



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2019

Central Texas Nonprofit Hosts Graduation Celebration for Students Who Are First in their Families on Pathway to College

Breakthrough Central Texas honors 104 graduating seniors at St. Edward's University

- WHAT:** Eleventh annual high school graduation for Breakthrough Central Texas students
- WHEN:** Saturday, April 27
12:00 p.m. CDT *program begins*, 1:30 p.m. CDT *photo and interview opportunity*
- WHO:** Breakthrough Central Texas
Michael Griffith, Executive Director, Breakthrough Central Texas
Marco Saucedo, Breakthrough Central Texas student at St. Stephen's Episcopal School
Marco and Hortencia Saucedo, parents of student speaker Marco Saucedo
- WHERE:** St. Edward's University, Mabee Ballroom
3001 South Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78704

AUSTIN, TEXAS – On Saturday, April 27, 2019, Breakthrough Central Texas will hold its eleventh annual graduation celebration for high school seniors at St. Edward's University's Mabee Ballroom. In total, 104 students from Austin and Manor Independent School Districts will graduate, making this the largest high school graduating class for the organization since its inception. Each student aspires to continue their education and become the first person in their family to graduate from college.

Breakthrough Central Texas exists to fill a gap in education equity. Central Texas has the lowest college graduation rate within the state for low-income students, with only eight percent earning a post-secondary degree by age 24. By making a 12-year commitment to students, beginning in middle school, Breakthrough Central Texas creates a path to and through college for children from these low-income communities.

"High school graduation is a momentous occasion for every student," says Michael Griffith, Executive Director of Breakthrough Central Texas, "but for our students and their families, it means everything. This is a celebration of what each of these students has accomplished and an opportunity to applaud them as they take the next step on their college path."

During Breakthrough Central Texas' high school graduation ceremony, student and parent speakers will share their journey and the opportunities the organization has provided for their families. Staff advisors

from the organization will recognize each student with four-rhyming lines, an organizational tradition that honors and inspires each student in a personally meaningful way.

Breakthrough Central Texas has helped more than 1,800 students on the journey to and through college. College graduates are likely to be healthier, less reliant on public assistance, and more civically engaged than their peers who do not receive higher education. Learn more at breakthroughctx.org.

ABOUT BREAKTHROUGH CENTRAL TEXAS

Breakthrough Central Texas is a student-centric education nonprofit that creates a path to and through college for students from low-income communities. From sixth grade through to college, the organization offers out-of-school learning experiences, leadership skills, and comprehensive advising to students. The organization makes a 12-year commitment to students and their families to guide them through the process of preparing for, enrolling in and completing college. The long-term model ensures the success of students and families from middle school to high school graduation to college diploma and beyond. Join the conversation on Twitter [@BreakthroughCTX](https://twitter.com/BreakthroughCTX), Instagram [@BreakthroughCTX](https://www.instagram.com/BreakthroughCTX) and at [Facebook.com/BreakthroughCTX](https://www.facebook.com/BreakthroughCTX). To learn more, visit www.breakthroughctx.org.

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