



#IMakeItPossible Spotlight



Alexis Serrano

*PGC Peer Leader
Hightstown High School
Hightstown, NJ*

What do you like most about your role as a PGC Peer Leader?

What I like most about being a peer leader is being able to push my boundaries by constantly challenging my insecurities and fears. By being a PGC leader, I force myself to talk in front of my group and also be the one that's outgoing to help out the quiet Freshman. I like that during each class I get to hear ideas from the other peer leaders and also share mine and be listened to. As a peer leader I love that I can be someone to look up to, or a reminder to one of my kids that I'm there for them. I'm really enjoying being able to help a group of 8 students become closer and become a community, just like we did during the retreat.

What is the one thing you can't live without?

One thing I can't live without is my writing. Writing has become such a big tool for me to cope when I feel alone or sad or just bored. Writing in a way is the best friend who listens and doesn't judge me.

What has been your favorite CSS moment so far?

As a PGC leader the most exciting moment that's happened to me in this program is when I had the first outreach with my kids. It was so much fun doing the activities with them and having kids open up to me. During the partner interview one of my kids opened up to me about his experience in middle school and how he has been dealing with depression. After hearing this, I shared my own story on my experience in middle school and how similar it was to his. After hearing this he became more relieved and comfortable. As a PGC member I think the retreat was one of the most exciting things, because before the retreat the entire group wasn't working as a community. But during Boundary Breaking we all became closer by sharing things none of us knew about each other. It was beautiful to see each other let our guard down and open up to strangers basically. I now trust my fellow peer leaders so much as if I had known them for years.