

HABARI GANI

The Monthly Newsletter by Laney College Umoja-UBAKA



A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Umoja Practices

Check your calendars for what's happening

Umoja Fun Fact

Meet the UMOJA veteran employee

HBCU Spotlight

Learn about one of the many HBCUs you can transfer to

Important Dates

Check out what is coming up and where you need to be

WELCOME TO UMOJA-UBAKA

The Laney Umoja-UBAKA Student Success Learning Community is designed to promote academic success for the African American Students through culturally relevant, college-transferable courses, embedded tutoring, workshops, community building, study spaces and mentoring. The Umoja - UBAKA Program provides access to academic support, college admissions preparation, community engagement, and a supportive academic community!

WHAT ARE UMOJA PRACTICES

The Umoja practices are a set of principles and approaches used within the Umoja Community, a program focused on enhancing the educational experiences of African American and other students. These practices are rooted in cultural awareness, community building, and holistic student support. They include pedagogical, communication, and cultural strategies designed to foster student success and a sense of belonging.

In essence, the 18 Umoja practices create a supportive and culturally relevant learning environment that empowers students to thrive academically, personally, and communally. Each month, we will highlight at least one.



Umoja Fun Fact

Dr. Kassie Alexander, a former Umoja student and now the longest Umoja Faculty member for the Laney College Umoja-UBAKA program. She started with Umoja in 2019 and has continued to be a beacon of sunshine, sharing her experience and expertise as a part of the thriving program it is today.



UMOJA PRACTICE

RAISING INTENTIONAL & DELIBERATE

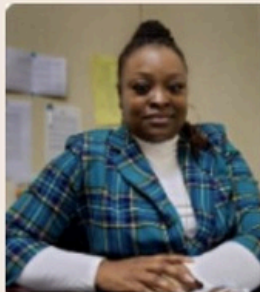
In Umoja we deeply value intentional and deliberate purposefulness. We should know why we are doing what we do; nothing should be random. This does not mean that learning and teaching is all pre-determined, proscribed, or pre-scripted. We are claiming here that we need to raise our capacity to be intentional and deliberate while creating "live learning" spaces and programs. Doing so helps our faculty engage a conscious dialogue informing their practice and choices, and helps us engender in our students a similar conscious dialogue about their practice and choices.

2025-2026 Theme:

Times are so different from those of our ancestors or even our parents. The need for education has changed, and the way we show up in spaces has changed. So much has changed. It is indeed "A Different World."



MEET THE TEAM



HBCU SPOTLIGHT

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are institutions of higher learning in the U.S. that were established before 1964 with the primary mission of educating Black Americans. Many were founded during the Reconstruction era, following the Civil War, when most colleges and universities excluded Black students.

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania was the first HBCU, established in 1837. Now, with 10 major courses of study and 6 minors, Cheyney University, home of the wolves, has graduated over 30,000 students. With the motto, Today's Leaders, Tomorrow's Leaders, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania has lead the charge to education black students!



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Thursday, **Aug 7th** Dr. Kassie Alexander's BIRTHDAY!!!!

Tuesday, **August 12th** **Student Orientation**

Monday, **August 18th** **First Day of Class**

Monday, **Sept 1st** Last Day to Add/ Drop Classes

Friday, **Sept 5th** Fitness Friday: Lake Merritt Walk

Tuesday, **Sept 16th** Workshop: Social Media Etiquette

Mon **Sept 22nd**- Friday **Sept 26th** Spirit Week

Friday, **Sept 26th** CSU East Bay Field Trip*
(tentative date)