



Teaching & Learning

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Umoja: More than a Program

All In. Every Day. is more than this year's District theme. It is a commitment to ensuring every learner feels connected, supported, and empowered to succeed. Fargo Public Schools' partnership with Umoja brings that commitment to life by providing learners with opportunities to build leadership skills, express themselves creatively, explore culture, and develop meaningful relationships through mentorship and community.

Umoja's mission is to build unity and empowerment so every learner can thrive academically while having their dignity, culture, and voice honored. Since 2022, Umoja has served more than 700 learners across the region through learner-centered programming and leadership opportunities.

This year, Umoja welcomed two talented new staff members to support Fargo learners. LexX, who primarily works with high school learners, brings expertise in theater and poetry. Stuart, who focuses on middle school learners, is a hip-hop writer and producer. Together, they create engaging experiences that help learners build confidence, strengthen communication skills, and discover new ways to express themselves.

In Umoja workshops, learners may listen to and discuss poetry, practice active listening, write lyrics, journal, and share personal experiences that have shaped their values. These experiences provide a supportive space for learners to reflect, create, and consider how they can positively impact the world around them.

A highlight of Umoja is the opportunity for learners to showcase their talents through end-of-semester performances. Learners may present speeches, poetry, music, dance, or even fashion portfolios, sharing their voices with family and community members while building leadership and presentation skills.

Umoja also creates opportunities to bring families and the community together. Families were invited to participate in Multilingual Family Night on October 1, which brought learners, families, and community resources together to strengthen connections across the Fargo-Moorhead area. We also look forward to the return of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day Celebration in January, featuring guest speakers and performance opportunities for learners.

Through creative expression, meaningful relationships, and authentic leadership opportunities, Umoja helps learners discover who they are and who they can become. As we continue our commitment to being All In. Every Day., partnerships like Umoja remind us that when learners are given a voice, a supportive community, and opportunities to lead, they can make a powerful impact in their schools and in the world around them.

