Please join the New Legacy Committee in welcoming the arrival of the *Umoja Program* to the Sierra College campus!

Umoja (Swahili for “unity”) is a state-wide model program designed to intentionally and systematically improve academic success rates for African American students. Umoja students benefit from individualized support services such as orientation, assessment, counseling, financial aid workshops, and core sponsored activities. Umoja also offers a variety of professional development training opportunities for faculty and staff who are interested in improving success rates of African American students. Examples of program success include:

- 90% African American success rate in Basic Skills math courses at Los Medanos College
- Umoja students successfully completed the Basic Skills to Freshman Composition sequence at a rate 19% higher than non-Umoja students.

The fall 2009 semester offers a PD 1, College Success course with an African American student emphasis. A similar focus is included in the curriculum of a PD 6, Career Planning course for spring 2010.

*Umoja and Puente students on a transfer tour of San Jose State University. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, October 16, 2009.*

The Umoja program has had the wonderful opportunity to partner with the Puente Program to tour university campuses. Umoja students visited UC Davis and San Jose State University to meet with professionals who encouraged and explained the realities of transferring successfully.