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It takes
**MORE THAN
BOOTSTRAPS**
to succeed



More Than Bootstraps Announces Three New Advisory Board Members

PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – June 29, 2021 - The New Jersey non-profit organization, [More Than Bootstraps](#), announces the addition of three new advisory board members who share in our vision to empower first-generation students to help each other access and succeed in higher education.



Dawn M. Wilson brings nearly fifteen years of college access and success experience to the More Than Bootstraps Advisory Board. Dawn currently serves as the Associate Director of the Princeton University Preparatory Program (PUPP), where she aids in program and scholar development. Prior to joining PUPP, Dawn served as the inaugural Director of College Success for Cooperman College Scholars (CCS), where she supported the scholars on all points related to persistence and retention.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Dawn is a proud product of the New Jersey public school system, having been educated there from elementary through graduate school. Dawn earned her Master's in Counseling from The College of New Jersey. She is currently working towards her license as a Marriage and Family Therapist and will begin her doctoral work in counseling in September 2021. As a first generation graduate herself, Dawn embodies her personal ethos: "be who you needed when you were younger." This sentiment fuels her work, allowing her to meet students and mentees where they are and aid in their "becoming".



Maria J. Zamora currently serves as the Program Manager for Undocumented Student Services at Rutgers University-Newark. In a prior role, she served as a Coordinator for Undocumented Student Services (USS) and the Office of Student Life and Leadership (OSLL) at Rutgers University-Newark. During her time at Rutgers-Newark, Maria has worked to empower undocumented students by coordinating community-building programs, facilitating educational training and sharing her personal narrative of being a first-generation college student and an immigrant. She is also a Newman Fellow and a Latinx

Undocu-Professional committed to support undocumented students as they navigate college. Maria received a B.A in Public and Nonprofit Administration with a minor in Social Justice and Master of Public Administration from Rutgers University-Newark.



Janelly Jose is the newly appointed Assistant Principal of Etta Gero School No. 9 in her hometown of Passaic, NJ. Born of Dominican parents, she is a first-generation college graduate of The College of New Jersey. She has 15 years of teaching experience, most of which she spent teaching English at Passaic High School, her alma-mater. She also served as the advisor and instructor for the Peer Leadership Program, in which seniors mentor freshmen students in their transition into high school. Janelly is also the founder of STRIVE (Students and Teachers Reviving and Instilling the Value of Education), established in 2011, which is a club at Passaic High School that organizes various school-wide events and initiatives that promote a culture of academic success.

Janelly holds an M.Ed. in Teacher Leadership and M.A. in Educational Leadership from Montclair State University. It is her passion to serve and give back to the community which has shaped and empowered her as both a student and an educator.

“We are thrilled to have these amazing educators join the MTB team,” said Audrey Fisch, president of More Than Bootstraps. “As More Than Bootstraps enters into its second year of programming and continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs of first-generation students, it’s clear that our mission resonates. We are thankful to Dawn, Maria, and Janelly for their contributions to the work.”

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

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