

Izabel Silva

High school: John W. North High School

Major: Exercise Physiology

Student Program Assistant and Peer Mentor, REACH Student Success Center

Izabel Silva began working at the REACH Student Success Center (RSSC) as a peer mentor in 2021. She depicts excellence, leadership, and positivity in all facets, and is an asset to the center and the larger university. She has mentored more than 20 students in the last two years. These students look to Izabel as a role-model, academic mentor, and trusted friend. She facilitates the “REACH for Success” class, coordinates individual weekly meetings to check on student academic progress, and helps ensure they feel that they belong here. Izabel excels in this role through her inclusive, genuine, supporting and understanding nature. She is so supportive and influential, that she has a few mentees from her first hub now training to become mentors themselves. Izabel has played a crucial role in bringing REACH to where it is today.

In the Summer of 2022, Izabel took on an additional role in the center and began working with the Retention Specialists to support our summer orientation efforts. As a member of the summer crew, Izabel went above and beyond in her efforts to connect with incoming first-year students and their families. Orientation is an important and exciting day that can also feel stressful for many students and their families. Izabel took the time and showed compassion to help answer any questions that these new students had; this regularly resulted in students feeling better prepared for the start of their college journey.

In the Fall of 2022 Izabel continued to support the Retention Specialists in efforts that helped increase engagement in the RSSC. She supported events designed to create a fun community that specializes in creating impactful relationships between RSSC students and staff. In addition, she supported data collection and analysis in an effort to streamline processes and communication to students on academic notice.

This semester, Izabel is also working as a Front Desk Ambassador. Every day she enters the space with unwavering commitment to supporting the needs of students and the center. Her dedicated and optimistic mindset are infectious – she helps others on a daily basis feel more of a sense of belonging. Her passion for helping others and her ability to balance school, work, and student involvement is impressive!

Izabel is studying Exercise Physiology and has worked extremely hard to be successful in that program. As a first-generation student, she has been faced with issues such as academic challenges, financial hardships, and imposter syndrome. She knows firsthand the obstacles that come with being the first in her family to attend a university, which is why she does her best to make a positive impact on campus every day.