BIPOC from cover

class President and QU BIPOC member JJ Saunders, wrote.

Fifteen days after the caucus posted the statement of Good's death, a 37-year-old Intensive Care Unit nurse at the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Alex Pretti, was killed by Border Patrol agents.

The death of Good and Pretti shows that "White people can be a victim too, just look at Renee, and just recently this past weekend, Alex Pretti, who was an ICU nurse. In both cases, this administration had labeled them as domestic terrorists or agitators, when they were clearly not doing anything and using their constitutional rights. In Pretti's case, they disarmed him and they still fired a full round at him," Junior behavioral neuroscience major, QU BIPOC Caucus Chair, and Identity Senator for the SGA Victor Constanza wrote.

Both Good and Petti were killed in Minnesota, but despite the geographical distance, "students should be considered… ICE is lurking everywhere and if you put your guard down, it could always be you," Saunders wrote.

For junior computer science major, Veteran Senator for SGA and QU BIPOC Caucus member Adhira Arun, it's personal.

"I am an immigrant woman and American veteran and what ICE is doing in this country is very horrifying and disappointing," Arun wrote.

The Caucus plans to work or will work with administrators and SGA to take "actionable and public steps" to ensure students feel safe.

It has already received support from faculty and Hamden community leaders.

"We hope that leadership is willing to collaborate swiftly," Constanza wrote.

Although it hasn't met with campus leadership yet, it hopes to once its proposal is finalized and finished.

"While we have not received direct outreach from the BIPOC Caucus regarding this issue, we are always open to hearing from students and listening to their concerns," John Morgan, Quinnipiac's associate vice president for public relations, wrote in a statement to The Chronicle. "We encourage continued dialogue and remain committed to fostering a welcoming, safe and supportive campus for everyone."

However, Arun won't accept silence.

"It feels like nobody is safe, and the silence from this University is deafening to the BIPOC community. It's like they are saying that they don't see the necessity to speak up because their main demographic is marked safe from ICE (they're not)," she wrote.

If campus leadership doesn't take action, Constanza says the caucus will have to re-evaluate its strategy.

"We will not let this school do nothing on this issue," Constanza wrote.

He said that, last year, the university had been asked at certain events why they hadn't said anything.

"They usually say they do not want to be a target. But here is the thing, we cannot hide our skin color, hide our accents, or actions to help our fellow neighbors," he wrote.

Constanza has a background in community organizing, which he says has helped prepare him for this.

Following the statement posted on Jan. 11, he was happy to see that Quinnipiac students care about each other. Yet, he was also surprised.

"This school historically is not very politically active and has a larger amount of moderate to conservative students, which is rare for a university. The amount of social media engagement was high, and it shows that recent events are really changing the outlook from students," he wrote.

He didn't expect the feedback to be so positive.

Within the Caucus, the statement was approved by everyone before being posted.

Per a statement from SGA, the organization remains apolitical, and the opinions do not reflect SGA as an entire organization. The QU BIPOC Caucus is a caucus within SGA. While there is a distinction, its SGA peers continue to give support.

"The United States is in a profoundly difficult place right now, and I'm sure many students are scared and unsure of where our country is heading politically and socially. Our job as representatives and advocates is to work for every student, regardless of their identity or background. We will do our best to keep students safe, and we will do that proactively until the students at Quinnipiac are safe," wrote sophomore history major, SGA Sophomore Senator and SGA Historian Joshua Parr. Parr is not a member of the QU BIPOC Caucus.

He emphasized that representatives, not necessarily just members of the Caucus, are here to support students.

While it's important to stay vigilant, students can always find support within the Caucus, the Caucus reiterates.

"If you ever need anything, no matter who you are and what you look like, standing together is the only way to weather the storm. Everything that seems like it's happening in the horizon is already here," Arun wrote.

Her sentiments are echoed by fellow caucus members.

"Students need to fight to protect their home from becoming a tragedy," Saunders wrote.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY BRIDGE QUINNIPIAC

From left to right BIPOC Caucus members Victor Constanza, Kiera Baxter, JJ Saunders, Mia Gonzalez, Nii Sykes, Savannah Dildy, Lexy Pleasant, Hedryck Alvarez and Adhira Arun.

Quinnipiac launches new Bachelor's in Artificial Intelligence & Computing

By MADELYN DURKEE
Staff Writer

A new Bachelor's program in Artificial Intelligence and Computing that was launched last semester is set to attract new students to Quinnipiac University next fall.

"We know that students are interested in artificial intelligence and so we want to respond to that. Seniors in high school want to major in AI, let's see if we can respond to that," Brian O'Neill, associate dean of the School of Computing and Engineering, said.

Quinnipiac is among the first to announce and launch a degree program in artificial intelligence. This comes from both student demand and recent announcements from competitors.

"We also saw some of our competitor schools launching AI majors and that drove us to be like 'Oh, we need to do that too,'" O'Neill said.

Fairfield University announced a new program on artificial intelligence last September. Others are close behind and many nearby schools currently offer AI minors.

AI is a rapidly growing phenomenon, leading some parents and students to wonder how artificial intelligence will impact students' career paths. This new bachelor's program aims to address fears that AI is taking some jobs off the market.

"Our hope is that by having an AI degree, we are trying to sell people that 'no, you can be an AI major' and feel a little more secure," O'Neill said.

Enrollment in existing AI courses at Quinnipiac has increased dramatically over the last year, indicating growing student interest and leading faculty to believe the new bachelor's program will be a major success for the university.

"This was a fast build, in terms of the actual major. There was interest from upper administration, from faculty here in computing and engineering, this fall," O'Neill said.

The new bachelor's program was built in August and September and didn't officially launch until after Quinnipiac began accepting applications for the fall 2026 academic year.

"This was a project that the whole computing department worked on. There were a lot of conversations about it, a lot of kicking around," O'Neill said.

The program will expand upon the courses offered in the existing A.I. minor.

"We are taking a fair bit of what is in the AI minor and some of what is in the existing computer science programs and merging a little bit," O'Neill said.

In addition, new courses on AI have been created based on professors' knowledge and existing professional skills.

"It's initially very similar to the computer science and software engineering programs that already exist on campus," O'Neill said.

The current curriculum is designed to help students learn the basics of both programs, allowing students to make informed decisions about their junior year. The new AI and Computing program will function the same way.

"We want the AI and computing major to share the same freshmen core and beginning of sophomore core, so that a student can now flip between any of those three programs," O'Neill said.

In their junior and senior year, students in the AI program will dive deeper into code and learn what it takes to make and run artificial intelligence.

"It's setting students up not just to be users and consumers but developers and builders," O'Neill said.

He says the program will be under constant review to keep up with the rapidly changing technology and student demands.

"We know that the program as approved and as published in next year's catalog will probably not be the same program in the catalog five years from now. We will need to make changes responding to the student body, responding to changes in technology," O'Neill said.



RYLEY LEE/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac University's School of Computing & Engineering is introducing a Bachelors in Artificial Intelligence and Computing in response to growing interest in AI.