



## Spring Break 2019: 17 EOPS/ NextUp / UMOJA Students Tour Six Historical Black Colleges and Universities

2019 represents the fourth year in which College of Alameda took advantage of the State of California's historical partnerships with Historical Black Colleges and Universities. This was the first ever district wide HBCU Tour. Students were able to visit six HBCU's as well as historical sites.

The tour began in Atlanta, GA where students visited the King center, the final resting place of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King. Students then visited Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, and Spellman College.



After a great time in Atlanta, we headed to Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA. The school's mission is to educate African-Americans, but it accepts students of every race, ethnic origin and nationality. Southern University offers about 60 bachelor's degrees in a wide range of studies, with architecture, journalism and psychology among the most popular undergraduate majors. Students who transfer to Southern University completing the CSU Breath or IGETC will have their out of state tuition waived which would bring their tuition to only \$8,000 a year, that's Awesome!!





After an amazing fun filled tour of Southern University. Students partook in a powerful experience at the Whitney Plantation. The Whitney Plantation is the only plantation museum in Louisiana with an exclusive focus on the lives of enslaved people. Whitney's memorials and restored buildings allowed students to enter the world of a Louisiana sugar plantation and to remember those who built and worked this property. On our walking tour, our guide showed us through slave cabins, a freedmen's church, detached kitchen and outbuildings, a 1790s owner's house and memorials built to honor the enslaved Africans.



Following the tour the of the Whitney Plantation students visited Grambling State University. Grambling State University is located in Northern Louisiana. Grambling State University is a prestigious HBCU known for its dynamic Business, Nursing, and Pre-Med programs. Charles Washington, COA's EOPS Counselor and Co-Coordinator of the HBCU tours is an Alumni of Grambling State University. Like Southern University Student who complete the IGETC or CSU Breath Requirements will also have their out of state tuition waved which lowers to cost of attendance to 7,500 a year.

Through this experience COA students have now created a network of support for each other and developed strong meaningful relationships. This opportunity created for our students is a great one; Because of this experience our students had the opportunity to witness, touch, and experience Black Excellence. These HBCU Tours are more than just students visiting college campuses. This is a transformative experience. In which African's in the diaspora discover a deeper sense. Students who participate in the tours have a greater appreciation of themselves and their culture. These lucky students have been made aware that they too can be a part of a legacy of greatness which we've seen on these campuses and historical sites. They all have been forever changed.

*Submitted by Charles Washington, MFT, MSW, EOPS Counselor / Instructor*

*The mission of the College of Alameda is to serve the educational needs of its community by providing comprehensive and flexible programs and resources to empower students to achieve their goals.*





*CoA Umoja Scholars Volunteer at the Alameda County Food Bank*

## CoA Students Participate in Umoja's 2nd Annual Day of Service

On Tuesday, September 17, 2019, twenty College of Alameda scholars participated in Umoja's 2nd Annual Day of Service at the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB), in Oakland. Alameda County Community Food Bank directly provides food substance for thousands of people in our county and helps fight food insecurity via their partnerships with organizations county-wide. The sheer volume of the Food Banks' charge and positive impact on lives are immeasurable.

College of Alameda provided a diverse coalition of students to serve and to help fight hunger in our county. Students volunteered for three hours and sorted and bagged produce in the Alameda County Community Food Bank warehouse.

Our group of twenty-one students and staff were joined by a small volunteer team from Sutter Health. Our task for our shift was to sort and bag, apples, carrots, and onions. Our volunteers were eager to help. At shift's end we sorted and bagged of apples, onions, and carrots. Our efforts helped the Food Bank feed and supply its constituents for a week.

We owe our thanks for the students who volunteered their time, energy and dedication. Melba Moore, Mathew Good, Alaa Muhsin, were returning volunteers and Umoja appreciates their leadership. Our list of new volunteers included: **Nicole Wright, Clemaus Tervalon, Tsehay Taldese, Yulet Solano, Mohamed, Giavanna Rivers, Tanya Parker, Ameer Omar, Ahmed Omar, Khai Murphy, Zatllyn Macapinlac, Donna Hooper, Theory Dunwood, Kathy Chao, Laurel Carr-Johnson Kirkland, and Simone Bremond.** Faculty member, **Jerel McGiffert**, Umoja Counselor/Coordinator was also part of the team. Umoja is extremely grateful for **Mr. Jody Campbell's** diligent efforts to recruit students and we appreciate **Shawn Fosters'** willingness to help Umoja grow and transport our students.

The Alameda County Community Food Bank serves one in five of our neighbors in our county. Two thirds are children and seniors. The task of food sorting at Alameda County Community Food Bank, is entirely staffed by volunteers. Most volunteers work weekend shifts and the Food Bank is always seeking groups and individuals to lend their time. ACCFB has two volunteer shifts: from 8 a.m. to noon and from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. In a perfect world, the sorting and bagging would require fifty volunteers each shift. Their greatest need is for weekday groups (five to thirty volunteers).

For information about volunteer opportunities: <https://www.accfb.org/volunteering/>.

*Submitted JEREL MCGIFFERT M.S., M.A., UMOJA Counselor/Coordinator, jmcgiffert@peralta.edu*