

Certificate of Accomplishment

Marian Rosario - Country Day School of the Sacred Heart

Marian Rosario is a senior at the Country Day School of the Sacred Heart. The Multi-Cultural Club she began in tenth grade helped expose her school community to the voices and experiences of students of color. In doing so, as her sponsor, Sister Matthew Anita MacDonald, notes that “Those closest and open to hearing and understanding are being transformed. Those who are not so open are seeing and experiencing the acceptance and leadership that other cultures have to offer.” The scope of the Multi-Cultural Club grew and evolved under Marian’s leadership from a vehicle to explore food, culture, and dress to an open forum for discussion of race, stereotypes, and other germane topics.

Recognizing the need for students of color to have a space to voice their opinions, share their common experiences, and share their common experiences, Marian approached the school administration with her idea of a Multi-Cultural Club. Her inspiration for the Club came after noticing that the school did not have any activities recognizing African-American contributions for Black History month. The Club she formed in tenth grade began initially as a haven for Black students at Sacred Heart.

Under Marian’s leadership, however, the Club expanded both in the depth of its mission but also in its appeal to others from different ethnic backgrounds. Instrumental in this evolution was last year’s Club organized screening of the documentary, “Prep School Negro”, about the travails of a black adolescent given the chance to attend an elite private school. The discussion that ensued, following the screening, was instrumental in improving the understanding of both the teachers and other students about diversity. This year, the Club has initiated a two-person dialogue during the school’s weekly assemblies during Black History Month. The dialogue is designed to highlight the contribution of African American leaders. The Club also was responsible for the final February assembly that highlighted the poetry, music, and dance of various cultures.

Marian’s work is well deserving of the Certificate of Accomplishment. As her sponsor notes, she was instrumental in working to improve and educate her community on issues surrounding race and diversity. During the three years that she led the club it has grown both in scope and gravitas. It will be exciting to watch Marian’s continued growth as a leader in race relations