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More Than Bootstraps Announces New Board Member: Dr. Susan Suarez

WESTFIELD and PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – September 8, 2023. [More Than Bootstraps \(MTB\)](https://www.morethanbootstraps.org/), a New Jersey non-profit, is thrilled to announce that **Dr. Susan Suarez** will join the MTB Board.



Dr. Suarez is a high school English/Language Arts teacher in the Baltimore County Public Schools. In her 14 years of experience working in urban high schools, including in Jersey City and Elizabeth, Dr. Suarez has emphasized critical thinking and problem-solving, focusing on the 21st-century skills needed to succeed in college and beyond.

The youngest of six children born to Cuban immigrants, Dr. Suarez was the second of her siblings to graduate from college and the only child in her family to earn a master's degree or a doctorate. Aware of the struggles first-generation college students face, she interweaves the navigation of college systems into her instruction as early as freshman year. She created and implemented dual-enrollment English, which she co-taught with a university professor, ensuring students would have first-hand experience with a university course before attending higher education.

Dr. Suarez joined the MTB Advisory Board in December 2022. Since then, she has been an active member of the board, helping build a community of first-generation, underrepresented students who empower each other to access and succeed in higher education. Highlights of her service to MTB include leading the interview and selection process for MTB's OSHE and FutureMap Summer Internships and serving on the Strategic Planning Committee. Like most of the MTB Board, Dr. Suarez also serves as a board mentor to one of our College Student Leaders, providing additional personal and professional support.

Dr. Suarez will serve as Secretary of the MTB Board of Directors. She brings relevant experience to the role having served as Board Secretary for the New Jersey Council of Teachers of English (NJCTE).

"Dr. Suarez knows the challenges our students face, and she knows their strengths and resilience," said **Audrey Fisch**, president of More Than Bootstraps. "Her investment in the mission, students, and community of More Than Bootstraps is a tremendous vote of confidence."

Dr. Suarez notes, "I experienced challenges and setbacks as a first-generation college student which led to my initial departure from university. Though it took years to find support and guidance, I now hold a doctorate. Joining the MTB Board affords me the opportunity to participate in an amazing endeavor in which students find their own support and guidance through peer mentoring and network-building. Their success in higher education is not happenstance; it is developed and nurtured through shared experiences and knowledge exchange."

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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