Majors: Political Science and Philosophy

Minor: Spanish

Hometown: Miami, Florida

Civic Engagement Passion: Lessening the economic disparities faced by minorities.

Community Partner: Ascender

Bio:

Hellen is an undergraduate student studying Political Science, Philosophy, and Spanish. She is from the sunny city of Miami, Florida braving the Pittsburgh cold one layer at a time. She is known for loving to host and cooking up full feasts for her friends every week. Her other hobbies include painting and reading. Hellen hopes to further her education by getting a master's in public administration once her time in undergrad is done, maybe she'll even stay at Pitt and enroll in GSPIA. Pittsburgh is her new home in which she hopes to help bring about change through her work as an Elsie Hillman Honors Scholar. Hellen is very passionate about the economic disparities faced by minorities, especially latinx individuals and immigrants. As an immigrant herself, she has seen firsthand how the American system is not made to benefit underrepresented communities. She saw how her mother started her own small business to pay the bills. Now she is working with Ascender to help give entrepreneurs, like her mom, a headstart.

Brief Description of Project:

Ascender is a non-profit entrepreneur incubator helping small businesses gain footing in Pittsburgh by providing mentoring, monetary, and networking help. By creating a Community Engagement and Outreach plan, I can build trust within the community and ecosystem, cementing Asceder as a pillar of the Pittsburgh economy. This plan will focus on bringing in a large variety of people with a focus on underrepresented populations.