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More Than Bootstraps Announces Fourth Cohort of College Student Leaders

WESTFIELD and PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – August 17, 2023. [More Than Bootstraps \(MTB\)](#), a New Jersey non-profit, announces that six new 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 join eight returning students as College Student Leaders, mentoring 29 high school juniors and seniors in the Passaic Public Schools.

New College Student Leaders for the 2023-2024 academic year include three students new to MTB: **Jocelin Carpinteyro** (Montclair State University), **Manan Raval** (New Jersey Institute of Technology), and **Lizet Coyotl** (Rutgers University, Newark). They will be joined by three former High School Fellows, **Roselyn Muñoz** (Fairleigh Dickinson University), **Yessenia Garcia** (Montclair State University), and **Jackie Arteaga** (Wellesley College).



Jocelin



Manan



Lizet



Roselyn



Yessenia



Jackie

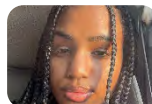
The new cohort of Leaders joins returning Leaders **Melissa Reyes** (Dartmouth College), **Lisbeth (Kamila) Gell** (Kean University), **Evelin Cabrera-Acosta** (Kean University), **Michelle Carpinteyro** (Emory University), **Lisberma Peralta Aquino** (Vassar College), **Nereida Delgado Garcia** (Montclair State University), **Parth Rana** (Princeton University), and **Ashley Delgado** (William Paterson University).



Melissa



Kamila



Evelin



Michelle



Lisberma



Nereida



Parth



Ashley

MTB College Student Leaders participate in an intensive summer training program, building their communication and mentoring skills, learning how to help their younger peers navigate the college search, application, and financial aid processes, and solidifying their own college-going and professional skills through discussions of imposter syndrome, networking, and graduate school.

MTB employs a near-peer mentoring model to achieve its mission to create a community of first-generation, low-income students who empower each other to access and succeed in higher education.

MTB College Student Leaders, all graduates of the Passaic public schools, guide their younger peers through activities focused on confidence-building and professional development, knowledge of college and financial aid, and communication with families. The MTB 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 fourth year of programming, MTB continues to grow and thrive. For 2023-2024, we will welcome 17 new high school juniors and 12 returning high school seniors.



MTB Leader Training 2023 at the beautiful Passaic Boathouse Cafe. Not pictured, Parth, Ashley, and Lizet.

All students in the MTB program receive stipends, laptop computers, and access to emergency resources. “MTB's students receive a stipend so that they have some time and space away from their other financial responsibilities to nurture their first-generation college ambitions and

empower each other as a community of success,” said **Audrey Fisch**, president of More Than Bootstraps.

Interested donors are invited to visit the MTB website: 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 or call (908) 397-0893.

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