



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Breakthrough Central Texas Enrolls 150 New Students to Become First-Generation College Graduates

Nonprofit Broadens Reach and Launches First 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, announces the launch of its Postsecondary Advising Program (PSAP), the first whole school model designed to serve all 11th grade and 12th grade students at Manor New Technology High School. Led by Breakthrough Chief Schools Officer Kendra Strange, the PSAP launched with 150 new students in advising and college readiness services on February 1, 2021.

Through a combination of student advising services and capacity-building services for school personnel, the PSAP will implement systems to improve postsecondary outcomes across an entire high school. The program launch enrolled all eleventh-grade students at Manor New Technology High School. Students will receive up to six years of advising and college readiness support to complete their postsecondary goals.

Breakthrough Central Texas identified Manor New Technology High School as the institution to pilot the program due to the successful partnership between the organization and Manor ISD. Since the partnership launched in 2011, 653 students have received Breakthrough services, with 94 percent of high school graduates enrolling directly to college.

“Manor ISD is growing rapidly, and empowering our students for success is more important than ever,” says Bobby Garcia, Principal of Manor New Technology High School. “We have witnessed first-hand the tremendous impact Breakthrough makes on our scholars’ lives and are grateful that we can now leverage this partnership to expand this opportunity for all eleventh-grade scholars at Manor New Technology High School. The effects of resources like one-on-one advising are immeasurable and create a ripple that sends positive waves throughout our learning community. We are excited to see how this whole school model partnership will enrich scholars’ lives and expand our programming to offer the best resources and opportunities possible as we continue to build on Manor New Tech’s legacy of working towards equity in post-secondary access, readiness, and achievement.”

Breakthrough Central Texas continues to expand to meet the needs of Central Texas’ growing population. The first cohort of 41 students from Austin Independent School District (AISD) enrolled in 2002. Last year, the organization served nearly 2,000 students in AISD, Manor ISD, Del Valle ISD, and colleges and universities around the country. On average, 90 percent of Breakthrough Central Texas graduates enroll to college directly from high school and graduate college at seven times the rate of their peers.

This expansion and launch of the PSAP is made possible in part by the completion of the \$10 million Breakthrough Challenge, as well as grant funded investments from Greater Texas Foundation, Trellis Foundation, Meadows Foundation, and McDowell Foundation.

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](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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Media Contacts:

Mary Green
(704) 576-5178
mary@liveoutloudpr.com

Ashley Schlosser
(512) 968-0562
ashley@liveoutloudpr.com