



## **More Than Bootstraps**

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### **More Than Bootstraps Awarded \$2,500 Grant From KearnyBank Foundation**

The grant will support stipends for seven high school students in Fall 2020

**PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – July 7, 2020** – [More Than Bootstraps](http://www.morethanbootstraps.org), a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting first-generation college students, is pleased to be the recipient of the KearnyBank Foundation grant directly benefitting low-income, students of color from the Passaic community.

The grant will support stipends for seven Passaic High School juniors for the upcoming academic school year, allowing More Than Bootstraps to continue its mission to level the playing field and remove barriers first-generation college students encounter in accessing and succeeding in higher education.

“We are fortunate to have a community partner in KearnyBank Foundation and be able to make an impact on the lives of these college-bound students,” said Audrey Fisch, president of More Than Bootstraps. “We find that the barriers to success in higher education for these students stem not from academic issues but rather financial obstacles, stereotype threat, and imposter syndrome. We know these students can succeed in higher education, and we want to support their academic futures.”

Research shows many first-generation, college-bound students are not successfully completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), leaving much-needed aid on the table. More Than Bootstraps assists students with this barrier and many others through near-peer mentoring, financial assistance and family outreach.

The near-peer mentoring model uses college student, peer leaders from the Passaic community to guide high school students through the application and college assimilation process. Both mentors and high school students in the program receive a monthly stipend, computer, and emergency funds.

Additional information about More Than Bootstraps can be found at

<https://www.morethanbootstraps.org>.

**ABOUT MORE THAN BOOTSTRAPS**

More Than Bootstraps 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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