

IMANI

Intellectual-Motivated-Ambitious-Noble-Inspiring



THE IMANI SISTERHOOD PROGRAM NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023

IMANI Sisterhood Program Newsletter Spring 2023 Edition

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KNOWLEDGE

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



KNOWLEDGE

** From the Desk of Dr. Smith **

Greetings,

I am thrilled to share the Spring 2023 IMANI Sisterhood Program newsletter with you! This semester has been an exciting one for our program. We marked our one year anniversary this semester and are so elated about the many ways our program has grown in just one year. For instance, we've enjoyed a 59% increase in membership since Spring 2022 and continue to accept members on an ongoing basis! We are also very ecstatic about our graduating participants – please be sure to see their pictures and read their profiles in our newsletter. While we love welcoming new members into our program, we are even more overjoyed when they successfully complete their studies here at SCC and transition into the next chapter of their lives!

The image on the front page of this newsletter is reflective of our philosophy that all our program participants should have a world of opportunities available to them. With that in mind, we have also increased our programming and continue to take a holistic approach, focusing on our participant's academic and personal growth and development. On the pages of our newsletter you will find information on the different workshops and activities our program participants enjoyed this semester, such as our Mental Health and Vision Board Workshops, Table Talks on various topics of interest to our participants, as well as a Poetry Workshop. You're in for a real treat too, because we've featured some of the poetry that was created and shared during the workshop in our newsletter! We also focused on Career Exploration this semester and our participants enjoyed a Career Center Workshop tailored specifically to their interests, as well as a personalized worksite visit and tour of the Solano County Juvenile Detention Facility. The visit to the facility was arranged for our participants as a result of a discussion in one of our Table Talks during which participants expressed an interest in exploring careers in Social Work and Counseling and specifically requested a visit to the facility. We were so happy that we were able to make the tour happen for our participants! We all learned so much and the information we obtained during the visit was invaluable.

We also hosted fun campus-wide events this semester. For instance, we co-hosted a screening of the Woman King in March during Women's History Month and in February we hosted a Black Cultural Trivia and Game Day in recognition of Black History Month.





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** From the Desk of Dr. Smith **

Cont'd

If you missed it, we encourage you to take a moment to challenge your knowledge of Black Culture and History by taking a fun quiz. You will find the link below in the pages of our newsletter. We hope to make the Black Cultural Trivia and Game Day an annual event and look forward to your participation in Spring 2024!

Finally, we are ecstatic that our program has been invited to collaborate in larger campus endeavors that impact our program participants and the population we serve, such as designing and planning the new Student Excellence Center slated to open in Fall 2023, as well as the Black Students and Families BBQ and Summer Bridge program, both scheduled for the beginning of next semester.

In the next academic year, we will continue working to expand our membership and programming and hope that you will partner with us in doing so. If there is a student you would like to refer to our program please ask them to visit the IMANI Sisterhood Program website at <https://welcome.solano.edu/imani-sisterhood-program/> where they can learn more about our program and complete a membership intake form. Also, if you have any ideas for workshops, presentations and speakers, field trips, internship and scholarship opportunities, etc., or just want to collaborate in some way, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

I hope you have a fantastic summer!

Best,

Tasha

Tasha Smith, Ph.D.
IMANI Sisterhood Program Coordinator





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Jumuiya Wall (Community)

IMANI Sister - Up Close and Personal

Meet Traci Bass-Jackson

By Deloris Paschal



Traci Bass-Jackson

Traci Bass-Jackson has been maneuvering her way through challenges since a very early age. She is now only two semesters away from completing her academic and professional goals. She plans to graduate from SCC next spring with her AA degree in Human Services.

Similar to many students attending college, Traci juggles a multitude of responsibilities. She works as a Case Manager for Solano County National Alliance of Mental Illness, also known as NAMI. She is married and the mother of two adult children, becoming a mother at the age of 17. In addition to working and attending school, she is the caregiver to her 88-year old aunt. She also cares for her two fur babies, a dog and a cat.

Traci started roller skating at an early age and continues to do so in her spare time. She was born in Compton, California, to a working-class family with both parents working to support the family's needs. She is the middle child of two brothers and three sisters. In the 1970's the family moved to Simi Valley, California. According to Traci, her family did not receive a warm welcome from the residents of Simi Valley, "they really didn't like us... there was not a lot of us there." Traci explains that the Black kids were bullied and called names, "there was a lot of fighting and racial slurs," said Traci. But, it was the roller skating rink in Simi Valley where Traci found a temporary refuge from the bullying and fighting. According to Traci, the roller rink unified everyone, "...when you're in the roller skating rink environment, it doesn't matter what color you are...because we're all having fun together. But once you got out of the roller rink, you know, the name calling started."

Traci's family moved from southern California to Fairfield in the early 1980's. It was the second time in her young life that she experienced culture shock (the first time was when they moved from Compton to Simi Valley). Her impression of Fairfield; "It was just fields!"

Traci originally started taking courses at SCC in 1995, but quickly realized that she was not ready to be a student. She began working with her mother, who owned a group home.

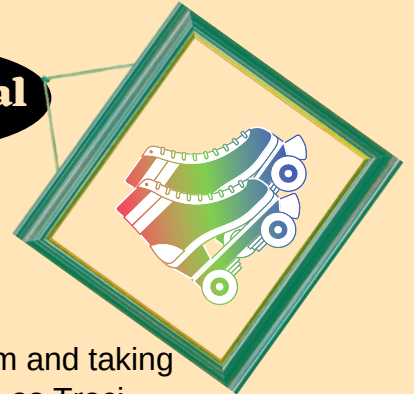


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IMANI Sister - Up Close and Personal

Meet Traci Bass-Jackson

Cont'd



In 2004, Traci returned to SCC, while continuing to work with her mom and taking classes at Pharma Tox to become a drug and alcohol counselor. But, as Traci says "life got in the way" so she stopped taking classes in 2005.

Traci's recent return to SCC has opened up new opportunities. During the Fall 2022 semester she was a guest speaker for the Human Services class. She presented to the students information on being employed in the Human Services field, stressing the importance of gathering information, documentation and following-up with your clients. "College...has broadened me, my mind and had I been directed towards it at a younger age, I feel like I would have been more successful," said Traci.

Traci is considering transferring to a four-year college but does not want the debt that comes with continuing her education. She plans to take the exam to receive her drug and alcohol counselor certificate.

Traci became a member of the IMANI Sisterhood Program this semester. She joined because she likes the sense of belonging to a program that promotes sisterhood, camaraderie and support. "I've always wanted to be part of a sorority," she shared. Traci has participated in many of our events this semester, but she expressed that her favorite one was the Mental Health Workshop. "I liked everything about it, it was very informative, I liked the activities and the speaker...she was really good."

One more thing that Traci wants people to know about her is her creativity when mixing her fashion styles. I'm a sneaker head...I wear Adidas, Nike, Puma and I have my career clothes. I mix it all together and make it work."

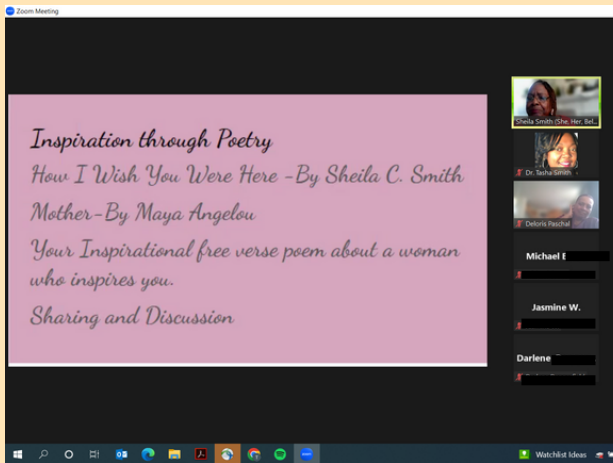
Traci's advice to fellow students is to seek out a "seasoned counselor" when creating your education plan, "...ask the questions, don't think that you have all of the answers," and "get a good tutor."

Traci, you are a perfect example of success – you've faced challenges and maneuvered through them to move closer to your goals. We applaud your achievements.

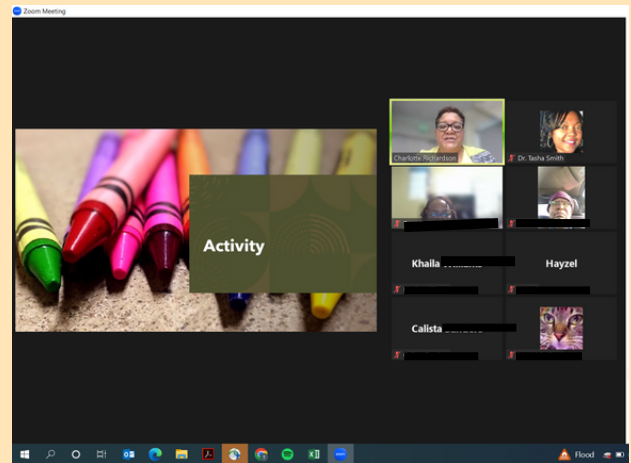


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Workshops



Poetry Workshop
Shelia Smith
Facilitator



Mental Health Wellness
Workshop
Charlotte Richardson
Facilitator



Career Center Workshop
Patricia Young
Facilitator



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From Our Poetry Workshop

Our poetry workshop was well received by those who attended. We learned, created, and shared all things poetry. Following are examples of the creativity that flowed during our poetry experience.

Thanks to Professor Smith for facilitating the workshop and sharing her wealth of poetry knowledge.



I AM... by Katlin Price-Mahar

I AM...

I am a bundle of feelings and words, where do I begin?
 I am my mother's daughter even if she doesn't mirror when I speak.
 I am a wife but he stands beside, not in front.
 I am a child bearing, temple whose scars are sacred.
 I am a mom of 2 growing boys, keeping me alive, full of virtue.
 I am a little sister whose back is always covered by his.
 I am a woman who cares and loves, doing what's kind.
 I am a girl's girl, even if the days turn into years and the distance broadens.
 I am the strength in a grip on a boar bristle brush.
 I am the tight ringlets of my ponytail's curls.
 I am the numerous marks that show I am a brown girl.
 I am not who you say I am, I am true to myself with two feet standing firm.
 This is my time, I am the light, as God as my witness, I am the peace, not the fight.





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Sisterfriends

By Sheila C. Smith

(from Spirit in Motion. 1998)

Dedicated to Imani Sisterhood

Solano Community College

Long, long ago, before the, "Once upon a time..." I believe sisters were laughing and talking while arranging stars and decorating the sky,

Some folks will never, ever understand the ancient, sacred and mystical relationship between Sisterfriends...

Sometimes these relationships go through the mill Yet, they withstand the ultimate test of time

Sisterfriends can talk all night long And never once run out of subjects such as: relationships, religion, spirituality, childrearing, health, sex, clothes, sales, diets, exercise, recipes, world events, entertainment, schools, education, sexism, racism, drug wars, world hunger, books, movies, goals and aspirations!

Only Sisterfriends can communicate with gestures and eyes, they convey Numerous assessments.

Sisterfriends don't even need to complete their own sentences One starts, the other finishes it and they both, point, smile, snap and nod simultaneously...

Sisterfriends can sense when something is going on with their sister, and they pick up the phone, call(ring) (or text)

Their sister, she answers and says "how on earth did you know?"

Sisterfriends rejoice in each other successes. They encourage each other in times of sorrow. And are the voices of reason when the other's emotions take control

Sisterfriends remember each other in countless ways with cards, gifts, phone calls, emails, text and instant messages, snap chat, Instagram, they share job leads, blind dates, prayers, copies of articles, shoes and clothing and UNsolicited advise.

Sisterfriends are heart to heart like Momma's homemade peach cobbler or sweet potato pie.

Sisterfriends are 'straight up' 'shoot from the hip' women

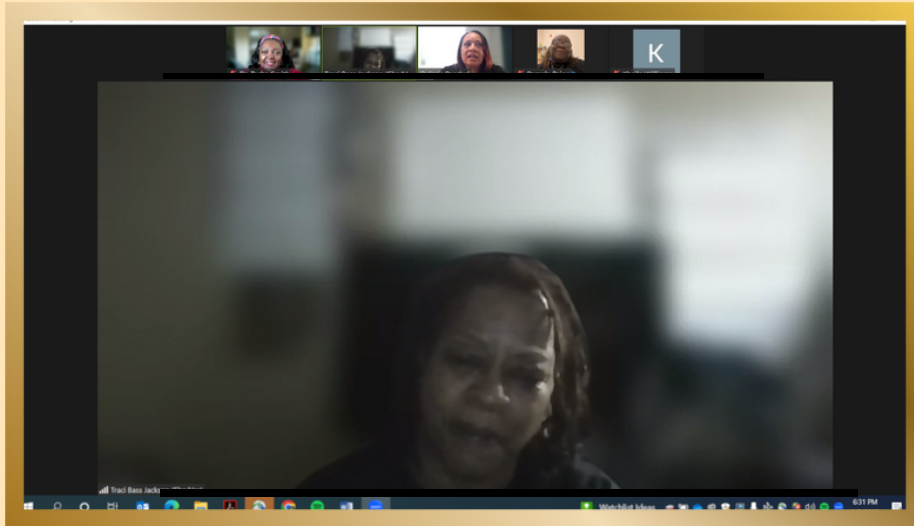
Who are dedicated to truly loving their sisters and absolutely BEing themselves

I dedicate this poem to all the beloved women I can truly call My SisterFriends



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Table Talks



In our Fall 2022 newsletter, we described our table talks as being modeled after an age old tradition of Black women sitting around the kitchen table discussing everyday issues and how replicating that tradition gives our IMANI students a place to discuss their experiences and share information. This semester we continued the tradition.

One of the topics we discussed during an evening Table Talk is the misinformed stereotypes of Black women. We talked in depth about present day stereotypes and those that have existed for centuries that are associated with Black women. One stereotype that most of us could relate to is the 'Angry Black Woman' trope. Many of us have been accused of being angry and/or loud. We talked about how the media perpetuates these stereotypes and how the lives of Black women are impacted by them. Being perceived as angry and loud can limit the goals that we are pursuing, the opportunities presented to us and can stagnate our desires to freely express ourselves.

If you are interested in learning more about this topic, we've included links to articles that offer more detailed content.

[Breaking Down The Stereotypes: Celebrating the Black Woman](#)

[Examining Media Images of Black Women, No Easy Task](#)

[Our Voices: Why We Shouldn't Fully Abandon the "Strong Black Woman" Stereotype](#)



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Off-Campus Excursion

IMANI Visits a Juvenile Detention Facility

By Deloris Paschal

Ask and you shall receive! Some of our IMANI members requested to tour the local Juvenile Detention facility. We made it happen.

We were not pre-screened prior to the tour, therefore, we were not permitted to tour any area where kids were present at the time. We toured the medical office, visiting room, supply room, and the Receiving Center where the intake processing occurs upon the juvenile's arrival. We toured the outdoor recreation yards and a POD. The term POD represents the kids' living spaces which is inclusive of their individual sleeping areas, classroom and dining area. One area of the facility that was of interest is the Incentive Room. It's a space where positivity earns them access. Using their 'pro-social' points they can purchase admission to the quarterly party where they have access to video games and are treated to a take-out meal or a meal cooked by the programmers. They also have access to a recording studio donated to the facility by Creative Hope Studios.



Our tour was led by Ms. Grace, Senior Juvenile Correctional Counselor and a SCC alumni. She has over 24 years of experience working with youth. Her knowledge and experience is evident in the details she provided to us about the laws, processes, and programming. Her compassion and empathy for the youth she serves did not go unnoticed. The same can be said for the staff we encountered during the tour. Demonstrated through their actions and words, is genuine care and concern for the kids. They shared with us the programs that they've developed, including trade programs that provide participants with electrical, plumbing, HVAC,

and welding skills. They created the weekly "Hour of Power" talk, where successful men from the community come in and speak to the center residents. Impressively, they were even able to secure a visit from rap artist and actor Ludacris. The staff collaborates with members from the Travis Air Force Base Phoenix Ravens program to lead a weekly work-out and the kids are assigned a mentor who continues to mentor them when they are released back into the community. Lastly, but equally important, the residents attend weekly restorative justice classes to help them understand victim empathy and victim awareness. The staff expressed that their ultimate goals are to prepare the kids to lead a productive life and to slow down the revolving door of recidivism.



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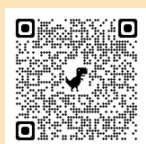
Honoring History

Black History Month Trivia Game Day



The IMANI Sisterhood Program joined in on the campus wide celebrations for Black History Month by hosting a Black Cultural Trivia and Game Day. We provided card games and dominoes for those choosing to play. But the highlight of the event was the trivia game where teams competed against each other to win swag bags.

Want to test your Black history and culture knowledge? Scan the QR code or click the link where you can answer 16 of the trivia questions. The questions will open in Google Drive where you can select presenter view to answer the questions.



Black Culture Trivia

Women's History Month Movie Screening



For Women's History Month we collaborated with the A2MEND program to bring a movie to the campus for a community screening. We watched the Woman King movie and held a discussion session afterward.





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We are Here For You

Your IMANI Team



Dr. Tasha Smith
Program Coordinator



Deloris Paschal
Outreach Coordinator

If you would like to support the IMANI Sisterhood Program, please contact us. To make a financial donation, click [here](#) to be directed to our donation portal on the SCC Foundation webpage.

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...



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Scholarships

2023 and Ongoing Scholarships

Grassroots Turf Scholarship - \$1500 awarded to a high school student planning to pursue a post secondary degree or a college student pursuing a post secondary degree. Must be a US resident. Click [here](#) to apply and for additional information. Final date to apply - **6/1/2023**

Bold.org - \$25,000 Be Bold Scholarship is awarded to the applicant with the boldest profile. Applicant must create a profile on the Bold.org website. Applying early increases your chances of being selected. Click [here](#) to apply and for additional information. Final date to apply - **12/1/2023**

Nitro - \$2,000 awarded to a student, age 17 years or older, currently enrolled in a U.S. accredited college or university, and is a U.S. resident. Click [here](#) to apply. Final date to apply - **12/31/23**

LA Tutors 123 Education - \$500 awarded monthly. Must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 and have designed an innovative project that makes a difference in the lives of others. Apply by the **20th of each month**. Click [here](#) to apply and for additional information.

Broke Scholar - this site offers an extensive data base of scholarships organized by scholarship specifications, including the following:

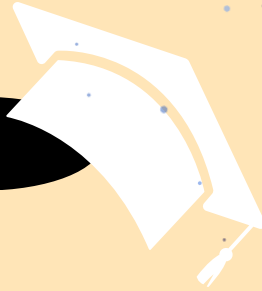
- Top 50 Scholarships for African-American Students. 157 scholarships for a total of \$567,341 available in 2023 to African-American students. Click [here](#) to search and apply.
- Top 50 Scholarships and Grants for Women. 284 scholarships for a total of \$1,112,142 available in 2023 to female students. Click [here](#) to search and apply.

This is just a small sampling of the many scholarships available to students. To research other scholarships you may qualify for, click this [link](#) to visit the SCC webpage.



KNOWLEDGE

2023 Graduates



Name: Sherrell Wilkerson

Major: Nursing

Future Plans: Sherrell plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and use her degree to work in nursing management.



Name: Traci LaDell Henderson

Majors: Liberal Studies and Psychology

Future Plans: Traci is transferring to CSU - East Bay.

Name: Darlene L. Dangerfield

Majors: Human Services and Spanish

Future Plans: Darlene will transfer to CSU-LA in Spring 2024.





KNOWLEDGE



2023 Graduates



Name: La'Toya A. Mosley

Major: Registered Nurse

Future Plans: La'Toya will attend Ohio State where she will pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.



Name: Stephanie Ijeoma Ugochukwu

Majors: Biology and Chemistry

Future Plans: Stephanie is transferring to UC San Diego where she plans to major in microbiology and minor in chemistry. She wants to use her Associate of Science degree in Biology towards becoming a licensed medical lab technician. She eventually wants to attend graduate school to get her Masters in Drug Synthesis and Design to work in biotech/pharmaceuticals.





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2023 Graduates



Name: Katlin Price-Mahar

Major: Liberal Arts

Future Plans: Katlin plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design at San Francisco State University.

Additionally, she plans to pursue her Real Estate license to renovate and sale both residential and commercial properties.

Congratulations to our 2023 graduates!
Thank you for being a part of the IMANI
Sisterhood.





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Fall 2023

We are looking forward to taking some time during the summer to re-energize ourselves and return renewed for the Fall 2023 semester.

** Here are some of the activities we are planning for our members.



**Activities and Events are Subject to Change

Workshops:

Poetry/Spoken Word
Mental Health Wellness
Career Related
Transfer Basics
Meditation
Financial Wellness
Vision Board

Tours:

Colleges and Universities
Work sites

Cultural Events:

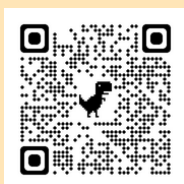
Museums
Plays
Dance Performances

Other Activities:

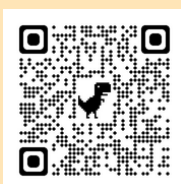
Table Talks
Open House
Welcome Back Celebration

We are on Social Media

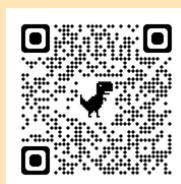
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