

by noon on the Monday before each Friday's issue. The newspaper is also available online at [lmceexperience.com](http://lmceexperience.com).

## Umoja Scholars

[www.losmedanos.edu/umoja](http://www.losmedanos.edu/umoja)

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The Umoja Scholars Program is committed to enriching, fostering, and nurturing the educational experience of all students, especially African-American and first-generation college students, ultimately preparing them for academic, personal, and professional success beyond Los Medanos College. This program addresses student needs through academic support services and a curriculum that focuses on African-American literature and history as well as contemporary issues facing the African-American community.

## Student Rights & Responsibilities

### Academic Freedom

Academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students and the general well-being of society. Free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals. As members of the academic community, students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth.

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the large community. Students should exercise their freedom with responsibility.

The responsibility to secure and to respect general conditions conducive to the freedom to learn is shared by all members of the academic community. Los Medanos College has a duty to develop policies and procedures which provide and safeguard this freedom. The purpose of this statement is to enumerate the essential provisions for student freedom to learn. The policies and procedures as set forth in this statement are for institutional use but cannot be separated from the laws of the wider society; therefore, everything stated herein must be considered within the limits of the law.

### Freedom of Association

Students bring to the campus a variety of interests previously acquired and develop many new interests as members of the academic community. Students are free to organize and join associations to promote their common interests.

- 1) The membership, policies, and actions of a student organization will be determined by vote of only those persons who are bona fide students of Los Medanos College.

- 2) Affiliation with an extramural organization will not disqualify a student organization from institutional recognition.
- 3) Faculty advisors are necessary; each organization is free to choose its own faculty advisor. Faculty advisors may advise organizations in the exercise of responsibility, but they will not have the authority to control the policies or legal activities of such organizations.
- 4) Student organizations are required to submit a statement of purpose, criteria for membership, rules of procedures, and a current list of officers. They will be required to submit a membership list as a condition of institutional recognition.
- 5) Campus organizations, including those affiliated with an extramural organization, are open to all Los Medanos College students without respect to race, creed or national origin.

### Freedom of Inquiry and Expression

It is the policy of the district and LMC to allow and protect reasonable and legal expressions, speeches and actions according to federal and state laws and Education Code section 76120.

- 1) Students and student organizations will be free to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately. They should always be free to support causes by orderly means which do not disrupt the regular and essential operation of the institution. At the same time, it should be made clear to the academic and the large community that in their public expressions or demonstrations, students or student organizations speak only for themselves.
- 2) Students have the right to exercise free expression, including the use of bulletin boards, the distribution of printed materials or petitions, and the wearing of buttons, badges or other insignia. The policy excludes expression which is obscene, libelous or slanderous according to current legal standards or that incites students to create a clear and present danger or to commit unlawful acts on community college premises or damage to persons or property. Inciting students to riot, or the violation of lawful community college regulations or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the community college, is also prohibited. Copies of the district and college policies are available at the Student Life Office and online at [www.losmedanos.edu](http://www.losmedanos.edu).
- 3) Students will be allowed to invite and to hear any person of their own choosing. Those routine procedures required by an institution before a guest speaker is invited to appear on campus should be designed only to insure that there is orderly scheduling of facilities and adequate preparation for the event, and that the occasion is conducted in a manner appropriate to an academic community. The institutional control of the campus facilities should not be used as a device of censorship. It should be made clear to the academic and large community that sponsorship of guest