** African American Studies**

*“Where African Centered Scholarship and Community Activism Unite”*

**Africana Studies Community Research Center**

**I. Curriculum Description:**

The Department of African American Studies at Merritt College has completed a unique Africana Studies Community Research Center that houses an originally designed curriculum to be used on ipads and/or computers. The curriculum comprises four (4) interactive learning modules of museum quality where students engage through visual, touch screen, e-portfolio lessons about African American history. The modules for the center are multilayered and highly visual and kinesthetic and were produced by award wining filmmakers and graphic designers. They are also fully ADA compliant for hearing and visually impaired learners and are also accessible in Spanish. The interactive curriculum is for educational purposes and includes critical thinking assignments, which a educator can include into course requirements and/or for cultural enrichment programs.

**The Interactive Curriculum Includes:**

Engaging lessons in the history of African people in 4 major areas:

\* Classical African Civilizations: Nubia, Mali, The Dogon and more

\* The Maafa: Slavery and Colonialism of African people

\* Pan Africanism: WEB DuBois, Marcus Garvey and more

\* Oakland’s Black History and Current Issues: Migration, Education and more

Interactive maps and graphs

Poetry and Narrative Readings narrated by professional actors

Interview segments from Nationally Recognized scholars and community organizers

Accessible for 9th-12th and college level learners

Provides over 30 hours of learning in small segments

**Student & Educator Learning Outcomes:**

* Provide an accessible recourse for educators and community organizations
* Engage students in learning about the history of African people
* Develop critical thinking skills that prepare for and enhance academic success

**II. Community Research Projects:**

The Africana Center includes a *Black Family Research Specialist* who works with students 2 days a week to train them on genealogy processes. Students work on their own family histories through interviewing elders, archival research and DNA testing to create portfolios to enhance academic skills and enrich families with more information about their history.

In addition, each academic year students and faculty collectively decide on a community research project to engage in. Over the course of the year they are thus trained in multiple forms of social science research methods and learn to apply them to the project. Project results then become a permanent part of the Africana Center and/or the agency, K-12 school etc that served as the subject of the project.