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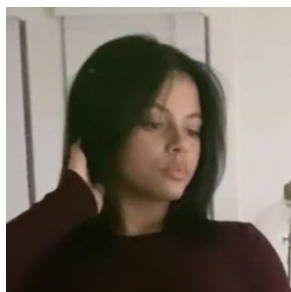
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## More Than Bootstraps Fellows are Named QuestBridge National College Match Finalists

WESTFIELD and PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – November 9, 2023.

The New Jersey non-profit organization, More Than Bootstraps (MTB), celebrates the achievement of **Jailene Cabrera** and **Ashley Arriaga** on being named [QuestBridge National College Match Finalists](#). Jailene and Ashley are both currently high school seniors at Passaic Preparatory Academy.



*Jailene*



*Ashley*

Finalists are selected by QuestBridge based on their academic achievements and financial need. Only Finalists may apply to "match" with QuestBridge's college partners. This year, 6,683 students were selected as National College Match Finalists out of over 20,800 applications.

Finalists rank participating QuestBridge partner institutions and have an opportunity to earn acceptance and a full scholarship on December 1. Students who do not match at this initial stage continue through the QuestBridge regular decision process and are considered for admissions and generous financial aid packages at partner schools.

Jailene was previously named a QuestBridge College Prep Scholar in Spring 2023. This program equips high-achieving high school juniors from low-income backgrounds with the knowledge, confidence, and resources to apply to top colleges. Her success in this endeavor is thanks in part to her MTB College Student Leader, **Michelle Carpinteyro**. Michelle was a College Prep Scholar herself and is a QuestBridge Scholar at Emory University.

Ashley was mentored by her MTB Leader, **Lisberma Peralta Aquino**, a QuestBridge Scholar at Vassar College.

“Jailene’s and Ashley’s success demonstrates the power of our near-peer model. Our mentors are opening doors for and empowering their younger high school peers,” said **Audrey Fisch**, founder and president of More Than Bootstraps. “Together, our high school and college graduates demonstrate the power of More Than Bootstraps and their ability to lift each other as they rise.”

QuestBridge finalist Ashley offered these words of encouragement to other students like herself: “I want to reassure everyone that it is possible to get these accomplishments if one is pushing oneself to be better.”

Donations to More Than Bootstraps fund student stipends, educational expenses, and emergency funds for students. 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 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.

**MTB DIGITAL PRESS KIT:** [www.morethanbootstraps.org/mtb-digital-press-kit](http://www.morethanbootstraps.org/mtb-digital-press-kit)

#### About **QUESTBRIDGE**

QuestBridge is a national nonprofit that connects the nation’s most exceptional, low-income youth with leading institutions of higher education and further life opportunities. By recruiting, developing, and motivating these students — beginning in high school through college to their early career — QuestBridge aims to help talented, low-income students attend the nation’s best colleges and to support them to achieve success in their respective careers and communities.



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