

Media Contact:

[Audrey Fisch, Ph.D.](mailto:audrey@morethanbootstraps.org)

President, More Than Bootstraps

908-397-0893

audrey@morethanbootstraps.org



UNINJA.org

UNion INnovation NJ Alliance

UNINJA Provides Laptops for More Than Bootstraps High School Fellows

PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – October 23, 2020 - **More Than Bootstraps (MTB)**, a New Jersey non-profit, has partnered with another non-profit organization, the **Union Innovation NJ Alliance (UNINJA)**, to provide laptops for six students in the Passaic, New Jersey, Public Schools. The students are participants in a near-peer mentoring program created to help first-generation, low-income students access and succeed in higher education.

MTB was established by a group of educators seeking to level the playing field and remove some of the substantial barriers encountered by first-generation students. UNINJA provides free or low-cost devices to fight the digital divide and technical support in order to democratize computation. This particular donation was supported by **Ben Derman** and **Temple Emanu-El of Westfield**.

Mike Saxon, co-founder of UNINJA, said: "UNINJA is proud to support More than Bootstraps in helping first-generation students succeed in their journey to and through higher education." Saxon explained that "providing tech access to these students aligns perfectly with our mission to provide free or low-cost computing devices to families who cannot afford them, as well as to help those families set up and maintain those devices."

In addition to the laptop computers, students in the MTB program receive monthly stipends and access to emergency resources to help them with the many non-tuition expenses of higher education. "The assistance provided by UNINJA is critical. The digital divide is a critical issue in educational inequality; COVID and online instruction have exacerbated the challenges first-generation students face," said Audrey Fisch, president of More Than Bootstraps.

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ABOUT MORE THAN BOOTSTRAPS

[More Than Bootstraps](http://www.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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