

**PRESENTATION TITLE: Downfalls of Historic and Contemporary College Student Uprisings**

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**ABSTRACT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PRESENTATION:**

*Racial tensions at Ithaca College were a major contributing factor of the student-led uprisings on campus that sparked long before they received national coverage in the Fall of 2015. Over 1,000 students participated in one tumultuous demonstration on a november afternoon that rattled the campus and opened the ears and minds of staff and faculty. The experiences and trauma that emerged from the campus walk-outs, teach-ins and corresponding demonstrations have yet to be addressed by the Ithaca College Executive Administration resulting in the shared mindset that it is the responsibility of Class of 2019 students - the last of all current years at the College that directly participated in the "POCatIC" movement to unpack. In the forming of the identity of this specific student movement, many agendas were set leading to the visibility of some elements of marginalized students and the erasure of others. While this history is not lost, there are steps being taken currently to work towards a new future without academically making sense of the shared trauma.*

*Due to intersecting and evolving ideologies and personalities, The POCatIC movement has legacy that is difficult for some to confront. These struggles have followed the students who walked onto campus and received this first impression throughout their college careers. These demonstrations were fueled by personal experiences in which students and community members had been targeted and marginalized by systems, leaders, and peers due to facets of their identity. This all unfolded at the same time as several other campus uprisings across the nation, and Ithaca College quickly became visible in the headlines of high-profile news outlets. This movement, along with uprisings at Ithaca College in the 20th century rooted in similar problems, will undeniably shape the present and future culture of the College.*

*This project analyzes the downfalls of college student movements that took place at Ithaca College and beyond from both the present and the past. Through reflecting on these moments where history was made with a critically conscious mindset, one*

*can find the very clear parallels between the 1969 Ithaca College student rally led by the Afro-American Society along with the Students for a Democratic Society and the 2015 “POCatIC” affairs. While this rally in the late 1960s served to galvanize the campus community, it did not make the College immune to acts of racism and other systemically ingrained oppressive practices. This is a history with which we must understand with multiple seats at the table, thus it is on the college at every level to come together.*

*This research is informed by the principles established in common Park School classes around stakeholders, messaging, branding, and communications as a whole. These pillars of the industry were vital in the success of both the 1969 and 2015 movements. Seeing as there is a present need for solidarity and introspection from the community of current students of color, this research will draw informed conclusions from the aftermath of historic IC student activism for the sake of positively benefitting the ways in which POCatIC is remembered.*