What are the benefits of participating in BC’s Umoja program?

- Free Umoja ASTEP summer orientation.
- The opportunity to take English courses that focus on the African-American experience taught by a caring professor.
- Laptop loan program.
- Support from the Umoja ASTEP counselor who helps you plan your pathway from access to completion (graduation/transfer).
- The opportunity to take student development and English courses within a supportive, loving environment.
- End-of-the-semester celebrations.
- Mentorship with BC faculty/staff/admin or community member.
- Academic and cultural trips.
- Motivational, cultural, and career workshops.
- Access to supplemental instruction and Village study sessions.
- Participation in Umoja Community state-wide events.

Stay informed!
Get the BCRenegades Mobile App.

We are BC!

Bakersfield College
- Offers programs that help students to earn certificates and associate degrees and to transfer to four-year colleges, including HBCUs.
- Has flexible scheduling - day, evening, weekend, and online classes.
- Has a vibrant, diverse student life that includes clubs, sports, musical and theatrical performances, and guest speakers.
- Is cost effective.

For more information, Contact:
Dr. Paula Parks, Umoja ASTEP Coordinator
pparks@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Office (661) 395-4767 or Cell (661) 232-0191
Humanities, Room 43

The Office of Student Success and Equity
(661) 395-4709
What is the Umoja Community ASTEP Program?

The Umoja Community African-American Success Through Excellence and Persistence (ASTEP) is a year-long program designed for motivated African-American students with the goal of increasing their success and graduation rates at Bakersfield College. Umoja ASTEP integrates culture, coursework, and support within a loving community. Students study works by Black authors in their English classes, are paired with a mentor, work with the Umoja ASTEP counselor to plan and stay on track to graduate, and participate in academic and cultural events. Students are encouraged to be full participants in their learning and grow into leaders and role models in their college and community.

What are the requirements to be part of the Umoja Community ASTEP program?

- Have taken the assessment test and score at least 04 or 05 in English or be eligible for English 60, English 53, or English 50.
- Have an interest in African-American culture, people, and issues.
- Be eager to take advantage of mentoring, workshops, trips, study sessions, and supplemental instruction sessions.
- A desire and motivation to succeed.

Apply now for support in achieving your academic goals:

- Complete your FAFSA application for financial aid, so you have your money by the time school starts. Go to https://fafsa.ed.gov.
- Submit your application to BC at https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/apply.
- Take your math, reading, and English assessment. To find out test dates and times, email bc_proctor@bakersfieldcollege.edu or call (661) 395-4479.
- Apply for the Umoja Community ASTEP program at https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/student/astep.
- Meet with Umoja ASTEP coordinator or counselor.