

IDEI in Our Community

Harkins Hall 312

Moore Hall

DECEMBER 2022 - ISSUE NO. 11

Greetings PC Community!

On behalf of the Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (IDEI) team, we are delighted to present the 11th issue of the Providence College IDEI IN OUR COMMUNITY newsletter. Read along to learn about the various events and celebrations that took place this semester.

At the beginning of the Fall, IDEI asked our campus community to respond to our inaugural question of the month, "What do you think the IDEI office does?" We collected responses from students, faculty, and staff. We are excited to share some of those responses with you.

Responses:

"I think the IDEI focuses on inclusivity, diversity, acceptance and accessibility through various areas of issues for growth and progress on campus. I think many areas include BIPOC visibility, LGBTQ+ X Catholic identity and others through all areas on campus." -Student

"IDEI works to bring the campus together through celebrating cultural awareness and acknowledging our differences. Bravo!" -Staff Member

"Support students, offer resources, and spread awareness"
-Student

"Works as a collaborative resource for others interested in broadening diversity"
-Faculty Member

"I think IDEI focuses on diversity and race in + outside the classroom. Their goal is to make classrooms and school policies diversity centered"
- Student

Do not miss your chance to answer our new question: "What Do YOU Think...Is the most important DEI topic that needs to be discussed within the PC community?"

You can stop by our office in Harkins Hall, room 312, or Submit your answer [here!](#)

National Coming Out Day

WRITTEN BY ERIN CORRY, DIRECTOR OF DEI EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, LGBTQ+ LIAISON

"Homophobia thrives in silence" is the central message of National Coming Out Day which takes place on October 11 every year. PC's LGBTQ+ student organization SHEPARD (Stopping Homophobia, Eliminating Prejudice and Restoring Dignity) has been participating in this day for many years, most recently by hosting a photo shoot.

National Coming Out Day is an opportunity for LGBTQ+ people to be visible to the broader culture, whether folx* take the occasion as a formal chance to come out about their sexual or gender identities to their communities, or use the platform that the day offers as a means to educate about LGBTQ+ identities, struggles, and joys.

While we are living in a moment in time when LGBTQ+ Americans are experiencing the most public visibility to date in our culture (through the rapid catalyst that is the Internet and the recent advances in civil rights protections), it is important to remember that this is very recent history. It wasn't until 2003, the year after SHEPARD was founded at PC, that the Supreme Court repealed "sodomy laws" that criminalized same-sex behavior. (Punitive laws like these and others drove the LGBTQ+ community to gather in secret for fear of being imprisoned, losing employment, etc.). Almost an entire generation of LGBTQ+ elders were wiped out by the HIV/AIDS crisis in the 80s and early 90s, the community so stigmatized that the government turned its face away from LGBTQ+ suffering. Last year alone, more than 100 anti-trans bills were proposed across state legislatures. In the wake of the recent hate-fueled shooting at ClubQ in Colorado Springs, one of the only LGBTQ+ establishments and safe havens in that city, we are reminded that the act of coming out as LGBTQ+ often means exposing oneself to more vulnerability rather than safety. For that reason, coming out is always a deeply personal and contextual decision that weighs multiple intersecting identities and time and place in one's life, and we should be vigilant to not out one another prematurely.

Embrace
who you
are



Erin Corry



SHEPARD is celebrating 20 years on our campus this year, and members of the exec board note that our celebration of National Coming Out Day is so important “so that we can build community with one another- knowing you’re not alone. You’re not going through it by yourself.” The data shows us that not being able to live authentically in your sexuality or gender identity contributes to an immense amount of psychological distress, with LGBTQ+ youth four times more likely to attempt suicide than their peers (Johns et al., 2019; Johns et al., 2020). Small and consistent acts of community, love, and affirmation go a long way toward stemming these outcomes. SHEPARD’s National Coming Out Day photoshoot happens annually and is open to anyone on campus with the goal of the event of feeling like a birthday party. People can take photos with the flag that they identify with and bring their Polaroids home. SHEPARD exec noted that this event feels very different than a somber occasion to reflect on harrowing statistics and realities. Taking a moment to bless one another in the courage of honesty is a beautiful act of celebrating the human dignity of our LGBTQ+ siblings on campus. You can follow @pc.shepard on Instagram to stay connected to the important gatherings and community events the student organization puts on.

*“folx” is a gender-neutral version of “folks,” meant to honor nonbinary individuals in general greetings or references to groups of people.

If you are looking for community or need support, here are a few campus resources:

SHEPARD meets bi-weekly at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesdays in Moore 118

Personal Counseling Center (Open Monday- Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Located in lower Bedford Hall; call 401-865-2343 to make an appointment)

Director of DEI Education and Professional Development, LGBTQ+ Liaison: Erin Corry, Moore 110, ecorry@providence.edu, x1910

Campus Ministry (Open Monday- Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Located on the lower level of St. Dominic Chapel. Call 401-865-2343 or email chaplain@providence.edu for support.



The First Generation Peer Mentoring Program (PMP)

WRITTEN BY THE PMP COORDINATORS



The PMP students at one of their "family" outings.



PMP coordinators Emily Gonzalez and Elizabeth Lombard attended a recent First Gen Summit, created for students of color and their allies to gather to identify problems, talk about grassroots solutions, and share what's working on their campuses. A key goal of the summit is to find solutions so that students can create change in collaboration with their staff, administrators, and faculty allies. The Class Action Program provides students with the opportunity to identify problems and develop solutions to those problems.

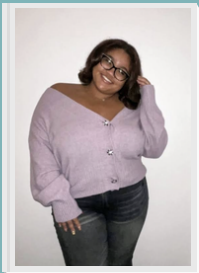


Students from all backgrounds, including those who are not first-generations, feel comfortable and want to take part in activities and discussions regarding necessary support and how Providence College can make it a main part of the campus.

WHAT IS PMP?

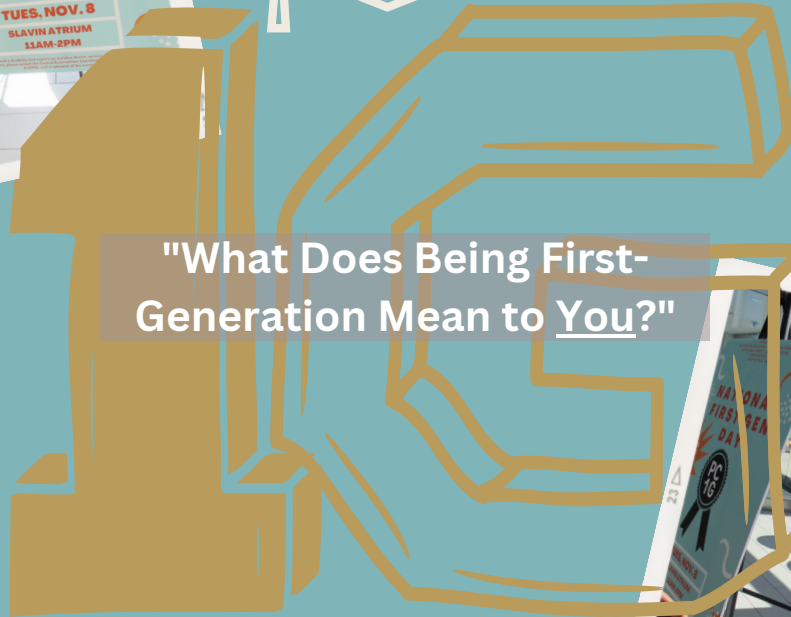
The Peer Mentoring Program (**PMP**) is **an organization that supports first-generation college students in their pursuit of higher education.** PMP builds community, offers social and academic support, creating a reflective environment for students. The program teaches students how to navigate the college community and balance relationships between home and campus while building a network of support from peers and faculty.

PMP engages in "collaborative mentoring," with sophomore through senior class year members. The mentors support first-year students individually and collaboratively with a focus on students of color and international students. PMP meets bi-weekly in Moore Hall. Coordinators host workshops discussing topics such as mid-terms, mental health, and the importance of asking for help.



"Being a first-generation student, I have the honor of fulfilling my parents' dream—attending college and pursuing a career I truly love."

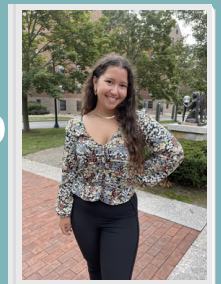
Nallely M Perez
Class of 2024



"What Does Being First-Generation Mean to You?"



"Being a first-gen student means that I'm able to help my family attain a better future."



Valeria Morillo
Class of 2024

A Spotlight on Multicultural Student Success

BY DEAN ADEBIMPE DARE, ASSISTANT DEAN/ DIRECTOR OF MULTICULTURAL STUDENT SUCCESS

“THE TREE HOUSE”

Nestled on the 2nd floor of the Phillips Memorial Library within the Student Success Center, the staff of the Multicultural Student Success works in an area dubbed “the Treehouse” by students who frequent the space. Given the name due to the large tree outside the massive library windows, it provides a space in which students can study, meet with friends, form study groups, and participate in a variety of workshops hosted by Multicultural Student Success and Academic Student Support.

Managed by Adebimpe Dare, assistant dean/director of Multicultural Student Success and Charlie Kim, office graduate assistant, it is a place where students of color can be directed to academic and student support resources on and off-campus. At the Treehouse, students can find space in which to build community and connections with those of similar backgrounds and experiences in a supportive academic learning environment.

In addition, students who visit the space can work closely with Katie Fernandes (director of Student Success and Retention) and Amori Washington (ESL/academic skills specialist) from Academic Student Support Services on tips and strategies to strengthen their academic skills, receive English language support, and assist with any academic challenges they may have throughout the school year.

The Treehouse has hosted several events and workshops this semester, including a mini open house, drop-in academic sessions covering various topics, including developing a work/life balance and building your network of support as student. We anticipate there will be more events to be hosted in the spring so stay tuned from emails from the Multicultural Student Success Office and we look forward to seeing you!



Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Celebrates the 5th Anniversary of the Opening of Moore Hall

HIGHLIGHTED BY SOKEO ROS, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER @ MOORE HALL

On November 5th, 2022, The Center at Moore Hall celebrated its 5th anniversary since the opening blessing and dedication.

The night consisted of opening acknowledgments, student performances, guest alumni speakers, and keynote speakers. It opened with Jacqueline Peterson, special advisor to the president (IDEI) acknowledging the hard work that went into this anniversary celebration and introducing current director, Sokeo Ros; followed by some kindhearted and enthusiastic words and an opening prayer by President Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P.

The speaking program was followed by the premiere of a video that consisted of interviews with alumni who were pivotal in creating(?) the student demands in 2015, more recent alumni, and current students. The threads that tied all the interviews together were the themes of the authentic self, home, and belonging. Adriel Antoine and Brandi Phillips, alumni who were involved in the 2015 student demands, spoke of their work of protests, past and current students needs specific to Moore Hall, and the importance of change relevant to current and future students.

Keynote speaker Adebimpe Dare, assistant dean/director of Multicultural Student Success Center, spoke of the importance of relevant cultural spaces like Moore and how it is a "home away from home." Dr. Wanda Ingram, senior associate dean of Student Academic Success, who was also a keynote speaker, spoke of the importance of change and the Reflecting Forward committee that helped with the opening of Moore five years ago.

There was a special unveiling of the new Moore Hall Advisory Council (MHAC) that consists (?) of students Sofia Lamas, Satoya Ispohe, Maeve McCarthy, Charlotte West, Anna Young, and Erick Gonzalez Galvez. And, of course, we could not forget the amazing performances by Motherland, who inspired us with their beautifully choreographed dance at the beginning of the night. There also were some powerful words spoken from the Believer of Words student group to set a more visceral tone and the vocals and range of Mariela Flores, who sang us into a harmony of joy.

The highlight of the night was the smiles, joy, laughter, and vibrant energy that permeated all of Moore Hall. The Center at Moore Hall is "by students, for students" and on this night, they were celebrated.





**WISHING YOU A
HAPPY HOLIDAY
SEASON AND A
WONDERFUL NEW
YEAR!**

**CHEERS FROM
YOUR IDEI TEAM**

