



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More than just a summer job; local internship program helps launch careers

Future Focus places nearly 60 first-gen students in local, top-performing internships

AUSTIN, Texas (August 10, 2018) — The Future Focus Summer Internship Program arranges full-time, paid, professional internships for first-generation college students from low-income communities who are enrolled in local non-profits, Breakthrough Central Texas and the KIPP Through College Program. Students are placed at top, local companies such as SolarWinds, Accenture, Kendra Scott and Whole Foods.

First-generation college students from low-income communities often lack a personal network to land that perfect internship and cannot afford to accept unpaid positions. This unique program provides students with the foundation for a successful career after college graduation and helps build Austin's long-term economic growth and stability.

This summer, nearly 60 students participated in Future Focus. Students learned about business, explored potential career paths, and began building their professional networks. At the conclusion of these internships, SolarWinds hosted Future Focus interns at their corporate offices to give presentations to a panel of community volunteers about what the experience taught them.

"Listening to the students' stories and learning more about their experiences during the internships is inspiring," said Tiffany Nels, chief communications officer, SolarWinds. "The opportunity to experience real-world working environments can be so valuable as this next generation of employees and leaders begin considering their future plans and goals. It's been an honor for us to serve these past five years as advisors and provide support for young people who might have otherwise been overlooked."

Since its inception in 2011, the Future Focus program has placed nearly 400 interns at more than 100 Austin companies. The Future Focus program, Breakthrough and KIPP are enabling first-generation college students to graduate at much higher rates than their peers; providing internships that complement their academic learning and provide visibility into their future career.

About Breakthrough Central Texas: Breakthrough Central Texas builds a path to and through college for students in low-income communities who will be the first in their families to earn a degree. Breakthrough provides extended learning, comprehensive advising and leadership experiences starting in 6th grade through college graduation to make students nearly seven times more likely to graduate from college than similar peers in Central Texas. Breakthrough currently serves more than 1,600 students, and plans to serve more than 2,000 students by 2020. Learn more at <http://www.breakthroughctx.org>

About KIPP Through College:

KIPP Through College is a comprehensive student advocacy and support program that provides academic and personal support, high school and college placement, counseling, internship opportunities, career services, and social and cultural enrichment activities for graduates of KIPP Charter Schools. This program is supported by KIPP Alumni Counselors, whose core responsibility is to track, support, and empower all students and alumni to fulfill

their potential for success through high school, college, and beyond. The KIPP Through College program currently serves 338 students and alumni. Learn more at <http://www.kippaustin.org/kipp-through-college>.

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