

March is an exciting time at More Than Bootstraps!

Two of our college student Leaders have been selected for the New Jersey Governor's Hispanic Fellows Program for Summer 2022. Congratulations to Lizbeth and Melissa! We are proud of them for putting themselves out there and excited to see how this program will support them this summer and beyond.

Our high school Seniors are weighing scholarship offers and making matriculation decisions. The high school Juniors are beginning their searches, armed with knowledge about their options and choices. Whether our students elect to begin their higher education journeys in the military, in community college, in regional publics, or at private institutions, we know they will be informed and confident about their choices.

Meanwhile, we are beginning the selection process for our next class of high school Fellows. Back in December, our students visited classes and spoke to students about higher education, financial aid, and More Than Bootstraps. They will hold a few more recruitment sessions this week. The application period for current high school sophomores in Passaic closes April 1, 2022.

MTB Highlights February 2022

We had a session on LinkedIn with MTB supporter **Donna Vallario** and a presentation on designing your career with MTB supporter **Laura Amigone**.

Our students also engaged in practice interviews, led by MTB supporters **Dayanara Nino** and **Maria Garcia-Belton** and MTB Board members **Matt Jackson** and **E.J. Mitchell**.

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL: "I think today's session was very interesting and interactive! We were able to practice being interviewees and interviewers. I received advice from Maria and Matt on how to improve my response and sound more confident. It was very helpful because as a high school student I know I will be meeting with numerous other professionals in the future. Whether it's applying for a school or a job, this is very essential on my journey to higher education."

Our students are working hard!

We are proud of how our high school Fellows and college student Leaders are supporting each other and putting themselves out there: applying to the Questbridge College Prep Scholars Program, the Bank of America Student Leaders Program, the Governor's Hispanic Fellows Program (see above!), the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Program, a Resident Assistantship Program, the NJ DECA State Career Development Conference, and more. We look forward to announcing some of our students' accomplishments soon, but regardless of whether they are selected for these different opportunities, we applaud and recognize their ambition.

In addition to their schoolwork and MTB contributions, our students continue to work at Dunkin' Donuts, Uniqlo, Banana Republic, a pizza restaurant, CVS, work study jobs, and as research assistants. In addition,

many have significant family responsibilities. Your generous support allows us to fund the student stipends that give our students some breathing room to support each other on this journey to and through higher education.

MTB is fortunate to have found a number of awesome supporters who reinforce that message that our students belong and should have confidence. We are so grateful to all those who have taken the time to connect with our students one-on-one or during our monthly full-group meetings.



STUDENT TESTIMONIAL: *"I appreciate MTB friends who come to join us, educate us, and answer our questions because it's not always easy to reach out ourselves. As first generation students, we're used to doing things on our own but we all have to realize at some point that asking for help is the best way to get on our road to success."*

Finally, on a sweet note, we are offering our MTB supporters an early look at our [Springtime See's Candies Holiday Storefront!](#)

We will roll out this promotion to the general public soon but wanted to give our loyal donors a chance to secure their share of the goodies. The profits from this simple and sweet fundraiser will allow us to support stipends for the students of MTB.



The storefront closes March 25 to allow time for your sweets to arrive before the holidays. Don't need any candy in your post(?)-pandemic diet? We always welcome your donations as well as your ideas and energy.

Audrey Fisch, Ph.D., President, More Than Bootstraps
audrey@morethanbootstraps.org | (908) 397-0893



MTB was founded by educators who understand the significant obstacles that first-generation college students face on their journey into and through higher education. To succeed, they need [More Than Bootstraps](#)

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