FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Audrey Fisch, Ph.D.
President, More Than Bootstraps
908-397-0893
audrey@morethanbootstraps.org

Rachel Sainz is named 2025 More Than Bootstraps Meyers Salberg Fellow

WESTFIELD and PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – January 14, 2025.

More Than Bootstraps (MTB), a New Jersey non-profit organization, is thrilled to announce that **Rachel Sainz** has been named a Meyers and Salberg Fellow.

This endowed fellowship honors **Laurie K. Meyers** and **Robert J. Salberg**, whose lives were tragically cut short. Both valued the opportunities provided by higher education. Rachel, a MTB College Student Leader who is pursuing a degree in nursing at Monmouth University, will be designated the 2025 Meyers Salberg Fellow in loving memory of Laurie and Robert.



Laurie K. Meyers



Robert J. Salberg



Rachel is an exceptional young woman. She graduated from Passaic Preparatory Academy in June 2024 while also completing a Criminal Justice Associate in Arts degree at Passaic County Community College. In high school, Rachel served as an MTB High School Fellow. This year, she is one of four former Fellows who transitioned into the role of College Student Leader, paying it forward and mentoring two high school juniors. At Monmouth, Rachel is studying nursing with a minor in health studies, and she hopes to become a labor and delivery nurse.

Now midway through its fifth year of programming, MTB employs a near-peer mentoring approach to address the challenges first-generation, low-income students face in accessing and succeeding in higher education. Working with underrepresented students in Passaic, NJ, the

organization matches high school students with near-peer mentors – graduates of the Passaic Public Schools currently enrolled in institutions from Dartmouth College to William Paterson University. Led by their college student mentors, MTB High School Fellows follow a curriculum that focuses on education about higher education and financial aid, communication with families, holistic student development, and the promotion of student well-being and agency.

Grants and donations to More Than Bootstraps fund the monthly stipends that allow the high school and college students in the program some time and space to devote to their professional development and college-going activities while still meeting their financial responsibilities.

"We are thrilled that the Meyers Salberg Leader Fellowship will honor the memory of Laurie K. Meyers and Robert J. Salberg," said **Audrey Fisch**, president of More Than Bootstraps. "We know Rachel and future recipients of this fellowship will contribute to compassionate care for those struck by illness."

Interested donors are invited to visit the MTB website: www.morethanbootstraps.org/donate. Funds may be designated to support the Meyers Salberg Fellow or MTB students generally.

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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 or call (908) 397-0893.

MTB DIGITAL PRESS KIT: www.morethanbootstraps.org/mtb-digital-press-kit