

**The Center for Orientation, Transitions and Leadership, in partnership with SAIL, is excited to announce the inaugural winners of our monthly Student Leadership Recognition program.**

Sophia Gaines is a member of the class of 2024, an Elementary & Special Education major with a Business and Innovation minor, and is from Boston Massachusetts. She is the president of Women Empowered, a member of Friars Club, and a Horizons mentor. She demonstrates leadership through being able to give prospective students a look into the life of current students on campus as a Friars Club member, as well as building and fostering strong relationships.

She explains that, “Being a student leader at PC is being able to build strong relationships. In doing so it is also important to meet everyone where they are. Students, faculty, and staff all have a lot on their plate so when getting in contact and beginning a relationship it is always important to be patient”.

One of Sophia’s leaders in life is Sam Sadd, previous director of Hawthorne Youth and Community Center. Sophia describes her as a positive influence stating, “In a time where developers were really trying to take over a lot of spaces in our community she stayed grounded and fought relentlessly to keep those spaces for youth programming. I hope to continue my life in a way where I do not sacrifice my morals due to outside pressures just as Sam refused to do”. Sophia believes as a leader being included is something that all individuals should be allowed to do, “and if I can help make that space for them I will advocate and stand by them when doing so”.

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Disability Discussions: This event allowed space for students and faculty members to openly discuss what it means to be a student with a disability on Providence College’s campus. Members from the event stated, “So often the experiences of students with disabilities get swept under the table or are discussed behind closed doors out of fear that disability is a fault and not worthy of our attention”.

BELIEVE, Education Club, and Student Congress created an event where a panel of students and professors (student panelists: Avery Budnik, William Yaney and Emma Cross; faculty including: Dr. Brett Pellock, Dr. Deborah Levine, and Dr. Anthony Rodriguez) held an open discussion surrounding a conversation on disability. Eliza Marmakian, BELIEVE President stated, “We hope that it will continue to flourish because not only will it benefit students with disabilities but it will enlighten students of all backgrounds”.

When asking Eliza how she felt achieving leadership through Disability Discussions, she provided her statement, “As the president of BELIEVE—the student run disability club on campus—and moderator of the panel, I was grateful for two things: the invaluable contributions of my panelists and the number of audience members who showed up to hear what they had to say. We have strong leaders and advocates on this campus who will ensure that inclusion and support of students with disabilities remains a part of the larger conversation on diversity at Providence College”.

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Believers of Words (BOW) is the main creative writing club on campus, facilitating a weekly safe space for students of all years, majors, and identities to practice different kinds of literary expression while developing performance and oral communication skills.

The club has hosted an open mic night and Philosophy x Poetry was a collaborative conversation on anxiety and creativity, spotlighting existential philosopher Kierkegaard. Students were able to experience art and philosophy in a less formal and explorative fashion. Professors were able to participate in the conversation and wrote their own poetry as well. BOW’s goal is to continue student and faculty discussions on philosophy, art, and culture through this conversational and interactive format. |