

Haydee Ramirez

North Park University

*ACI Peer Mentee and ACI Peer Mentor*



North Park University's Haydee Ramirez has witnessed the tangible results of ACI's Peer Mentoring Program. "I've seen a lot of students become very successful and flourish through the mentor program," she says. "It's helped me work with different ethnic groups, and to be open to different ideas. I think that's something that's beautiful, and you can't really get it anywhere else."

Ramirez grew up in San Francisco as the eldest of three children and is the first in her family to attend college. Now a senior at North Park, Ramirez will graduate in May 2018. A member of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), Ramirez chose the

ECC-affiliated North Park University because of the scholarship support she earned. A biology major who's been on the dean's list, Ramirez wants to attend medical school, become a physician and work with children.

Ramirez joined ACI's Peer Mentoring Program at North Park in her sophomore year and recalls working with a mentor also from California. "I felt comfortable reaching out to her," she says. "When it came to sign up for classes, or the best way to approach my professors, she's someone I relied on." Now she fills the same role for others.

The ACI program at North Park has helped Ramirez' confidence and competence, she says. "Coming to North Park University as well as being a mentor has opened my eyes to different people and helped me work better with others," she adds. "I'm more culturally competent."