

**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.**

Vannelie A. Meléndez Muñoz is a member of the class of 2023, Psychology Major, Marketing Minor, and is on track for her Neuroscience Certificate. She is from Cayey, Puerto. Vannelie is the Head Resident Assistant, DID Student Fellow, D1 student-athlete, along with holding status as the VP of DE&I of SAAC.

She believes a lesson she has learned as a student is, “I have learned is that no idea is too crazy when you want to make a change for the good of others. If someone wants to do something on campus, they will find the ways and the people that will support them”. Vannelie describes her statement of purpose as a leader as, “y leadership/involvement at PC is getting involved in DE&I initiatives around campus and see how we are involved in the change for more inclusivity in our community”.

When asked about a leader at PC who has influenced her the most, Sophia stated, “Jennifer Cunningham because I have worked very closely with her since my first year on different personal and community projects. Her knowledge and willingness to help student-athletes to achieve. Before graduation, I hope to leave a strong base/structure for future student leaders with similar or identical interests as me”. Vannelie believes to be a leader, “You have to find solutions and support underrepresented communities while also learning from those surrounding us (me)”.

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Ramadan Celebration: Aliyat Adeboye created the event along with her fellow members of my Tuesday Timeout Committee on BOP. She is a Health Policy Management/ Political Science Double Major with a Black Studies Minor. When asking Aliyat about her event she described, “The event focused on allowing students to learn and celebrate the beginning of Ramadan. Students were able to pick up a free lantern as it symbolizes the light guiding the way into the month of Ramdan and moon keychain as the moon symbolizes how the Islamic calendar is used and determines when Ramadan or a new month will begin and even fun Henna body art. Halal Samosas and Turkish snacks were also provided to students, so that Muslims students could have halal options and for all students to try international snacks. And lastly, students also had the opportunity to donate nonperishable items or clothing, which were then donated to local shelters”.

When asked about her leadership experience through her event, Aliya stated, “As a leader I achieved a sense of satisfaction and happiness at the number of students who were interested in learning more about every aspect of the event. Students wanted to learn more about the different foods and snacks provided, the meaning behind the lanterns and moons keychains and even simply just about Ramadan. From this feedback I will continue to use my leadership positions to continue to hold events that speak to a greater sense of diversity and inclusion”.

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History Club: is meant to make history accessible to the general student population, especially to those who are unable to study history within the History Department, and approach it through an interdisciplinary lens.

The History Club hopes to provide a personal connection to history through trips to museums and local historic sites. Frank Sacco, president of the club and a Biochemistry & Biology double major, states that a highlight of his leadership in the club is that, “I do enjoy working together as a team and brainstorming these events. We put hours and sometimes days of planning into events like Dr. Berard’s talk and I am happy to see that it went swimmingly. Everyone enjoyed Dr. Berard’s in-depth analysis of the historical context as well as the meaning of the poem “Wynnere and Wastoure”. This semester, we plan to have two more professor talks, by Dr. Andrews and Dr. Parrott, a presentation by PC Archives, and an all-expenses paid trip to walk the Freedom Trail in Boston, which we hope to do annually.