FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

More Than Bootstraps Awarded Johnson Scholarship Foundation Grant

The $157,500 award will support stipends for students in the MTB College Access and Success Program

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

More Than Bootstraps (MTB), a New Jersey nonprofit organization, has been awarded a grant from the Johnson Scholarship Foundation (JSF) that will provide $157,500 over three years to support its college access and success work in New Jersey. MTB was selected because its mission aligns with JSF's mission to help people prepare for and obtain a college degree. The Foundation provides grants for scholarships and other support to nonprofit organizations that serve students with disabilities, students Indigenous to Canada and the United States, and students from low-income families.



MTB President Audrey Fisch and Former Program Resource Fellow and College Student Leader Melissa Reyes traveled to Alaska to present to the JSF Grant Program Committee

Now beginning its sixth 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 William Paterson University to Cornell 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.

"The Johnson Scholarship Foundation is grateful to support students through our partnership with More than Bootstraps," said **Bobby Krause**, CEO. "MTB's near-peer model and wraparound student services are equipping today's students to be tomorrow's leaders."

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 to be recognized by and entering into a new partnership with the Johnson Scholarship Foundation," said **Audrey Fisch**, president of More Than Bootstraps. "Our college students empower their younger peers while solidifying their own college-going success. Support for underrepresented students has never been more important, and this award from JSF enables us to sustain and grow our innovative approach."

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 the JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The Johnson Scholarship Foundation (JSF) is an independent nonprofit foundation based in West Palm Beach, Florida. With a mission to help people prepare for and obtain a college degree, the Foundation serves three key communities: students with disabilities, students Indigenous to Canada and the United States, and economically disadvantaged students.

JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP Foundation

Former UPS Vice President of Human Resources Theodore R. Johnson and his wife, Vivian Chesley Macleod Johnson, placed great faith in education as a means to help people improve their lives. Since 1991, the Foundation has partnered with higher education institutions,

nonprofits, and other organizations to create scholarship programs or other initiatives that support deserving students. To learn more, visit jsf.bz.



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