

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Penn State Homecoming Announces the 2019 Guide State Forward Winners

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. (Oct. 5, 2019) — Penn State Homecoming announced Freddy Purnell and Marlisa Shaw to be the Homecoming 2019 Guide State Forward winners on Saturday, October 5th, 2019 at the Penn State vs. Purdue football game.

Freddy Purnell is a Biology major with a minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation: New Media and the Diversity Studies Certificate. He is the president of the LGBTQA Student RoundTable, Vice President of Queer and Trans People of Color, and part of Black Caucus and the Caribbean Student Association. He also serves as the Outreach Chair of College Democrats. Furthermore, the issue of sexual assault on Penn State's campus is very personal and important to him. Freddy is also a peer educator, member of Men Against Violence, and a Greeks CARE facilitator to help educate students on enthusiastic consent, bystander intervention and supporting survivors.

Marlisa Shaw is a biology and psychology major focusing on neuroscience in the Millennium Scholars Program. She is involved in Envisions, a Co-Captain for the Dark Storm Step Team, and a member of the Parent's Program Student Ambassador Program. She also is a member of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers and Phi Eta Sigma. Furthermore, Marlisa is involved in HealthWorks, Minority Health Initiative, and SAFE & AWARE.

Last year, Penn State Homecoming eliminated the gendered titles of "Homecoming King and Queen", as well as rid the number ratio of male to female representation within the court. In an effort to embrace diversity and gender inclusivity within our community it is still the focus of Student Court for the 2019 Homecoming season. The top two members of the Student Court are recognized with the Guide State Forward Award. These two individuals best represent Penn State's six core values of Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Discovery, Excellence and Community.

About Us: Penn State Homecoming is a student-run organization with aims to celebrate tradition and instill pride in all members of the Penn State family through active engagement of students, alumni, faculty and staff across the community. Our organization is comprised of many student volunteers who donate their time to creating a multitude of events that make the Homecoming celebration a yearlong event.

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