



October 18, 2013

Dear Minority Peer Counselors, MPC Alumni, and Friends,

For 40 years, MPCs have provided an exemplary model of mentorship, leadership, and activism. They offer support and guidance to first-year students, create spaces for meaningful dialogue about contemporary social justice issues, and transform campus culture through political action. In addition, they uphold the values of social responsibility and coalition building that alumni of color modeled for them.

The MPC 40th anniversary is a moment when past, present, and future collide. Anthropologist Ellen Herda (2007) reminds us, “The future is housed in the reawakening of our memories.” Therefore, any movement forward requires an understanding and appreciation of history and legacy. This weekend, I invite you to reawaken our memories through reflection, celebration, and imagination:

- *Reflection:* Minority Peer Counselors have a long history of social action. The **Resistance Tour** highlights key events in Brown’s history when students of color and their allies spoke truth to power, challenged the status quo, and demanded justice for oppressed peoples.
- *Celebration:* MPCs – past and present – play influential roles and powerful positions in their communities. The **General Body Meeting** and receptions provide opportunities to reconnect with classmates, meet this year’s leaders, and celebrate the accomplishments of all MPCs.
- *Imagination:* The TWC continues to evolve and transform to meet the needs of students. **Shaping the Vision** is an intergenerational conversation focused on the future direction of the Center. This is the time to dream big, exchange ideas, and propose innovative programs.

I am honored to be part of this momentous occasion. I look forward to seeing how MPCs will transform in the next 40 years.

In solidarity,

Mary Grace Almandrez, Ed.D.
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