



□ Congratulations! □

For the first time, we gathered together (in person!) for a joyous celebration to honor our graduating High School Fellows and College Student Leaders, mark the accomplishments of our juniors as they look toward senior year, and welcome the incoming cohort of rising juniors into the **More Than Bootstraps Family**.

We marked **#CollegeSigningDay** with the announcement of some big decisions for the fall:

- **Marisol** will be attending **Passaic County Community College** to study Studio Arts
- **Jennifer** will be attending **Montclair State University** to study Psychology
- **Ashley** will be attending **William Paterson University** to study Criminology & Criminal Justice
- **Catherine** is still deciding, but exciting things are ahead!

We are so proud! □



Pictured from left to right are Marisol, Catherine, our speaker Ingrid Renderos, Rogreka Clayton (our graduating College Student Leader), Ashley, and Audrey Fisch, our President. (One additional Fellow, Jennifer, is not pictured.)

May has been an exciting month! With summer break on the horizon, the students have been busy with activities and events - our seniors have been weighing college decisions while our juniors compile college lists for next year, all while balancing finals and AP exams, proms, graduations, and more.

Welcome Ricardo Ortegón to the Advisory Board!

Ricardo Ortegón is the Founder and President of [GPS College Guidance](#), a college admissions consulting organization based in the Washington, DC area that works with students and their families navigating through the college preparation, selection, and admissions process.

He has over 25 years of direct experience working in admissions, academic advising, and student success in colleges and universities throughout the country and has extensive experience guiding underrepresented, first-generation, and international students through the admission process.



[Read More](#)

May's Featured Video



May is known as **Mental Health Awareness Month**, so with all the stress that can come with this hectic time of year, it was a great time for MTB Advisory Board Member **Dawn Wilson** to lead the group in a discussion on self-care. We started by identifying our emotions, and then used advice from **Dr. Bertice Berry** to identify a few manageable strategies that we can all use in our daily lives.

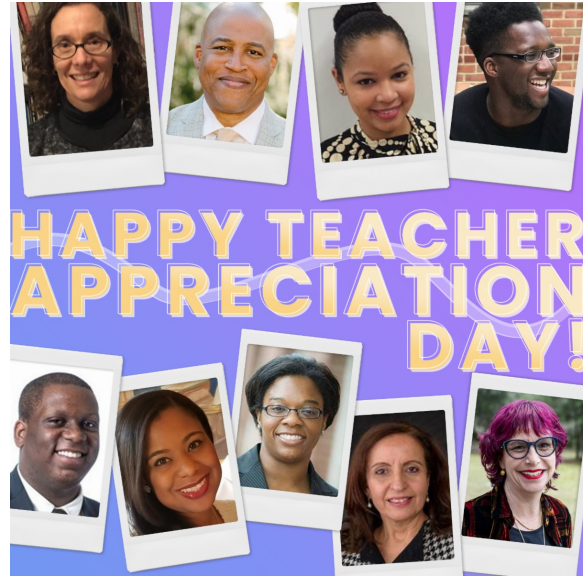
“Let self-care not be something you do one day, but something you do every day.”

- Dr. Bertice Berry

In Case You Missed It...

DID YOU KNOW that more than half of our current and former Board Members are teachers?

On May 3rd, we marked **Teacher Appreciation Day** by celebrating the incredible contributions of the educators who are at the center of the More Than Bootstraps community. MTB was founded by educators, who bring decades of experience and institutional insight, to the work of supporting the success of MTB's Leaders and Fellows.



[Learn More About our Board!](#)

Coming Up Soon

MTB Summer Program

Mark your calendars for the **More Than Bootstraps Summer Program!** There are four components of our program this summer.

- ***Make Your Home Among Strangers*, by Jennine Capó Crucet**
 - Read, talk, and think. It won't be boring and there won't be a test! I think you all will like the book, and it should lead us into some interesting conversations about what it's like to be a first-generation college student.
- **Essay writing**
 - Get your primary college essay completed!
- **Financial aid readiness**
- **Application readiness**

Keep in mind MTB Fellow Ashley's advice: *"Don't procrastinate but get all your college application requirements done the summer before senior year because senioritis will hit you and all the senior emotions will distract you!"*

Also, it's not just senioritis; you will be busy!

Follow MTB on Social Media!

