

More Than Bootstraps

It takes
MORE THAN
BOOTSTRAPS
to succeed



MTB News
November 2021



About MTB

More Than Bootstraps is a non-profit created by educators seeking to level the playing field and remove some of the substantial barriers that first-generation college students encounter in accessing and succeeding in higher education. More Than Bootstraps employs a near-peer mentoring model to create a community of success. College students from the community return to guide their younger peers in the community through the college search, application, and assimilation process. These leaders, working as a mentoring cohort, in turn strengthen their own college-going identities and improve their own chances of success in higher education.

MTB's 22 Days of GIVING



MTB launched its 22 Days of GIVING fundraiser on October 18, which will run through November 8 (first-generation student day). During this time, we'll be giving tips and resources to help first-generation students succeed in higher education. Gifts will fund stipends for the students in More Than Bootstraps. Please click [here](#) to review our tips or find out more information on how to donate.

Follow Us On Social Media



FAFSA CLIP: CASH ONLY



On Sunday, October 17, More Than Bootstraps held a free FAFSA completion webinar for students in our program and all students and families the Passaic Public Schools. Ariel Matos, a first-generation college graduate of TCNJ, who now works at Princeton University, led the workshop, sharing advice and helping answer questions in Spanish and English. In the clips [here](#), he addresses some of the tricky issues families face in navigating financial aid when they are paid in cash. Click [here](#) to view the clip in Spanish.

THE MTB DESK

"Think back to how far you've come and that will give you the boost to keep moving forward."



Claudia Severino
MTB Board
Member

MTB WELCOMES



EJ Mitchell
MTB Advisory Board
[Read EJ's Bio](#)



Hannah Seaman
MTB Advisory Board
[Read Hannah's Bio](#)



Upcoming

November 13, 2021: 1st Gen Panel: Options & Choices

There is no single, "right" path to and through higher education. For first-generation students, complex factors complicate a decision that's difficult for all students. Commute or dorm? PWI (predominately white institution) or MSI (minority serving institution)? Community college, liberal arts college, university? How to weigh cost, prestige, and/or distance. Our first-generation panelists will share their stories. Panelists include E.J. Mitchell, Catharine Sposato, Franklin Tapia, and Jocelyn Gonzalez.

November 13, 2021: Communication & Professionalism

Communication and professionalism are important but difficult in higher education. It can be hard to know when to communicate and/or what to say. Sometimes life and conflicting responsibilities put us in tough situations and that can make communicating even more challenging.

PLEASE LEAVE A TIP

Tip 1: Use a virtual spreadsheet to pair with your syllabus then insert your assignments. This way you can keep track of work and plan ahead.

-Melissa (College Student Leader)

Tip 2: Having a planner is very helpful because it ensures you're keeping on top of all your important dates.

-Reka (College Student Leader)

