



The Princeton Club of Rochester

**Jalyn Cox-Cooper
Junior, Brockport High School**

As a voice for racial equality and activism, Jalyn's is resonating at Brockport High School and across Rochester. As a member of the Brockport High School Diversity Club, Jalyn has spoken on race relations as Keynote speaker or in other capacities at the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Black and Gold Gala, Colgate of Rochester Youth Night, the Facing Race Embracing Equity summit, and Rochester's Juneteenth Celebration. Jalyn was also instrumental in Brockport's regional Roc2Change event. Jalyn says that speaking at these events helps to demonstrate that young people have something to stand for, something to believe in, and something important to say.

“We have things that we want to show the world, and giving people a chance to sit and listen to us makes them understand that we need them to stand behind us so we can create a society where everyone is happy and equal.”

On Brockport's campus, Jalyn not only helped coordinate the school's annual “Breaking Down Barriers Day” event, but also facilitated many of the weekly “Breaking Down Barriers” Friday forum sessions on topics such as LGBTQ allyship/ terminology and inclusion. In another educational forum, she spoke about high suspension rates among students of color.

Since joining the Diversity Club, Jalyn says she has seen significant progress:

“My freshman year, the entire club consisted of Black and Latina girls. I believe people didn't understand us, or weren't comfortable joining the club because they thought they wouldn't be welcome. Since then, the club has become more involved, our numbers have grown, and so has the diversity of our members. We are working hard on making it known to everyone that our club is open to every person who wants to teach, learn and respect others.”

Kerry Gant, the Club Advisor at Brockport High School, describes Jalyn as a natural leader beyond her years:

“She has an innate sense of morality and justice, and has worked hard within our club to spearhead initiatives to help improve our school climate. Her demeanor, intellectual vernacular, and the way she presents solutions to school-wide issues reflect a maturity beyond that of typical students her age.”

Bravo, Jalyn. May your activism continue for years to come!

