

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

IDEI in Our Community

OCTOBER 2021 - ISSUE NO.7

A Letter of Welcome from Jacqueline Peterson

JACQUELINE PETERSON, IDEI ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Friends and Welcome back to Friartown. It is great to be back on campus. There is exciting news within IDEI and the Center @ Moore Hall that I want to share with you.

The Center @ Moore strives to cultivate an inclusive multicultural community environment that supports BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and historically marginalized members of the Providence College community. It is a place that is welcoming to all members of the PC community and where all identities come together to dialogue, learn, and socialize around the myriad of intersectional identities that are the PC community. The Center features multipurpose spaces for events, classrooms, lounge areas, a café and kitchen, and a dance studio. It is perfect for supporting campus-wide collaborations within the Providence community and neighboring communities.

I am very pleased to introduce the new Director of the Center @ Moore, Mr. Sokeo Ros. Sokeo served as the graduate assistant at the Center @ Moore Hall from 2019-2020. He received a Master's from Providence College in 2020, was appointed the interim manager of the Center@ Moore Hall in July 2020, and was named director in July 2021. (cont'd next page)

IDEI Updates

2021-2022 MINI GRANT UPDATES

DO NOT MISS YOUR CHANCE TO APPLY FOR THE IDEI MINI GRANTS!



INSTITUTIONAL
DIVERSITY
EQUITY &
INCLUSION

Welcome to the
Class of 2025!

A Letter of Welcome from Jacqueline Peterson (Continued)

JACQUELINE PETERSON, IDEI ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT

He brings knowledge, creativity, passion, and energy to this role. Sokeo's work as an educator, dance artist, and, activist has prepared him to lead the Center into a new era. Sokeo has said, "I strive to bring forth the stories, the light and beauty, and the truths of marginalized communities through creative pathways". The Center @ Moore Hall provides a physical location for students, faculty, staff, and the community to gather and build in an affirming space. He is looking forward to working with all campus constituencies to help to establish and articulate the Center's identity.

Additionally, Professor Christopher Chambers serves as the Faculty in Residence at the Center @ Moore Hall. Chris has spent the past year researching and developing an initiative that will launch this year at the Center@ Moore Hall. This initiative, called, Intellectual Engagement Communities (IEC), is thematically organized, intellectual-based community projects to be led by faculty fellows. The initiative will focus on enhancing campus dialogue and academic engagement regarding issues of racial justice and social marginalization by supporting on-going and new scholarship, public events, curriculum development and community-based projects. The aim of the IEC projects are to improve our understanding, engage critical debates, and explore solutions to the forces that prevent the flourishing of all communities.

Through collective leadership and community provided by the Center, PC will begin the work that moves us toward reconciliation, restoration and social justice, healing both on campus and in relation to the local community.

Please stop by the Center@ Moore and welcome Mr. Sokeo Ros and Professor Christopher Chambers.

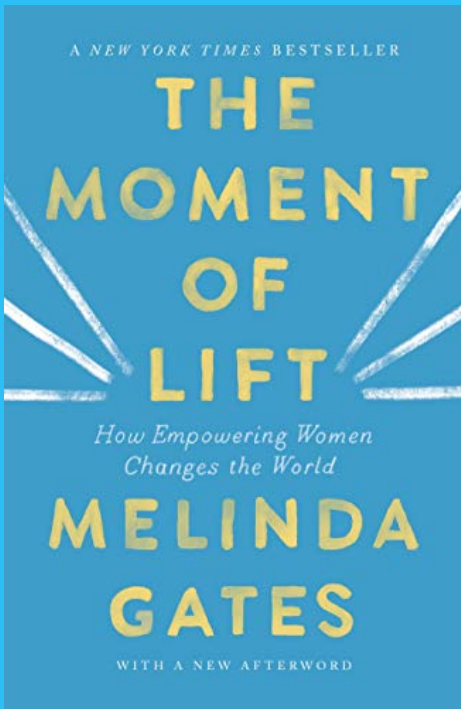
The IDEI team is looking forward to working in partnership with the Office of Mission and Ministry to engage the campus community in collective ownership on the journey toward the realization of a "Beloved Community". I hope that you will visit the IDEI website for updated information on the various DEI initiatives on campus or to apply for one of our DEI mini-grants. Please feel free to contact us directly through the Institutional Diversity website with your ideas, questions, concerns, recommendations, and interest in collaborating.

Warm regards,

Jacqueline Peterson

What We Are Reading

OFFICE OF IDEI



While we know that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, what we read and enjoy says a lot about us. So to help you get to know the IDEI team, here are a few books we have read, loved, and constantly recommend.

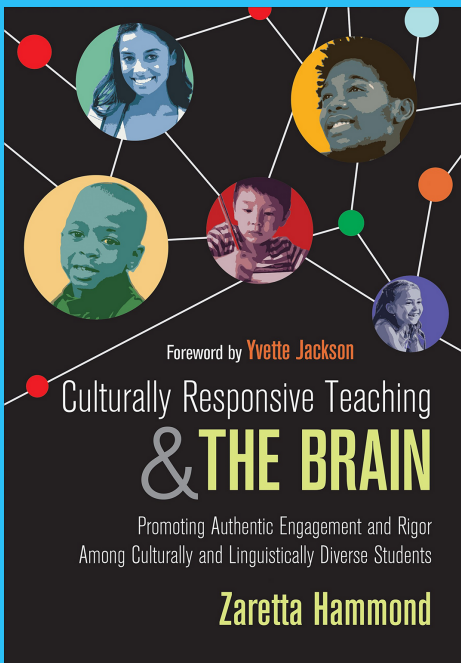
Saaid A. Mendoza, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology
IDEI Faculty-in-Residence



"The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World" - Melinda Gates

"After reading this book over the summer, I decided to assign it to my Psychology of Gender students. It is a powerful call for allyship. Anyone who is interested in promoting gender equity through empathic storytelling will truly enjoy this book."



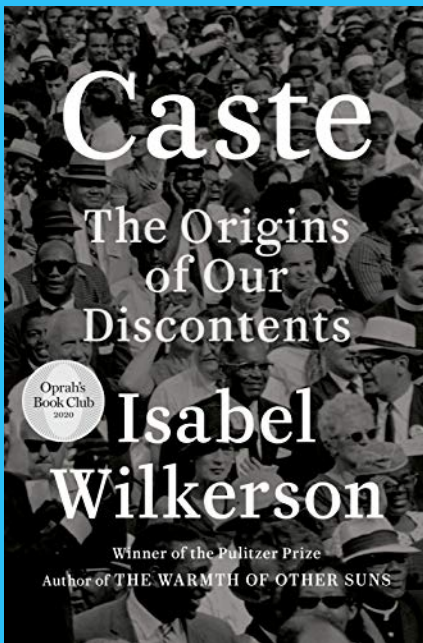
Sokeo Ros

Director of the Center @ Moore Hall &
Supervisor to the PC/Smith Hill Annex



"Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain" - Zaretta Hammond

"This book breaks the negative narratives (like bad student, at-risk youth, troubled child) for youth from historically marginalized/excluded neighborhoods. It also introduces how trauma has been an obstacle in learning for youth from said communities, such as myself, and helps educators understand how they can be more responsive in a positive way."



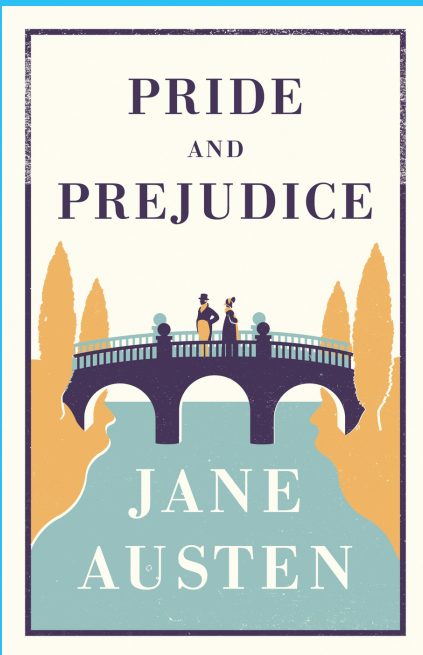
Jacqueline Peterson

Special Advisor to the President,
IDEI



"Caste: The Origins of our Discontents" - Isabel Wilkerson

"I also really enjoy reading to my two grandchildren Avery and Calum. We have enjoyed the various books in the Black Girl Magic collection. I highly recommend these interesting and creative stories for those who have children"



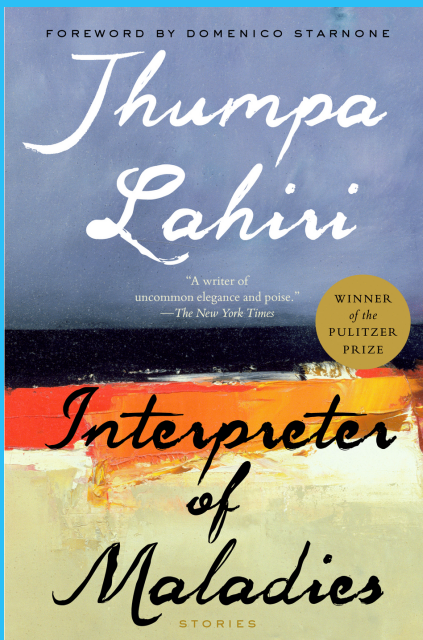
Cathy O'Leary

Executive Assistant



"Pride and Prejudice" - Jane Austen

"I enjoyed seeing the play Pride and Prejudice before reading the book. I found the characters and story to be both comical and dramatic."



Alessandra Chiappone

Graduate Assistant to LGBTQ+
Resource Coordinator



"Interpreter of Maladies" - Jhumpa Lahiri

"I loved this book because I could relate to the struggles the characters were facing in the short stories within Interpreter of Maladies. Each book I read by Lahiri leaves me craving more of her raw, accessible, and talented work."

The Proximity Project

ERIN CORRY, LGBTQ+ RESOURCE COORDINATOR

As a result of decades of student activism and the institution's commitment to becoming a more *loving, inclusive* and *equitable* community (Goal 2 of strategic plan *PC200*), Father Sicard appointed the College's first ever LGBTQ+ Resource Coordinator, Erin Corry, in October, 2020. She works in tandem with a team of faculty and administrators from IDEI and the Office of Mission and Ministry (OMM). Together with Prof. Dana Dillon of the Theology Department, Erin is midwifing a capacity-building process to help Providence College address the tender topic of LGBTQ+ inclusion at a Catholic and Dominican institution.

Erin's office is located in Moore Hall 110 where students, staff, and faculty can visit to enjoy a cup of tea and a safe, nonjudgemental environment to discuss all aspects of human sexuality, gender, and relationships. PC will soon provide more institutional clarity on what it means to nurture and support LGBTQ+ members of our community in a way that aligns with Catholic and Dominican mission. There will also be a number of community events, workshops, and lectures called the Proximity Project in coming semesters.

As Erin notes, often Church spaces and the theology and vision for human sexuality and gender they preach can create a relational gap or lack of proximity to those who identify as LGBTQ+; likewise, our culture can often overlook those who experience same-sex attraction and gender dysphoria who are pressing into the Church's invitation on these matters. The Proximity Project will aim to bridge the gaps of our most polarizing experiences and find a way forward as a community to practice both radical hospitality and extend the Church's invitation to all and each. Stay tuned on the IDEI and OMM websites for details and updates.





A Letter to First Generation Students

XIMENA FRANCO-BAO '21

First and foremost, welcome to Providence College! You should be proud of yourself and what you have achieved. My name is Ximena Franco-Bao and I, like all of you, was a first generation college student. I was born and raised in Peru and I now live in Connecticut. Currently I am getting my master's at PC in Global Education and TESOL. Being a first generation student brought many emotions: excitement, pressure, and a little fear. Being your own guide in situations where family can't advise you can be tough, but I am here to tell you that you are going to be fine. Life isn't always straightforward but we persevere and find things that help us navigate and overcome our problems.

You are not alone at PC. There are students that might share your beliefs or thoughts, or will just bring a smile on your face because they are a person you love. Find your friends and rely on them when times get tough. My friends throughout my undergraduate career were the best pillars of support when I was in need. They helped me express myself and find appropriate support. At PC we also have many great resources that you can take advantage of, like the counseling center, the friars, the career center, and more. There are so many places you can reach out to for guidance and assistance with whatever questions or concerns you may have. My experience at PC has been a positive one and I will be sad to leave it when I graduate. I hope that Providence College becomes a second home to you, just like it has to me. Go Friars and have an amazing year!

Created by:

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