



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Breakthrough Central Texas Announces Chief Schools Officer
Former Deputy Director of Texas College Access Network to Lead Launch of Nonprofit's
Schoolwide Postsecondary Advising Program

AUSTIN, TEXAS – Breakthrough Central Texas, Austin's nonprofit organization that helps students become the first in their family to earn a college degree, today announced the appointment of Kendra Strange as its first Chief Schools Officer. In this capacity, Strange will lead the planning and development of the new Schoolwide Postsecondary Advising Program, the first whole school model designed to serve all eleventh-grade students at Manor New Technology High School.

"This was a careful selection process," says Breakthrough Central Texas Executive Director Michael Griffith. "We are confident in Ms. Strange's dedication and determination. Just like the team at Breakthrough, she believes all students should have access to support, resources, and education. She is the ideal candidate to develop this new branch of Breakthrough Central Texas."

Strange brings more than 13 years of college admission and access experience, and previously served as Deputy Director of the Texas College Access Network (TxCAN), an organization that works to combat Texas' most pressing problems in higher education access. Prior to her role at TxCAN, she served as the College Advisor for the Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA) in Fort Worth Independent School District (ISD). During her time at YWLA, Strange developed a college bound program that resulted in 100 percent acceptance rates to four-year colleges and universities for students from four graduating classes.

Planning for the Postsecondary Advising Program, slated to launch in January 2021, is underway. The innovative program will allow the organization to serve all 150 11th grade students at Manor New Technology High School in the first year, with thousands projected to be served by 2025. Students will receive Breakthrough services, including advising and college readiness programs, through their freshman year of college. More details to come.

Visit breakthroughctx.org for more information on Breakthrough Central Texas, its students and services.

ABOUT BREAKTHROUGH CENTRAL TEXAS

Breakthrough Central Texas is a nonprofit that creates a path to and through college for students from under-resourced 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](#), Instagram [@BreakthroughCTX](#) and at [Facebook.com/BreakthroughCTX](#). To learn more, visit [www.breakthroughctx.org](#).

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