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### More Than Bootstraps Announces Third Cohort of College Student Leaders

PASSAIC and WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY – August 16, 2022 - [More Than Bootstraps](#) (MTB), a New Jersey non-profit organization, announces that six college students from Passaic, New Jersey, have completed leadership training with MTB. These ambitious and talented first-generation college students, from a diverse range of institutions of higher education, will serve as College Student Leaders, mentoring thirteen (13) high school juniors in the Passaic Public Schools.

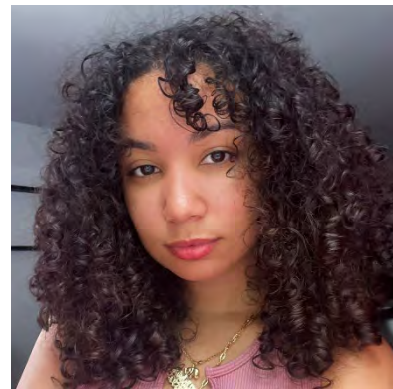
The new MTB College Student Leaders for the 2022-2023 academic year are **Evelin Cabrera-Acosta** (Kean University), **Michelle Carpinteyro** (Emory University), **Lisberma Peralta Aquino** (Vassar College), **Nereida Delgado Garcia** (Montclair State University), **Parth Rana** (Princeton University), and **Ashley Delgado** (William Paterson University). Ashley is the first College Student Leader in MTB to have completed two years as a High School Fellow in the program.



*Evelin Cabrera-Acosta*



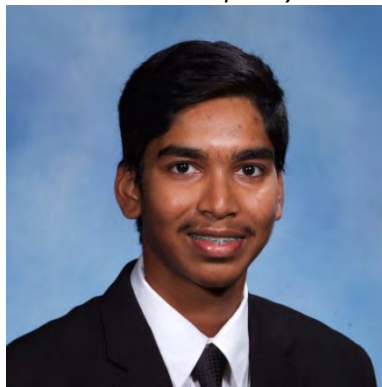
*Michelle Carpinteyro*



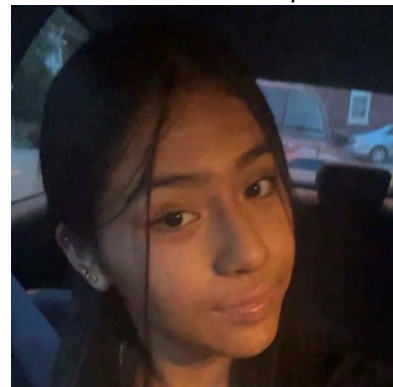
*Lisberma Peralta Aquino*



*Nereida Delgado Garcia*



*Parth Rana*



*Ashley Delgado*

The new cohort of Leaders joins returning Leaders **Lizbeth Coliente** (Passaic County Community College), **Melissa Reyes** (Dartmouth College), and **Lisbeth Kamila Gell** (Kean University).

The MTB College Student Leaders participated in an intensive summer training program, learning from experts and returning Leaders about imposter syndrome, financial aid, under-matching, and stereotype threat. The training also focuses on relationship-building, networking, and wellness as the new College Student Leaders take on the responsibility of empowering their younger peers while continuing to balance the demands of work, school, and family responsibilities.

MTB employs a near-peer mentoring model to achieve its mission to empower first-generation, low-income students to help each other access and succeed in higher education. The MTB College Student Leaders, all graduates of the Passaic public schools, guide their younger peers through activities focused on confidence-building and professional exploration, knowledge of college and financial aid, and communication with families. MTB College Student Leaders, working as a mentoring cohort, in turn strengthen their own college-going identities and build a community of success in higher education.

Now entering its third year of programming, MTB continues to grow. Returning rising seniors Jacqueline, Yessenia, Joana, Roselyn, and Alyssa, will be joined by thirteen new, rising juniors.



As Leader Training 2022 draws to a close, we gathered at the beautiful Passaic Boathouse Cafe to welcome our newest and largest cohort of MTB High School Fellows. Computers from Revivn were distributed, ice cream was eaten, and near-peer mentoring was initiated. Thanks to Rogreka C., one of our inaugural cohort of College Student Leaders and now herself a first-generation college graduate, for planning and running this team-building event.

All students in the MTB program receive stipends, laptop computers, and access to emergency resources. “At More Than Bootstraps, we are cognizant of the [free tuition fallacy](#). Even students with full tuition scholarships face substantial additional and sometimes hidden expenses to attend college. MTB gives first-generation students a stipend so that they have some time and space to come together as a mentoring community and empower each other on the higher education journey,” said **Audrey Fisch**, president of More Than Bootstraps.

Interested donors are invited to visit the MTB website: [www.morethanbootstraps.org/donate](http://www.morethanbootstraps.org/donate).

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### About MORE THAN BOOTSTRAPS

[More Than Bootstraps](#) builds a community of first-generation, underrepresented students who empower each other to access and succeed in higher education. *More Than Bootstraps is a 501(c)3 organization, Tax ID 83-2245008.* For more information, visit [www.morethanbootstraps.org](http://www.morethanbootstraps.org) or call (908) 397-0893. [MTB DIGITAL PRESS KIT](#)



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