

# AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year

## Ben Rangel

### *College Possible Milwaukee*



A fierce advocate for service, Ben Rangel deeply believes it can transform people's lives. His AmeriCorps service with College Possible Milwaukee served as a launching point for many of the ways he currently strives to impact the lives of people throughout Milwaukee.

Learning about College Possible near the end of his undergraduate studies, the mission of serving low-income, first-generation high school students through college highly resonated with him, particularly after his own struggles navigating the college world.

After graduating, Ben began his AmeriCorps service as a junior-year coach with College Possible Milwaukee at Pulaski High School, and after completing his first term, he returned as a senior year coach to continue to support the same group of students.



Discovering a love for working with students, Ben teaches government and world history at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School and supports numerous student and community efforts. He highly encourages his students to feel empowered and utilize their voice for change, and he is involved in many ways around the school as a faculty moderator of the school newspaper, a co-moderator of the black student union, coordinator of voter registration drives, and a member of the diversity-advocacy team.

Hoping to help Milwaukee residents become more active in their community, Ben created and hosts the Bridge the City podcast with other AmeriCorps alumni. Over the last 4 years, he has helped highlight issues impacting the Milwaukee community, and given their thousands of listeners tangible action steps so that they can get involved and make a difference for others. He also takes this goal to heart himself, serving as a camp counselor at Camp Kindred and on the People's Maps Commission.

Wanting to support the AmeriCorps members that are currently serving, Ben also serves on the AmeriCorps Alumni Council at College Possible, providing mentorship and support to its members with professional resources and discussions on career options. Describing why he is volunteering with the Alumni Council, Ben explains that it is "a way to support AmeriCorps members who are in turn doing amazing work supporting students and young people throughout the city of Milwaukee trying to make meaningful change...We know the AmeriCorps members are doing a lot of the heavy lifting, but we're here to support them and hope to continue to do so in the future."

