
LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE

Office of the President

January 11, 2010

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: SUPPORT of FY2011 Appropriation Request
“Umoja Community Expansion and Statewide Development”
Submitted by the Foundation for California Community Colleges, Umoja Community**

Dear Senator Feinstein,

Los Medanos College is pleased to provide this letter of support on behalf of the Umoja Community of California Community Colleges for the Federal Appropriations request being submitted by the Foundation for California Community Colleges on behalf of the Umoja Community.

Los Medanos College is one of the most ethnically diverse colleges within the Contra Costa Community College District, which includes three colleges and two satellite campuses and serves more than 42,000 students. Los Medanos College’s current student population of 11,484 students is 16% African American; 11% Asian/Pacific Islander; 27% Hispanic; 37% White; and 3% Other. In addition to serving a student population that is ethnically diverse, the college also serves a student population that is socioeconomically diverse. Sponsored by the Umoja Community Consortium, the Umoja Scholars Program at Los Medanos College supports over 50 students in its learning community.

The Umoja Community currently works with twenty-five community college programs across California. Their work is widely recognized and highly successful in increasing student success, particularly for African American students. The major goal of the proposed Umoja Community project is to conduct professional development work with ten district campuses in order to codify the existing professional development materials and processes into models that will lead to the scaling up and replication of Umoja Community model programs beyond California.

The project will engage ten affiliated schools with strong programs, faculty teams and administrative support that are poised to grow and expand. Los Medanos College is proud to be one of these select schools. Through this request by the Umoja Community of California Community Colleges, each participating school will:

- Receive a grant to participate in a year-long intensive training course, focusing on, but not be limited to: student mentoring, assessment of student learning outcomes, program design efficacy, and institutional data analysis.

- Participate in a comprehensive set of professional development activities including: a Summer Learning Institute, two regional symposia, two site visits from the Umoja leadership, and four virtual web-based trainings.
- Present at the annual Umoja Community conference.
- Conduct and host at least one site visit for another participating campus.
- Report on student success to evaluate Umoja techniques and methods. Data will be used to strengthen the campus programs and further inform the methodology used in all Umoja programs.

Los Medanos College will work collaboratively with the statewide Umoja Community of California Community Colleges to provide support and assistance should this federal appropriations request be awarded. Los Medanos College believes this project will enrich opportunities for the California Community College system to effectively reach out to educationally disadvantaged students in the community college system.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or would like additional information please do not hesitate to contact our advocate Dana DeBeaumont, with Townsend Public Affairs, at 202-546-8696.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Garcia".

Peter Garcia
President, Los Medanos College