

The Office of Student Engagement and Leadership is excited to announce the winners of our monthly Student Leadership Recognition program for October.

Student Leader of the Month: Rodney Lopez

Rodney Lopez is a senior Political Science major and Business Innovation and Film double-minor from Ridgefield Park, New Jersey. Currently, October's winner serves as the President of the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs (BMSA), the Secretary for the Six Gents comedy club, and the first ever Campus Marketing Representative for Universal Pictures' Campus U program. What's more, he is an acclaimed student-actor within the PC Theater Department and a distinguished member of the Dirigo Leadership Honor Society.

Rounding out an already impressive resume of leadership roles, Rodney has welcomed new students to Providence College as an Orientation Leader for the past three years, which is the longest possible tenure a student can accept for this position. Representing yet another testament to Mr. Lopez's dutiful impact on the PC community, Rodney was asked to share his story with the Board of Trustees' Student Affairs Committee on an exclusive panel of just five students this past month.

When asked how he demonstrates leadership on campus, October's winner highlighted the importance of choosing to be present. Whether he is communicating with another student one-on-one, addressing a large group, or listening to others speak, he explained how remaining in the moment sharpens his focus and sets the tone for shared success.

With a jam-packed schedule that would threaten to overwhelm even the most organized college student, Rodney has thrived by concentrating on improving the things he *can* control. For Mr. Lopez, active listening is one of those things; he likens his leadership style to a tortoise, stopping first to hear what others have to say and evaluating the situation before making steady, goal-oriented strides.

Citing Aristotle's famous line that "we are what we repeatedly do," October's winner states that being consistent is one of the most important lessons a leader should learn: "what people value most is being seen and heard, and that can only be done well if a leader is consistent." It is with this philosophy in mind that Rodney thoughtfully shows up for every single student he leads, earning the reputation as one of the most dependable and accomplished individuals in the PC community.

As President of BMSA, Rodney seeks to make the board more inclusive, supporting the experience of POC students while allowing people of all ethnic backgrounds to come together, deeply connect, and celebrate their heritage. His vision for BMSA depicts a united community where all members feel comfortable and eager to work with each other long after he has graduated. Looking to the future, Rodney recognizes that he will in many ways have to restart his leadership journey after departing PC; however, he is excited to become a sponge, soaking up

new lessons and becoming a resource for those around him: “I hope to inspire others to do the same, so that I might learn with and (eventually) teach others.”

Student-Led Club of the Month: WDOM 91.3 FM

WDOM 91.3 FM—the student-run radio station at Providence College—provides individuals with a platform to showcase their interests and talents, exemplifying leadership through the commitment, creativity, and passion of its hosts and executive team. Broadcasting over 50 unique shows each week on a published schedule that runs from 6:00 AM to 2:00 AM every day, WDOM exhibits an unparalleled level of organization and attention to detail. What’s more, the station’s wide array of student-DJs take pride in planning and delivering engaging shows for the greater Providence community themselves, fostering an inclusive environment where hosts and listeners alike feel empowered to express themselves.

Recently, WDOM faced the challenge of transitioning to a completely new automation system, testing the leadership capabilities of the club’s fleet of student-workers. While this change proved to be rocky at first, the resilience and flexibility displayed by the exec board and their DJs allowed the station to adapt and continue delivering high-quality content. In fact, this collaborative spirit is crucial to maintaining the well-oiled, student-run machine that is WDOM.

As part of their ongoing efforts to make an impact on the PC community, WDOM has set ambitious goals for the school year that include connecting with the student body via exciting, student-organized music festivals. One such event, "Tune-In with WDOM," is set for October 31st, followed by another festival, "Stuarstock," in the spring. These events aim to bring our campus together and highlight the diverse interests of all students. Senior Em Wishart, the station’s general manager, echoes this sentiment: “our goal is to always have our listeners find things they love whether through music, sports, or even talk shows and for our DJs, we want people to always feel comfortable to share what they love the most!”

Through its impressive programming, WDOM 91.3 FM strives to ensure that listeners discover content they love while offering DJs the freedom to share their passions. This commitment to creating an environment for expression reflects the core values of the station. Ultimately, the stellar examples of leadership found within this club empower students to share what makes them happy while connecting with their peers at Providence College.

Student-Run Event of the Month: Providence Smiles

On Friday, October 4th, the Student Congress Class of 2027 hosted Providence Smiles, an event aimed at fostering community and promoting mental health awareness among students. Held on Slavin lawn, the event featured a series of tables with engaging activities and informative resources to encourage an honest dialogue about mental health.

With October being Mental Health Awareness Month, the timing of this event further amplified its significance and impact. Secretary Jordon Dunkerley ('27) and Treasurer Andrew Hogan ('27) spearheaded the initiative, showcasing the power of student leadership in creating a welcoming environment for all attendees.

Providence Smiles was entirely student-led, with the Student Congress Class of 2027 collaborating with various campus organizations and clubs. Through a combination of emails and in-person meetings, students ensured that co-sponsors—including the Personal Counseling Center, Dining Services, and the Active Minds club—were represented with their own tables and materials. On the day of the event, students set up their own displays and engaged with attendees, facilitating conversations and providing valuable mental health resources.

After the event, the organizers took on the heartwarming task of sorting and delivering “Notes of Kindness” filled out by participants, spreading positivity across campus. The collaborative effort demonstrated by every club and student-leader involved in executing this task further elevates Providence Smiles above other nominated events during the month of October.

Most importantly, Providence Smiles made a significant impact on those who attended, increasing awareness of available resources and destigmatizing discussions about mental health. Many students noted that participating in the activities offered at the event provided a welcome boost to their day. Feedback indicated that the event not only informed students about support services at PC but also cultivated a sense of belonging on campus.

Through this experience, student leaders learned the vital importance of communication, teamwork, and delegation in organizing a successful event. Providence Smiles stands as a testament to the power of student initiative and collaboration at Providence College, promoting mental health awareness and creating an inclusive atmosphere for all.