



Fellow Profile

Name: Mark Gero
Hometown: Thousand Oaks, California
Company: Citi
School: University of California, Berkeley
Major: Business Administration
Hobbies: Sports, Hiking, Traveling, Music



Why join ServiceCorps?

“Servicecorps gave me the opportunity to pursue my passion of giving back to the community through direct service, while holding my ambition and misgivings at bay by guaranteeing my job and financial security. Furthermore, this year has been an opportunity to diversify my personal experiences in the workplace with a very different job than I have previously experienced.”

Social Sector Partner Placement

Placement Organization: StreetSquash Harlem
Location: Harlem, NY
About StreetSquash: StreetSquash is a non profit that provides long term, consistent, and comprehensive support to low income students starting in sixth grade until six years past high school graduation.
Fellow’s Title: Assistant Director of College Access, Success, & Alumni Support



STREETSQUASH

The Challenge

ServiceCorps. Leadership For Good.

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StreetSquash's College Access, Success, & Alumni Support (CASAS) team provides wide ranging programs preparing students starting in 9th grade for college and the application process with weekly college prep classes, college trips, ACT tutoring, college guidance, application help, and much more.

1. College Guidance Counselor
 2. College Prep Teacher
 3. ACT Math Teacher College Trips
 4. Post High School
 5. Non College option
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Outcome

I wore many different hats to facilitate and plan the different program offerings from CASAS

- **College Guidance Counselor**
 - Counseled a cohort of half of our seniors through the college application process, including researching schools, filling in application documents, writing essays, organizing and submitting financial aid documents and applications, finding and completing scholarship applications, communicating with families and school admissions officers
- **College Prep Teacher**
 - Taught College prep curriculum to 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students with increasing levels of depth in preparing them for college application process teaching the skills and tools necessary to be successful both in and post college. Wrote lesson plans and worked with team to form the syllabi and learning goals.
- **ACT Math Teacher**
 - Create Math curriculum to prepare 11th graders for the ACT. Teach math curriculum multiple times a week to entire 11th grade in small groups balancing group teaching and individual instruction in an attempt to improve each individual's ACT Math score.
- **College Prep Trips**
 - Planned and facilitated multiple college prep trips to familiarize 10th and 11th graders with different colleges and universities. Coordinated with admissions and diversity offices on campus to plan trip as well as communicated with students guardians.
- **Post High School Non College Options**
 - Fostered relationships with certificate programs and vocational schools to connect our non college bound students with.

I worked in multiple roles to help students along the pipeline to either college or an alternate program that will eventually lead them to a career and financial sustainability. Throughout the process it was vital to cultivate relationships based on trust to be able to communicate effectively, help the students, and have them listen to me.

Testimonials: Hear from the Fellow & Social Sector Partner

"The experiences of being a ServiceCorps fellow and a StreetSquash employee have been extremely formative. They have diversified my experience and allowed me to use parts of my brain I have never touched. In doing so I have grown as a person and realized new passions that I will pursue for the rest of my life "

- *Mark Gero, Fellow, Class of 2017*