

# DONOR UPDATES



Dear Donors and Advocates,

We couldn't be more excited to share our latest updates with you!

## CELEBRATING GRADUATIONS AND COLLEGE SIGNING DAY

On May 20, students, families, and board members celebrated Graduation and College Signing Day. The event was hosted by **Passaic County Community College** and **PCCC Dean Ashley Castiglia** and generously sponsored by **PNC Bank** and **Citizens Bank**. Guest speaker **Dr. Enmanuel Mercedes**, President of the Latino Mental Health Association of New Jersey, offered words of wisdom to our students and families in Spanish and English.



*Pictured from left to right: Dr. Enmanuel Mercedes, Alyssa, Roselyn, Jackie, Yessenia, our host from Passaic County Community College, Dean Ashley Castiglia. (One additional Fellow, Joana, is not pictured.)*

## COLLEGE COMMITMENTS

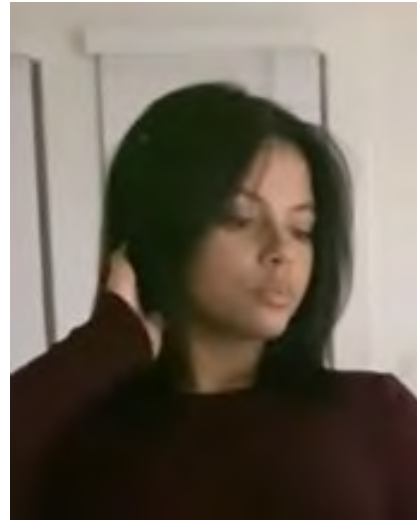
- **Jackie** has committed to **Wellesley College**, where she will pursue her interest in dentistry.
- **Yessenia** will begin her higher education career at **Montclair State University**, pursuing her ambition to become a speech pathologist.

- **Joana** has matriculated at **Seton Hall University**, where she will study nursing.
- **Roselyn** will attend **Fairleigh Dickinson University** to study criminal justice.
- **Alyssa** has committed to **The College of New Jersey**, studying to become a psychologist.

## QUESTBRIDGE SUCCESS

MTB High School Fellow **Jailene** has been named a **Questbridge College Prep Scholar**. Jailene is currently a high school junior at Passaic Preparatory Academy; she is considering a career in nursing. ([read more](#))

We know that Jailene's success in this endeavor is thanks in part to her MTB College Student Leader, **Michelle**. Michelle was a College Prep Scholar herself and is a Questbridge Scholar at Emory, and she mentored Jailene through the application process.



## OUR GRADUATION CAP CONTEST IS OPEN!

The [MTB Graduation Cap Contest](#) is now closed to entries. This year, we only received a few entries, but they are still inspiring! Voting remains open until July 4. Help us choose our winners!

## NEW HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWS!

We are on track to have our largest group of students in 2023-2024. [Consider](#)

a donation today to help us support our projected class of 28 high school students and 14 college students for 2023-2024.

Word of the success of MTB has spread, and demand for our program currently outstrips our resources.

*This program was truly an inspiration to me when I first had a classroom visit last year and I have been patiently waiting for the chance [to apply]. I want to make the program work with my life and extracurriculars because it isn't every day you come across a program as influential as this one.*

HELP US SUPPORT MORE STUDENTS IN MTB

## PAID (!) SUMMER INTERNSHIPS, CLASSES, AND MORE FOR OUR BUSY COLLEGE STUDENT LEADERS!



Michelle

MTB FutureMap Intern  
[\(read more\)](#)

Management Leadership for Tomorrow Fellow [\(read more\)](#)

QuestBridge Summer Program Facilitator

Summer Classes



Melissa

Summer Classes

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow



Ashley

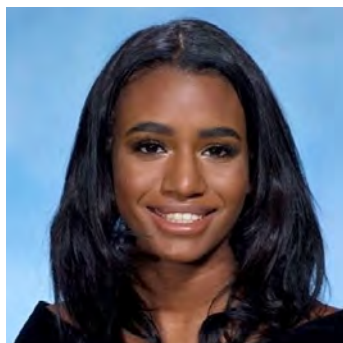
MTB OSHE Intern

Governor's Hispanic Fellow  
[\(read more\)](#)



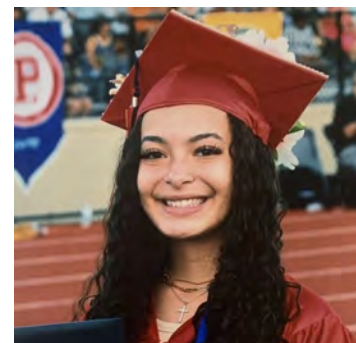
Nereida

MTB OSHE Intern



Evelin

Summer Classes and work at



Kamila

Summer Manager for

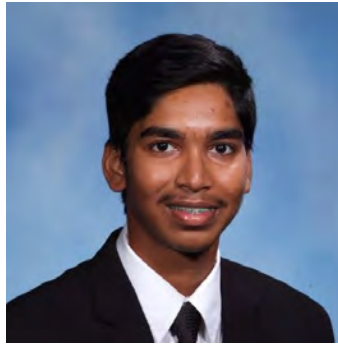
## Summer Classes



Lisberma

Northeast Regional Alliance  
(NERA) MEDPREP program at  
Icahn School of Medicine at  
Mount Sinai

## TD Bank



Parth

College Advisor for Princeton's  
Freshman Scholars Institute

## Residence Life at Kean



Lizbeth

Diversity, Equity, and  
Inclusion Intern at Valley  
Bank

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you for all you have done to help our students empower each other and even their younger family members.



Thanks to Amanda Racanati and [Mint Sprig Decor](#) for providing inspiring decorations for College Signing Day!

SUPPORT MTB

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





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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**

More Than Bootstraps | 421 Highland Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090