



October 9, 2013

Congratulations to all present and past MPCs on your 40th Anniversary!

Minority Peer Counselors have advanced the mission of a Brown education, and we are proud of your accomplishments and your promise going forward. The MPC program embodies the capable student leadership that is a hallmark of Brown University. Your confidence in taking on the toughest questions of identity and difference is inspiring to all of us.

When I first learned about the MPC program in 1996, one of the qualities that impressed me the most was the careful development and growth of student leadership that the MPC program represented. To watch students as first-years learn from MPCs, and then to see some of them, by becoming MPCs, step up to take on the challenge of grappling with their own identity while demonstrating their courage to explore all facets of diversity is awesome. Many MPCs then go on to other leadership positions, within the TWC, elsewhere on campus, and importantly in Providence where they have started non-profits and advanced community organizations. The opportunities to affiliate with a strong program are clear, and the progression of leadership and learning is a model. The cultivation of some of the toughest leadership skills continues to distinguish this program.

I have appreciated the evolution of the MPC program on the Brown campus. The programs that the MPCs run for their fellow students addressing sexism, racism, classism, and other topics about inequity and privilege are of the highest quality. Within the residence halls and across the campus, MPCs encourage dialogue on critical issues such as sexual assault, disability, class, and race with careful facilitation, respectful listening, and attention to ground rules that promote learning. Over the years, the MPCs have modified their educational mission and priorities have shifted to meet campus needs. Their current leadership includes a strong residential presence along with important campus programming.

This year, as the Third World Center reviews its mission, the strength of the MPC program is core to TWC goals. MPCs exemplify the history of activism within the TWC and at Brown. One of the most important accomplishments of a Brown education is to support the development of students' independent thinking and leadership – this is part of the legacy of a Brown education that we celebrate with Brown's 250th, and the MPCs, on their 40th birthday, are an important representation of this strong history.

With my deep respect,

Margaret Klawunn, Vice President for Campus Life and Student Services