FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

More Than Bootstraps Awarded $5,000 Grant from the ACT Giving Committee

The grant will support stipends for students in the MTB College Access and Success Program

WESTFIELD and PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY – April 2, 2025.

More Than Bootstraps (MTB), a New Jersey non-profit dedicated to helping low-income, first-generation students access and succeed in higher education, has received a $5,000 grant award from the ACT Giving Committee. More Than Bootstraps was selected to receive the grant based on its four successful years of working to address the challenges first-generation, low-income students face in accessing and succeeding in higher education. MTB's partner district, the Passaic Public Schools, serves students underrepresented in higher education: low-income, Latinx, and first-generation.

MTB builds on students' strengths and the power of near-peer mentoring to create a sustainable pathway to and through college. The organization trains first-generation college students attending institutions ranging from William Paterson University to Dartmouth College to serve as mentors to high school juniors and seniors in the Passaic Public Schools. College student mentors meet weekly with their high school mentees and follow a curriculum of activities focused on personal and professional development, college and financial aid awareness, communication with families, and wellness and mental health.

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

"At ACT we are committed to helping all students find education and workforce success. ACT's Giving Committee and I are proud to support 'More Than Bootstraps.' Their work helps to motivate talented students and encourages each student to achieve their education and career aspirations," said **Tina Gridiron**, Chief Impact and Learning Officer for ACT's Center for Impact and Learning. "ACT strives to help all individuals achieve education and workplace success. From the very beginning, ACT has created tools, programs, and services designed to ensure all students have the opportunity to know, build, and document their readiness to succeed after

high school. We congratulate 'More Than Bootstraps' efforts and are thrilled to contribute to the future success of their work."

"We are enormously grateful to the ACT Giving Committee for their recognition and support of our work," said **Audrey Fisch**, president of More Than Bootstraps. "After four years, we are confident that our innovative model can achieve significant outcomes for our underserved students and gratified to receive support from organizations, like the ACT Giving Committee, working toward educational equity."

Interested donors are invited to visit the MTB website: 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 or call (908) 397-0893.

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

About ACT

ACT is transforming college and career readiness pathways so that everyone can discover and fulfill their potential. Grounded in more than 65 years of research, ACT's learning resources, assessments, research, and work-ready credentials are trusted by students, job seekers, educators, schools, government agencies, and employers in the U.S. and around the world to help people achieve their education and career goals at every stage of life. Visit us at www.act.org