

**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 Anderson is a member of the class of 2026, a Biology major, and is from Providence, Rhode Island. She is involved in Student Congress, Colleges Against Cancer, she is a student worker at the Chirico Career Center, she is involved in Per Min, and is an MSP Scholar.

She believes a lesson she has learned as a student is, "Being comfortable taking the first step even if it means going and doing things alone. This helps other students want to try as well". Sophia describes her statement of purpose as a leader as, "Being an introvert myself, I understand what it feels to not want to go into a place of uncertainty and unfamiliarity. The fear and feeling of being lost overwhelms you. Having this knowledge, I treasure all opportunities to serve someone. I understand the struggle of placing oneself in an uncomfortable place, but I hope that my presence will be enough to ease that process into a world of adventure and exploration".

When asked about a leader at PC who has influenced her the most, Sophia stated, "Eileen Wisnewski - Even before my journey officially began at PC, Eileen has been a great mentor to me. She has been the reason behind many of my adventures and involvements at PC. With her constant words of encouragement and positive energy, I was able to find my place in the PC community/family early in my college career. Although I am still a first-year student, I feel a sense of belonging due to the care I have received".

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Friars Support the Izzy Foundation: This month-long fundraising event has been filled with a kickoff night in McPhail's, a karaoke night with the Karaohkays, a dodgeball tournament in partnership with Intramurals, Valentine's Day card making for children at Hasbro Children's Hospital with Colleges Against Cancer, a cookie run, a raffle filled with prizes from local and larger businesses, sticker sales, and several off-campus events at local restaurants throughout the month. It has brought many clubs together to raise money for and spread awareness about the Izzy Foundation- a local nonprofit housed in Hasbro Children's Hospital which helps families struggling with pediatric cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

The point-people of the fundraising and event initiatives are students Alexandra Delano, and Kylie Fordyce, both looking to help support the cause as much as they can. They stated, "This fundraising event has shown that Providence College students are leaders and can do something to make a positive impact on the community when they put their minds to it. Qualities of leadership are clear through the skills from communicating with local businesses and other clubs on campus and working and delegating tasks each event, to using our voices to spread awareness through our own platforms. It shows ability to work in a team for the good of others".

Kylie achieved new leadership skills through her planning and time commitment stating, I have learned that our voices are so strong when we use them to make change and that people feed off other people's passion. Lexi interned at the Izzy Foundation, and I saw how much the cause meant to her, then all the clubs and people we reached out to felt our passion for the Izzy Foundation and wanted to do whatever they could to help. I feel that through this event I have grown confidence in using my voice and I have learned to do so effectively. You can find the Izzy Foundation on Instagram @friars\_support

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Men's Club Rugby: An all-inclusive club sport that goes up against other schools across the Northeast. Their goal as an organization is to make lifelong friends and make lifelong memories. Will Phelan is the Match Secretary, helping set up all the matches making sure the team has EMT's and referees.

Will stated his favorite event from the team was when they played at Beast of the East last spring, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. He states, "It was a great bonding experience, as you spend basically two whole days playing rugby and hanging with the team. The team plans on growing as much as they can to recruit new players. This year, they have about 30 new freshman and look forward to meeting new faces and creating new friendships.