



IMANI

Intellectual-Motivated-Ambitious-Noble-Inspiring

THE IMANI SISTERHOOD PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022

Welcome to the IMANI Sisterhood Program Newsletter. The first issue of our newsletter introduces the program to the SCC community with a focus on the goals of the program.

In future issues we will include student resource information, announce upcoming events, highlight program participants and other important information.

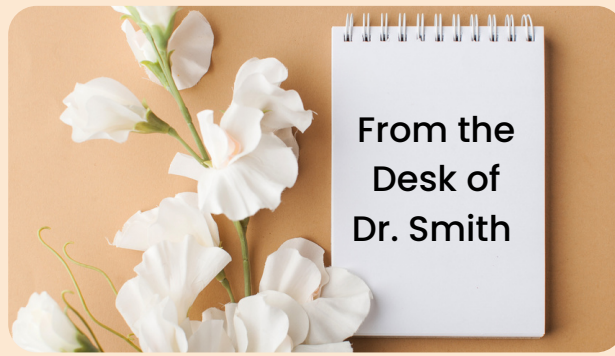


The adinkra symbol of knowledge, life long education and continued quest for knowledge.

What's in a Name

Imani is a woman's name that means faith and belief in both Swahili and Arabic. The name originated from Eastern Africa.

Imani is also the seventh principle of the Kwanzaa Celebration. It marks the lighting of the 7th candle that honors family and community. It reminds us to believe in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and that we can triumph over our struggles.



Greetings!

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the IMANI Sisterhood Program, one of Solano Community College's newest student services programs. The IMANI Sisterhood Program focuses on Black female students at SCC and has a two-pronged, holistic approach, focusing on both the academic and personal growth and development of program participants. The program was established in response to results from a Fall 2020 Racial/Equity Focus Group in which students indicated that "finding and connecting with faculty from similar, diverse (i.e., non-white) backgrounds is a challenge". The program was also established to address institutional data that identifies Black female students at SCC as a disproportionately impacted (DI) group that falls into multiple DI groups (Access, Retention, etc.). As such, the goals of the program are to create a safe space for our participants to establish connections with peers, faculty, and staff who share common backgrounds and experiences, while also assisting the college community in our efforts to improve outcomes for Black female students in the areas of access and retention.

Like most things, our program was impacted by COVID, and launching a new program during a pandemic proved challenging. Despite this, when we began reaching out to students on campus to inform them about the program we received a warm reception and wonderful responses such as "I am very thankful and excited to receive this opportunity," "I am looking forward to self-building with women that look like me," "I'm excited to be a part of a sisterhood, I need as much support as I can get," and "I love anything pertaining to our people. Our history, our achievements, and our culture." These responses reaffirmed both the need and the desire for a program such as ours.

Because many students are still uncomfortable visiting campus for classes or other activities we adopted a hybrid service model whereby we provided programming both in person and virtually which we will share with you in our inaugural newsletter. We hope that in the next academic year students will increasingly become more comfortable visiting campus and meeting in person and will adjust our activities and events according to the wants and needs of our program participants as our philosophy is to "meet students where they are".

We look forward to welcoming more students into our program in the 2022-2023 academic year and hope that you will join us in this effort by referring students to us. You can either send their information to us and we will send them a personal invitation, or you can provide our information to them and ask them to contact us. You will find our program contact information in our newsletter.

We also invite our campus community to support our program in other ways. For instance, if there is a particular workshop you would like to share with our participants, if you know of dynamic speakers we should invite, or if there are academic, professional, or even recreational opportunities that you become aware of and think may be of interest, please reach out to us and let us know.

All the best,

Tasha

Tasha Smith, Ph.D.

IMANI Sisterhood Program Coordinator





Meet the IMANI Sisterhood Program Team



Tasha Smith, Ph.D.
Program Coordinator



Clitdell "Cle" Long
Outreach Specialist



Deloris Paschal
Outreach Specialist

Contact the IMANI team at:

707-864-7000 Ext. 4509
Email: IMANI@solano.edu



Fairfield Campus
4000 Suisun Valley Rd.
Student Services Building 400
Second Floor, Room 435/437-A
Fairfield, CA. 94534

Services we offer:

- Mentoring
- Workforce Preparedness Workshops and Activities
- Health & Wellness Workshops and Activities

Referrals to:

- Counseling
- Tutoring
- Scholarships
- Internships

Members can participate in:

- College Campus tours
- Community Events
- Conferences
- Cultural Activities
- Forums and focus groups
- Table Talks
- And more...



IMANI SISTERHOOD COMMUNITY WALL

A Short but Eventful Semester

We hosted our first event on campus on April 25th with a poetry workshop where participants were inspired by workshop facilitators Damali Robertson and Sheila Smith to use poetry for growth, healing, and transformation. The participants shared that the event motivated them to create their own poetry. One week later our participants were transported to UC Berkeley for a campus tour that offered a fascinating presentation, exploration, and lunch at a campus dining hall. Our activities concluded with a virtual meditation workshop on May 11th with Dr. Ronné Sims who shared some important facts about the history of meditation and guided our participants through breathing, concentration, and relaxation techniques. The results - Empowered women!

Imani Sisterhood Program invites you to:
Remembering...Imagining...Feeling

A Poetry Workshop with Poets
Damali Robertson and Sheila Smith

An interactive workshop that will engage, encourage, and empower participants to tap into the power of poetry.



Damali Robertson
Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
California Institute of Integral Studies
Facilitator, Writer, and Teacher



Sheila C. Smith, M.A.
Adjunct Faculty and Mentor for Teachers4Equity
Solano Community College
Workshop Facilitator, Mentor, Writer

Monday, April 25, 2022
5:30 - 7:30 PM
Solano Community College
Main Campus, Bldg 1400 (Cafeteria)

A light meal will be served from 5:30 - 6:00.
The workshop will begin at 6:00 PM.

Click the link to RSVP no later than 4/21/22:
<https://evite.ms/r551p6waz>

Come meet the Imani Sisterhood Program team members and learn more about our program.



The Imani Sisterhood Program invites you to:
Tour the UC Berkeley campus




Saturday, April 30, 2022
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM


Transportation and lunch provided.
10:00 AM - Meet at SCC, parking lot C (near the flag pole facing the 400 building).
10:30 - Depart SCC
11:30 - 12:30 Lunch at UCB Crossroads cafeteria
1:00 - 4:30 Tour/Presentations
5:00 - Depart UCB
6:00 - Arrive SCC

Sign-up today!
Space is limited

The Imani Sisterhood Program invites you to:



A Check-Up From the Neck-Up: Meditation and You



A Meditation Workshop with
Dr. Ronné Wingate Sims
Minister, Meditation Teacher, and
Collaborator with Healthy Minds Innovation

Learn how implementing a regular meditation practice into your toolkit can not only improve your mental health and well-being, but serve as an act of love for self and our community.

Wednesday, May 11, 2022
6:00 - 7:30 PM
Join us live via Zoom
Register by May 10th

Click here to register
<https://forms.gle/HHkrvzKRUagDR627>
A Zoom link will be sent by email to registered participants on May 11th



IMANI Proud

A Heartfelt Message From Cle Long

Congratulations to all of the IMANI Sisterhood Program graduates! We are so proud of your accomplishments and wish you the very best in pursuing your future educational and personal goals. We hope your experience with the IMANI Sisterhood Program has provided you with knowledge and support needed to continue to build your character and success. We welcome you to come back to SCC to share your success stories with students like you.

Best to you always,
Cle Long, Outreach Specialist



*Congratulations to all of the
2022 SCC graduates*

This issue of the IMANI Sisterhood Program Newsletter
was created and edited by Deloris Paschal