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More Than Bootstraps College Student Leaders Selected for Governor’s Hispanic Fellows Program

PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – April 19, 2022 - The New Jersey non-profit organization, [More Than Bootstraps](http://www.morethanbootstraps.org), is thrilled to announce that two of our College Student Leaders, **Lizbeth Coliente** and **Melissa Reyes**, have been selected for the New Jersey **Governor’s Hispanic Fellows Program** for Summer 2022. These prestigious and selective internships include a \$3,000 stipend, practical, hands-on experience at an exciting placement site, guest presentations by leading professionals, as well as other unique skill-building opportunities.



Lizbeth Coliente, a graduate of Passaic High School, is completing her first year with More Than Bootstraps as a College Student Leader and second year at Passaic County Community College. She is responsible for mentoring two high school juniors in the Passaic Public Schools.

Lizbeth has been assigned to the **Plainfield Public Schools** Office of Community Relations for her summer placement. She will be creating press releases, completing translation work, and documenting events and activities. She will also participate in assemblies, field trips, and other community events.



Melissa Reyes, a graduate of Passaic Preparatory Academy, is completing her first year with More Than Bootstraps as a College Student Leader and her first year at Dartmouth College. She is responsible for mentoring one high school junior and one high school senior.

Melissa will be interning this summer at the **Immigration and American Citizenship Organization (IACO)** in Passaic. Melissa will contribute to day-to-day activities within the organization and assist in the promotion of the annual Immigrant Integration Conference. Her placement will allow her to give back to her community and an organization that helped her father to become a United States citizen.

More Than Bootstraps congratulates Lizbeth and Melissa for striving for and earning this opportunity; we are excited to see how this program will support them this summer and beyond!

“Paid internships are critical for first-generation college students,” said **Audrey Fisch**, president of More Than Bootstraps. “The Governor’s Hispanic Fellows Program is an amazing opportunity

for students to build experience and expertise, grow their professional skills and network, and still earn funds to support the many expenses of college education.”

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About More Than Bootstraps

MTB 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.

Students are selected based on their desire to attend college and their commitment to the program rather than grade point average or test scores. All students in the MTB program receive stipends, laptop computers, and access to emergency resources to help them with the many non-tuition expenses of higher education.

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

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