## Umoja Program Selected Student: Elijah Walton Submitted by: Casey Ysaguirre

Eli is truly a force in the Umoja community. This year in anticipation of starting a group/collective for the SBCC black male community Eli took matters into his own hands to map out meetings, times, topics and much more for the prospective men's group. Through his hard work and dedication to create space for the brotherhood, Ndugu Syndicate was born. Eli is bright, funny and can conquer anything he sets his mind to. The true definition of Kiongozi, a rising star indeed. I can't wait to see what he does next. Ashe!

## Eli's Words of Gratitude:

I want to say thank you first to the Umoja program and Umoja community for accepting as a member and allowing me to be a part of their space. I was taken back by receiving this award because I had thought myself to be someone who is always to the side, never being noticed, I feel like someone else definitely deserves this award(Joranne, Jordan, Nick, or Haley). But I am extremely grateful to be recognized, since day one the community has been at making me feel seen and welcomed and even from the virtual side of things it continues. This community has been a home for me when I didn't have one and then became my second home, my gratitude and love goes beyond school. Thanks Umoja <3