

More Than Bootstraps Announces the Second Class of High School Fellows

PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – June 22, 2020 - The New Jersey non-profit organization, <u>More Than Bootstraps</u>, has selected ten rising juniors from Passaic, New Jersey, for the second class of High School Fellows to participate in a mentoring program created to help first-generation, low-income students access and succeed in higher education.

The MTB High School Fellows for 2021-2022 academic year are:

Jacquelin Arteaga	Jasmin Hernandez	Roselyn Munoz	Alyssa Tentle
Yessenia Garcia	Yoselin Hernández	Rachelli Soliz	Diana Torres
Giselle Belen Gomez	Joana Molina		

These new Fellows will join returning rising seniors Jennifer Angel, Marisol Coliente, Ashley Delgado, Abigail Huitzil, Catherine Librado, and Juliana Suarez, who are completing their first year as Fellows in the MTB Program.

More Than Bootstraps (MTB) employs a near-peer mentoring model to build a community of success. The MTB High School Fellows are mentored by college students from Passaic, who guide their younger peers through the college search, application, and assimilation process. The MTB College Student Leaders, working as a mentoring cohort, in turn strengthen their own college-going identities and improve their chances of success in higher education. Returning for their second year as College Student Leaders, **Rogreka Clayton** (William Paterson), **Dhruvi K. Rana** (Wesleyan University), and **Michelle Gonzalez** (William Paterson) will be joined by five new mentors as MTB expands in 2021-2022 to serve 24 first-generation students.

All students in the MTB program receive monthly stipends, laptop computers and access to emergency resources to help them with the many non-tuition expenses of higher education.

"We continue to believe in the power of near-peer mentoring and the ability of first-generation students to empower each other on the higher education journey," said Audrey Fisch, president of More Than Bootstraps. As one College Student Leader described her experience in the program, "MTB has taught me how valuable it is to be a first-gen student and how I can help others become successful as well."

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More Than Bootstraps is a 501(c)3 organization, Tax ID 83-2245008

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