



Third World Center

30 YEARS OF UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY



What is the Third World Center?

The Third World Center's mission is to provide students with a variety of opportunities to engage the academic endeavors of the University and to integrate their curricular and co-curricular interests. The Third World Center is a student-focused center designed to provide students of color with a base for social, academic, administrative, cultural, and organizational support. The Center was established in 1976 in response to student protests in 1968 and 1975. Today, it provides an arena in which students can explore and celebrate cultural heritages as well as learn about race and ethnicity as components of their identity.

Under the auspices of the Vice President for Campus Life and Student Services and the Office of the Dean of the College, the Third World Center administers the Third World Transition Program (TWTP), the Minority Peer Counselor (MPC) Program, and various heritage series programs. It also provides support, advice, and guidance to more than 40 student organizations on campus. The programming done through the Center is part of its effort to expand the social, educational, and cultural awareness of the University community. Approximately 250 events are generated annually through the various programs from the TWC.

Why is it called "Third World"?

Students first began using the term "Third World" over "minority" because of the connotations of inferiority and powerlessness associated with the latter term. Although "Third World" may have negative socioeconomic associations, Brown students continue to use the term in the context originating from the Civil Rights Movement. Frantz Fanon, author of *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961), urged readers to band together against oppression and colonialism, by pioneering a "Third Way", an alternative to the ways of the First World (U.S. & Europe) and the Second World (USSR & Eastern Europe). Brown students have adopted and use the term "Third World" as a cultural model of empowerment and liberation. Thus, it is not to be confused with the economic definition of the term used commonly in our society today, but understood as a term that celebrates diverse cultures.

What are some of the programs and activities of the Third World Center?

Sponsored Diversity Programs:

- Native American History Series
- Black History Series
- Multiracial Heritage Series
- Asian American Heritage Series
- Latino Heritage Series

Affinity Groups

- Black Student Initiative (BSI)
- Latino Student Initiative (LSI)
- Pan Asian Council (PAC)
- Native Americans at Brown (NAB)
- Brown Organization of Biracial & Multiracial Students (BOMBS)

Activities and Sponsored Events:

- Unity Days (first Friday of every month)
- Third World Transition Program (August)
- Orientation Open House (September)
- Parents' Weekend Reception (October)
- Thanksgiving Dinner (November)
- Holiday Party (December)
- Giving Tree (November-December)
- Women of Color Reception (February)
- A Day on College Hill Open House (April)
- Commencement and Alumni Reception (May)
- Champagne and Strawberries Commencement Celebration (May)

What student organizations/initiatives are sponsored by the Third World Center?

A selected list of organizations includes:

- ALANA
- Asian American Students Association
- Brown International Organization
- Cape Verdean Students Association
- Chinese Student and Scholars Association
- Federacion de Estudiantes Puertoriquenos
- First Generation
- Harambee House
- Hellenic Student Association
- Hindu Association of Rhode Island
- Japanese Cultural Association
- Korean American Students Association
- Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Atzlan
- Native Americans at Brown
- Organization of United African Peoples
- Pan Asian Council
- RUE
- Sidney Frank Scholars
- South Asian Students Association
- Students of Caribbean Ancestry
- Vietnamese Students Association

Who runs the Third World Center?

The Third World Center is directed by Mary Grace Almandrez. It is staffed by Program Associate, Jon Sebastian-Walkes; Interim Program Coordinator, Shane Lloyd and an administrative assistant, Anne Marie Ponte. Also serving as one of the Third World Center's academic partners is Maitrayee Bhattacharyya, Associate Dean of the College. In addition to these professional staff, the Third World Center has a pool of talented and dedicated undergraduate staffers who organize the multiple programs sponsored by the Center.

The Third World Transition Program (TWTP)

In 1969, students of color on the Brown campus coordinated a program designed to help incoming students of color adjust to Brown University and build a strong and supportive community. Since then, TWTP has evolved to meet the changing needs of the community, but continues to uphold the values of self-reflection, open dialogue and acceptance. In addition to meeting other new students during TWTP, participants are engaged in workshops, activities and dialogues that will inform their experience at Brown. The four-day journey of TWTP represents the commitment of Brown and its students in supporting each other and promoting an equitable and reflective community.

The Minority Peer Counselor (MPC) Program

The MPC Program has its roots in mentorship. In 1973, a group of black upperclass students volunteered their services to provide new black students with academic support while building a sense of community, tradition and strength. This program has evolved over the decades to include all students of color. Today, the MPCs role in the Brown community and residence halls is multifold. They help build a stronger community amongst first-year students of color within residence halls. MPCs conduct workshops, provide an academic and cultural referral network within and across dorms, and create sensitivity to cross-cultural issues. They also address the special needs and concerns of students of color in a predominantly white institution and counsel all students on racial and non-racial matters. Throughout the year, the MPCs aim to reach out and build a community amongst all students of color, participate in Third World center activities and the Brown community as a whole. The MPCs are assisted by a group of dedicated MPC Friends who volunteer their services and time to the Third World Center.

Where do I go to get more information on the Third World Center?

For more information on the Third World Center, please contact us at:

Third World Center

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Website: <http://www.brown.edu/TWC>



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