

# More Than Bootstraps

It takes  
**MORE THAN  
BOOTSTRAPS**  
to succeed



**MTB News**

October 1, 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.

### MEET OUR TEAM OF COLLEGE STUDENT LEADERS



**Amelia**  
Passaic County  
Community College



**Kamila**  
Kean University



**Lizbeth**  
Passaic County  
Community College



**Melissa**  
Dartmouth College



**Michelle**  
William Paterson  
University



**Rogreka**  
William Paterson  
University

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## Meet Our High School Fellows

### Juniors

Alyssa

Giselle

Jacqueline

Jasmine

Joana

Rachelli

Roselyn

Yessenia

Yoselin

### Seniors

Ashley

Catherine

Marisol

Jennifer



## Upcoming

October 1, 2021: FAFSA Applications Open

October 9, 2021: New High School Fellow Introductions and Returning HS Fellows Share Plans

October 17, 2021: FAFSA Completion Workshop

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

December 11, 2021: Family Conversations

*"I want you to understand that every scar that you have is a reminder not just that you got hurt, but that you survived. And as painful as they are, those holes we all have in our hearts are what truly connect us to each other."*

*Michelle Obama*

## Meet Our Social Work Interns

Marsha Gauntlett-Kirby



### Interests

Mental Health,  
Literacy Education,  
Equitable Opportunities for  
People of Color

Erica Taveras



### Interests

Diversity & Inclusion  
Higher Education  
Psychotherapy



## SPOTLIGHT: ILIANA GUIBERT

Iliana Guibert was the guest speaker at MTB's Kick-off event which took place on September 18, 2021. She is a first-generation graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute. She made a professional detour, spending her early years in the corporate sector learning business skills that she now uses to her work as an actress and writing, producing, and directing. Guibert is proud to serve on the committees and boards of many foundations to assist at-risk youth and chronically and terminally ill children. Thomas, her high school sweetheart, passed away on September 11, 2001, attending a meeting in the World Trade Center's North Tower.

Guibert has been featured in several publications and news programs for her humanitarian activities, charity, and inspiration, and she has been in multiple 9/11 documentaries.

[View Iliana's MTB Speech HERE!](#)

## THE MTB DESK

*"It is never too late to ask for help. While we want you to be proactive and "ahead of the game," there are times when things do not work out as planned. Do not panic, but reach out to your MTB mentors, leaders, and board members. We are here for you!"*



Matt Jackson  
MTB Board Member