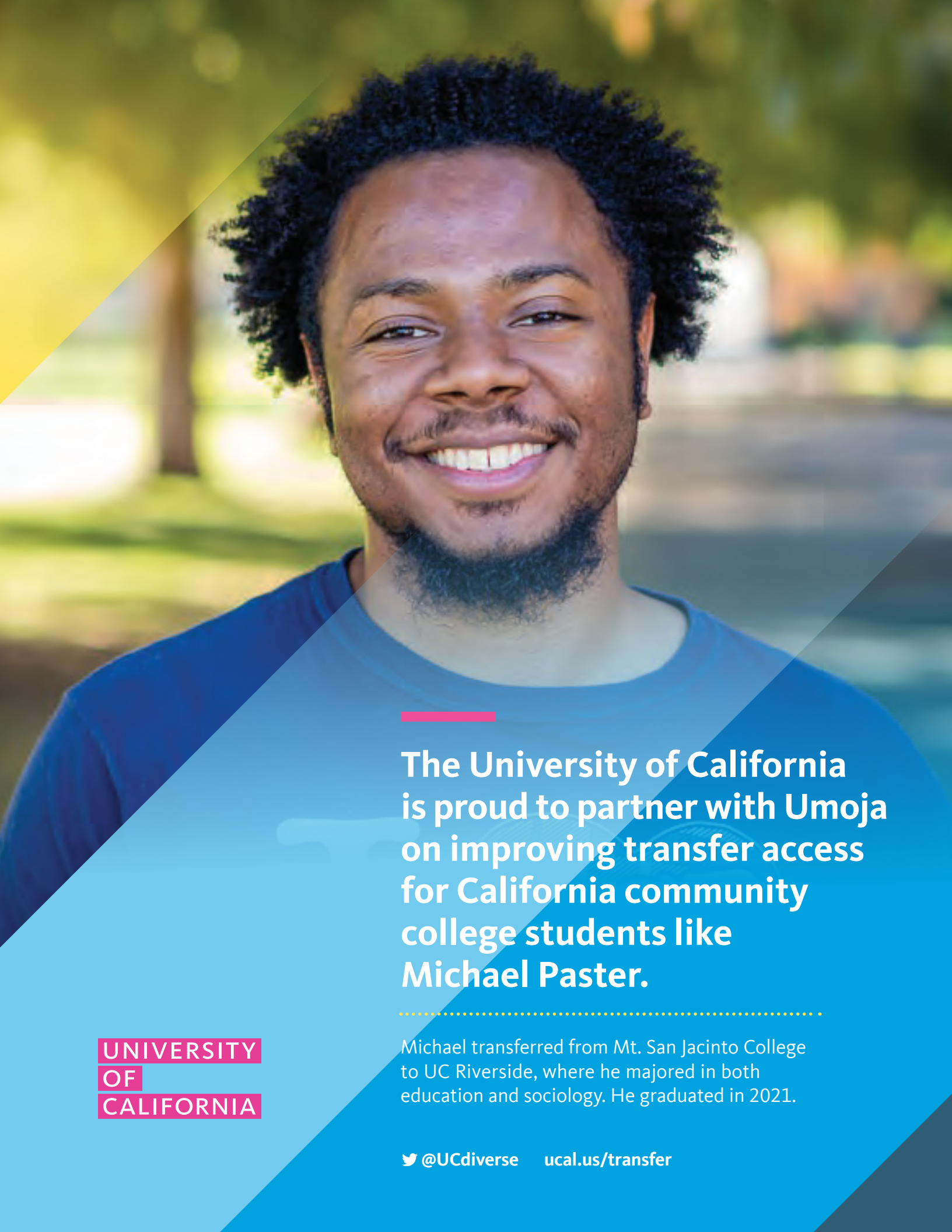
PANELIST:

Faculty Chair Water Technology
Melita G. Caldwell-Betties, MPA, SB Valley College

Faculty Chair Water Utility Science and Public Works
Jeffry P. Dennis, M.S., Santiago Canyon College

Professor Evangeline Ward, Dental Hygiene
Diablo Valley College

Professor Arnita Porter, Legal Studies, MSJC



**The University of California
is proud to partner with Umoja
on improving transfer access
for California community
college students like
Michael Paster.**

**UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA**

Michael transferred from Mt. San Jacinto College to UC Riverside, where he majored in both education and sociology. He graduated in 2021.

 @UCdiverse ucal.us/transfer



umojajatm community

On behalf of our Umoja Team...

THANK YOU!

Umoja Community Board of Directors
Umoja Statewide Staff
Umoja Conference Presenters & Volunteers

Our Partners
California Community Colleges Chancellors Office
University of California Office of the President
CCC HBCU Transfer Agreement

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2021-22 Theme:

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

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