

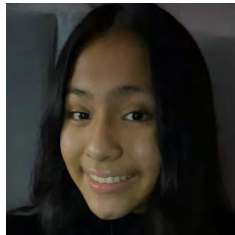
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**More Than Bootstraps Announces Two College Leaders Selected for Fellowships**  
**We celebrate the success of Ashley Delgado and Michelle Carpinteyro**  
**in winning prestigious fellowships.**

WESTFIELD and PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – March 21, 2023. The New Jersey non-profit organization, More Than Bootstraps (MTB), is thrilled to announce that two of our College Student Leaders, **Ashley Delgado** and **Michelle Carpinteyro**, have been selected for prestigious fellowships.



Ashley, a 2022 graduate of Passaic High School, has been named to the New Jersey Governor's Hispanic Fellows Program for Summer 2023. Ashley will be completing a paid internship this summer at the Immigration and American Citizenship Organization (IACO) as well as receiving extensive professional development from the Governor's Hispanic Fellows Program.

Ashley served as a High School Fellow in More Than Bootstraps from 2020-2022, receiving near-peer mentorship, stipend support, and personal development. Now completing her first year studying criminal justice at William Paterson University, Ashley is MTB's first High School Fellow to have transitioned into the role of College Student Leader. She now serves as both a role model and a mentor for her younger peers.



Michelle, a 2021 graduate of Passaic Preparatory Academy, has been selected as a Management Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT) Career Prep Fellow. Michelle will receive eighteen months of one-on-one coaching and in-person workshops to ensure that she conquers the job search process, maximizes her internship experiences, and accelerates her post-undergraduate career.

Michele is currently completing her second year at Emory University, where she studies computer science. She joined More Than Bootstraps in Summer 2022 and, like Ashley, serves as a College Student Leader, ensuring that her high school mentees receive the critical support they need as future first-generation college students to be as successful as she has been.

These two young women exemplify the vision of More Than Bootstraps. As part of a community of successful first-generation students, they build on the success of their peers. Ashley follows in the footsteps of **Melissa Reyes** and **Lizbeth Coliente**, also MTB College Student Leaders, who served as Governor's Fellows in Summer 2022. Michelle's participation in MLT will ensure that her younger peers know about and are inspired to seek out and take advantage of other programs for support and development.

“As we look ahead to our fourth year of programming and fourth cohort of High School Fellows, we are more optimistic than ever about our students’ ability to achieve and help others achieve,” said **Audrey Fisch**, president of More Than Bootstraps. “Giving our students the resources to support each other and be part of a community of success is truly a value proposition.”

MTB builds on first-generation students’ strengths to create a sustainable pathway to and through college. We provide first-generation high school students with near-peer mentors -- current college students from their community. College student mentors meet weekly with their high school mentees and follow a curriculum of activities focused on personal and professional development, college and financial aid awareness, and communication with families. Once a month, the full group convenes for workshops and guest presentations.

Grants and donations to More Than Bootstraps fund the monthly stipends that allow the high school and college students in the program some time and space to devote to their professional development and college-going activities while still meeting their financial responsibilities.

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](http://www.morethanbootstraps.org) 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.

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