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## More Than Bootstraps Announces the First Class of High School Fellows

**PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY** – October 25, 2020 - The New Jersey non-profit organization, [More Than Bootstraps](http://MoreThanBootstraps.org), has selected six high school juniors from Passaic, New Jersey, to participate in a mentoring program created to help first-generation, low-income students access and succeed in higher education.

The MTB High School Fellows for 2020-2021 academic year are **Jennifer Angels, Marisol Coliente, Ashley Delgado, Abigail Huitzil, Catherine Librado, and Juliana Suarez.**

More Than Bootstraps (MTB) employs a near-peer mentoring model to build a community of success. College students return to their high school to guide their younger peers 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.

The MTB Leaders, who are currently in college, completed a three-week training program in August. These recent graduates of Passaic High School managed the high school fellow recruitment process, reviewed all applications, and interviewed the final candidates. All students in the MTB program receive monthly stipends, laptop computers and access to emergency resources to help them with the many non-tuition expenses of higher education.

“First-generation students have been severely impacted by the pandemic. We are proud to help support and empower this outstanding group of young women,” said Audrey Fisch, president of More Than Bootstraps.

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### ABOUT MORE THAN BOOTSTRAPS

[More Than Bootstraps](http://MoreThanBootstraps.org) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping first-generation students access and succeed in higher education. MTB builds on the strengths and resources of first-generation college students, the majority of whom are students of color from low-income communities. Students in More Than Bootstraps will succeed not just through their individual efforts and grit but through their membership in and contribution to a peer community, engaged in a shared enterprise focused on success in getting to and succeeding in college. **More Than Bootstraps is a 501(c)3 organization, Tax ID 83-2245008.**



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