Spotlight: Peter, 2019 PLACE Mentor

Peter is a rising senior at Fordham University. He was drawn to the PLACE program by its message and mission. As a PLACE mentor, he worked with a group of high school and college students on Mosholu Parkway. He found his PLACE experience initially challenging but ultimately rewarding due to the relationships he was able to form with his students.

“My role as a PLACE mentor has given a unique opportunity to gain leadership experience in the workplace. By pushing myself to do things I’ve never done before, I’ve enabled myself to become a better leader.”

At Fordham, Peter is in the Gabelli School of Business where he is majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing and Economics. He saw this summer as an opportunity to branch out and gain leadership experience in different fields.

“Whether it be through making the work meaningful and teaching them how to do it, or giving them new experiences like college tours, they get so much out of the program.” Looking forward, Peter hopes to take what he has learned from PLACE and take the positivity and passion of the program with him.

Programs like PLACE and The Bronx is Blooming are so important. So many of the students are not exposed to leadership opportunities in their academic lives. Through The Bronx is Blooming, they get that and more.”
PLACE Student Spotlights

We asked some of the PLACE high school and college students who worked in Mosholu Parkway with their PLACE Mentor Peter to tell us about their experience and how it affected them.

Jessica, Mosholu Parkway

Jessica attends the College of Mount Saint Vincent and chose to work with The Bronx is Blooming to be productive within her community and gain a new experience. The PLACE program has led her to break out of her shell and learn what it means to be a leader. “Since I've come here, I've become a lot more social. You have to recognize the traits of other people. Leading groups, I've been able to break out of my comfort zone and become a better leader.”

Jessica’s favorite part about coming to work everyday is bonding with her PLACE team and mentor Peter. “He’s really open and communicative and recognizes what we need as a group. I also really appreciate the amount of respect he has for us. He treats us all like adults and that motivates us to do our work.” Jessica has learned to lead by example. “I learned that it's good to be hard-working and dedicated while also being generous, fair, and understanding. These are qualities that make a good mentor.”

PLACE has changed the way that Jessica interacts with parks and green spaces within the Bronx. The program has pushed her to adjust her perspective on Bronx parks and care more about her community's environment. “My hope is that people walk by the parks that my group and I have worked in and choose not to litter.”

Jon, Mosholu Parkway

Jon is a recent graduate of Charter High School for Social Justice and will be attending Norfolk State University in Virginia this fall. He says he has been able to gain a lot through the work he has done with The Bronx is Blooming. “Before this summer, I didn't really care that much about parks. But learning how to care for parks and the reasons behind what we do, I feel like I want to go to more of my local parks and do work there too.”

According to John, he looks forward to coming to work everyday. “I honestly didn't expect to like coming to work every morning and laugh so much.” He credits his contentment to his PLACE mentor Peter. “Peter makes sure that I'm having fun while I'm doing work. He really explains what we need to do and the reasons why we're doing something.”

One of Jon's favorite parts of the program is working with volunteer groups. Through group leadership, he has been able to influence the way that others view the environment. “When you break it down for people and explain to them the reason why they're doing something, they begin to care more. Then, everyone wants to be involved.”