

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

IDEI in Our Community

JUNE 2021 - ISSUE NO. 6

Reflecting on Juneteenth

NICK SAILOR, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING & EDUCATION FOR DEI

I remember the first day my father told me what Juneteenth was. I remember it very vividly. Sitting down on the couch in our living room, my father explained that Fourth of July, wasn't truly the day of OUR freedom. My father could see that I was struggling to understand. Before I even had the ability to ask a follow up question, he began to tell me about Juneteenth. He explained how despite Abraham Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation, not all enslaved people were free. He began to share how the news of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation didn't reach all who were enslaved. And in fact, it took over two years for those in Galveston, Texas to learn they were free.

My father sharing this with me reminded me of how important it is to know OUR history. Moments like these solidified my personal commitment to sharing OUR history as much and as often as I can. Knowing OUR history has given me a strength and a connection that I hope I can give to others.

IDEI Updates

2020-2021 MINI GRANT UPDATES

CONGRATULATIONS TO CARLENE FONSCUCA AND NICK LONGO! TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEIR FULLY FUNDED MINI GRANT VISIT OUR WEBSITE.



INSTITUTIONAL
DIVERSITY
EQUITY &
INCLUSION

For more
information on
Juneteenth from the
IDEI team, click
[here!](#)

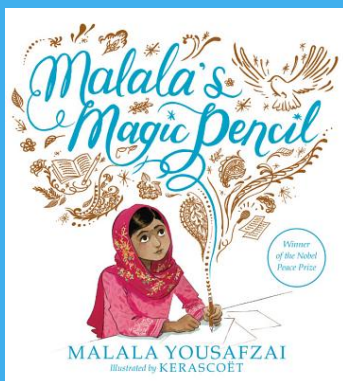
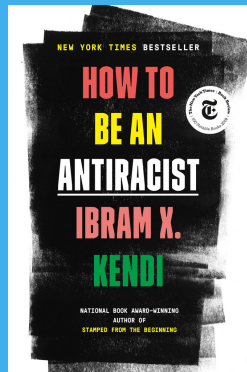
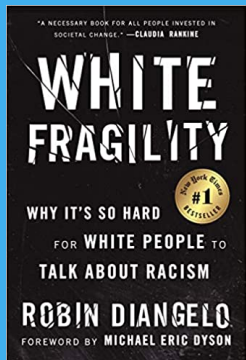
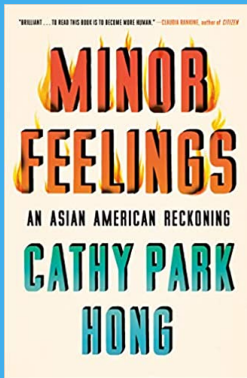
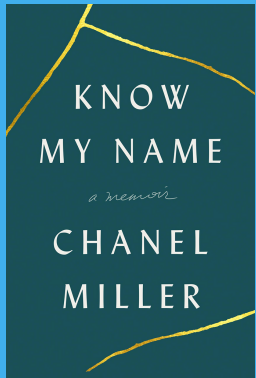


DIY DEI Summer School

INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

This summer, before you zone out catching up on your favorite series on Netflix or lay out on the beach sipping a cold drink, the IDEI team encourages you to independently continue your growth and professional development in the realm of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Of course, IDEI's upcoming Summer Series is a great place to start, but there are plenty of other avenues to continue the work of anti-racism and anti-bigotry. Below are some suggestions of "curriculum" for what we're calling "DIY DEI Summer School."

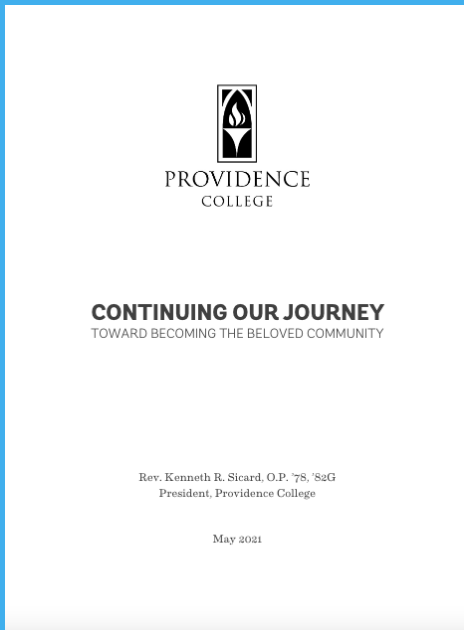


- Attend an event or bookclub hosted by the Tomaquag Museum in Exeter, RI to learn more about indigenous history, culture, and issues of today.
- Read Chanel Miller's groundbreaking memoir "Know My Name" about her experience as a survivor of sexual assault.
- Listen to NPR's podcast "Code Switch" for fearless conversations about race, hosted by journalists of color. We suggest starting with: "Ask Code Switch: What About Your Friends?", "Status Update", and "The Black Table in the Big Tent".
- Read "Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning" by Cathy Park Hong for a searing collection of essays blending memoir, cultural criticism, and history.
- If you can't bear to extricate yourself from the couch (it's been a long year), check out "Pose" on Netflix, a TV series about the Black and Latinx LGBTQ+ drag scene in New York City in the 1980s and 90s.
- Trek the self-guided Early Black History Walking Tour around Providence to learn about Providence Black history from 1636 to 1865. Or make it a road trip and explore Rhode Island's Black Heritage across the state.
- If you haven't already, read "How to be Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi and "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo.
- Do you have kids or just like a good picture book? Check out this list of 40 Books for Young Activists to find your next read. ("Malala's Magic Pencil" by Malala Yousafzai is an excellent place to start.)



IDEI Progress Report

AN UPDATE FROM FATHER SICARD AND CABINET



In the effort to become the Beloved Community that Providence College aspires to be, Father Sicard has shared a progress report on various IDEI initiatives.

The Continuing Our Journey Toward Becoming The Beloved Community report addresses the IDEI five focus areas. The report provides updates on what the college has accomplished and the work that still needs to be done.

Focus Areas for Institutional Diversity

1. Structural Diversity, Access and Equity

• Goal: Maintain continuous improvement in the recruitment, retention and matriculation of historically underrepresented students, faculty, administration and staff.

2. Institutional Infrastructure

• Goal: Establish a process for ongoing monitoring, assessment, evaluation and revision of College practices, policies, procedures and physical spaces to ensure equitable and inclusive outcomes

3. Climate and Intergroup Relations

• Goal: Create and sustain an institutional environment of respect and civility that "promotes the common good (and) the human flourishing of each member of the campus community" through opportunities for diverse interactions, community dialogue and ongoing intercultural learning

4. Formal and Informal Curricula

• Goal: Assure diverse perspectives and inclusive pedagogies in the context of courses, programs, teaching, learning approaches and experiences across all academic and non-academic programs.

5. Student Learning and Development

• Goal: Create opportunities and experiences that prepare students to actively engage in an increasingly diverse, inter-connected, global society.



FRIAR T.I.E.S.

A CONVERSATION WITH STEPHANIE MIREKU

Stephanie Mireku began her career at Providence College in March of 2020, what she jokingly and accurately described as a "dynamic time". As one of the assistant directors of alumni relations, Mireku is involved in many different areas of life at PC and beyond. From book clubs, to virtual programming, to IDEI collaborations and beyond, she is an excellent support to the alumni community.

Friar T.I.E.S. is one of the many projects that Mireku has handled during her time at PC. The Totally Interactive Event Series (T.I.E.S.) "takes some of the concepts that are traditional to the Friar community and puts a virtual spin on them, and brings some new ideas into the mix as well." The series was created in an effort to keep the broader Friartown community connected while staying socially distant. This virtual showcase aims to show the best of our college, from students, alumni, faculty, and the Dominican community.

Some examples of events from this past year include: guest speakers, authors, networking events, book clubs, trivia, and a virtual African American Read In during Black History Month. Recently, Friar T.I.E.S. has announced a whole bevy of new programs and opportunities to get involved. Check it out [here](#).

Be sure to click on the play button below to see a video of the entire interview with Stephanie Mireku. She has a special message for our recent Providence College grads!



Stephanie Mireku
Assistant Director, Alumni Relations



To all the Friars who celebrate, the IDEI team wishes you a happy Pride Month!



Celebrating the Class of 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE IDEI TEAM

The class of 2021 has had a strange senior year, to say the least. A year when many things were laid to the wayside, adapted, or changed. As our seniors head off into the world, we hope they can use this odd year as an inspiration to let go of the traditions that no longer serve them, hold tight to the traditions that invigorate them, and innovate to create the life and world they wish to see. Congratulations to our Providence College graduates!

In particular, the team here in the Office of IDEI wishes to congratulate Shamir Desir, who has been a student fellow at Moore Hall for the past two years. Shamir has brought tremendous creativity, energy, and work ethic to Moore. She will be missed by both the Moore Hall team and the community. So, what's next for Shamir?

"This August, I will be starting a service year with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. I will be a patient advocate at a non-profit organization that works to improve health in underserved communities. In the future, I plan on returning to school to earn a Ph.D in clinical psychology," states Shamir. With total faith and confidence: best of luck graduates!



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