



Fighting for Advocacy and Change Through Embedded Librarianship

By Faith Bradham, Reference Librarian

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- × Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- × Watercolor textures by [GraphicBurger](#)

When working with
diversity groups,
embedding is
necessary for librarians
to serve the true needs
of these groups.

My embedment into Umoja

Umoja is a Swahili word that means “unity”. The Umoja Community is a California Community College student success program that uses curriculum and pedagogy responsive to the legacy of the African and African American diasporas.

At Bakersfield College, our Umoja Community African-American Success Through Excellence and Persistence (ASTEP) program consists of 1 1/2 years of enrollment in a learning community where students take two English courses, 2 student development courses, a math course, a leadership course, and LIBR B1.

For more information: umojacommunity.biz

What I do as part of Umoja

INSTRUCTION

- × Teach an Umoja-specific LIBR B1
- × Give a library orientation to STDV B2 in the Fall semester
- × Act as the Umoja students' personal librarian

TRAINING

- × Attend the Umoja SLI each summer
- × Attend the Umoja Conference each Fall
- × Attend the Umoja student Summer Bridge and all celebration events for the students



Images from the most recent Umoja SLI and Umoja Conference



What Umoja has taught me

Traditional library curricula do not embrace diversity

- × **I learned:** Traditional authority tools are not inclusive of diverse sources
- × **Instead I:** Focused on critical thinking skills for evaluation

It is essential to learn cultural norms

- × **I learned:** My students had very different ideas of what learning environments look like
- × **Instead I:** Asked them why they were acting certain ways

Gaining trust as an outsider can be difficult

- × **I learned:** Students were not sure why a white lady was teaching African-centered curriculum
- × **Instead I:** Addressed the elephant in the room and worked on connecting with students

Broader implications of this work

- × Umoja ASTEP at Bakersfield College was the first Umoja program to include the library
 - × At the 2017 SLI, there were 3 programs with librarian team members
- × The library's yearly author visit program for Spring 2018 was chosen to target the needs of black students on campus.
 - × Michael Eric Dyson will give 2 student talks & book signings along with a visit to the Umoja classroom



Thanks!

You can find me at:
faith.bradham@bakersfieldcollege.edu