

THE BREAKTHROUGH LEADER

Thank you for helping students like Mercedes experience their first Breakthrough Summer

Mercedes says she joined Breakthrough because she wanted to look back on this summer and see that she actually did something important, something that not everyone in her community had the opportunity to do—start her journey to become the first in her family to graduate from college.

Because of caring individuals like you, Mercedes was one of the first sixty 6th graders in Del Valle ISD to experience Breakthrough. These students began their journey by engaging in Breakthrough’s 6-week, academically intensive summer program, advancing in English, math, social studies and science to help prepare them for the upcoming school year.

Like all of our students, Mercedes is an aspiring first-generation college goer with goals to join extra-curricular activities and get the best grades she possibly can this year. And, she joined Breakthrough to help her achieve these goals.

“When I saw the Breakthrough presentation at my school I was interested because personally, I want to be more

involved in things, make new friends, and try out things I’ve never tried before,” said Mercedes as she spoke to a group of Breakthrough visitors. “I was also excited about getting ready for middle school next year, and eventually working towards my college applications.”

As Mercedes and the other 59 Del Valle 6th graders enter their fall semester, they will receive extended learning through after school tutoring and Saturday enrichment programs, as well as a 24/7 Breakthrough adviser. But, this is only the beginning.

Breakthrough will be with Mercedes every step of the way, from middle school to high school through college graduation to help her achieve the ultimate goal of attending her dream schools of either Harvard or Yale, where she hopes to become a successful lawyer and future donor to non-profit organizations, just like Breakthrough. But in the meantime, she shares, “I hope to get good grades in school and join the Junior Honor Society.”



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- Mercedes

Del Valle 6th graders at Presentations of Learning, Summer 2017



BREAKTHROUGH RECEIVES 2017 OUTSTANDING NONPROFIT AWARD

In late September, Breakthrough was honored to receive the 2017 Mission Capital Outstanding Nonprofit Award. This would not have been possible without your support! The award is presented to a stand-out organization whose relentless focus on results has created powerful progress for the Central Texas community and has demonstrated significant, measurable community impact, especially within the past year.



AUSTIN BUSINESS LEADERS SHARE CORPORATE GIVING STRATEGIES

In September, Austin business leaders gathered at Breakthrough's Corporate Partners Luncheon hosted by Silicon Labs. Chaired by Michele Walker-Moak of Applied Materials and moderated by Bill Bock of Silicon Labs, the event featured a panel of diverse companies who have implemented innovative philanthropic strategies to share their corporate giving and employee engagement models with local up-and-coming businesses, looking to develop or refine their philanthropic strategies.

Thank you to our panelists: Jen Alessandra (SolarWinds), Stephen Day (Navidar), Nikki Graham (Bank of America), Patrick Rose (Corridor Title), and Amity Courtois (Give Realty).

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

FARM CREDIT BANK OF TEXAS & ACCENTURE LEAD COLLEGE INTERN EFFORTS FOR FUTURE LEADERS

Over the past 8 years, Farm Credit Bank of Texas has supported Breakthrough through financial contributions, volunteer efforts, and by generously hosting Future Focus interns, as well as our Future Focus Presentations of Learning since 2015.

The Future Focus Internship Program has placed students who are enrolled in Breakthrough or the KIPP Through College Program in paid internships at more than 90 top performing companies. This unique program provides students with the foundation for a successful career, while creating an educated and diverse workforce for the Austin community.

This summer, Future Focus interns participated in Accenture's Skills to Succeed internship program, working on various areas of the technology consulting business. Accenture has been a proud Future Focus partner since the start of the program in 2011. A win-win strategy, the initiative gives young people with access to fewer resources invaluable professional experience and networking opportunities.

Alongside Farm Credit and Accenture, many other top-performing Austin companies opened their doors to host nearly 80 Future Focus interns this summer. These full-time, paid summer internships help Breakthrough college students pay for their education and lay the foundation for successful careers after graduation. The Austin community benefits from our homegrown talent contributing to our economy, especially in the technology sector which faces an ongoing talent shortage. We thank Farm Credit Bank of Texas, Accenture, and our Future Focus host companies who prepared first-generation college goers for their future careers.

INTERESTED IN BEING A BREAKTHROUGH CORPORATE PARTNER?

Corporate Partners can play a key role through a variety of opportunities including:

- Future Focus Internship Host
- Event Sponsor
- Corporate Council
- Matching Gifts
- Program Partner
- Group Volunteer Opportunities for Employees

For more information on how to get your company involved, contact Kate Garrett at kate@breakthroughctx.org.

ALGEBRA BY MIDDLE SCHOOL IMPROVES CHANCES OF COLLEGE SUCCESS

MATH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Many factors can predict future academic and career success. At the middle school level, the beginning of each student's Breakthrough experience, there are a number of indicators of secondary and post-secondary success, such as attendance, behavior, grades, and even the classes taken during those crucial years. Specifically, taking Algebra I in the 8th grade and Algebra II in the 9th grade correlate to greater success in post-secondary education.*



Breakthrough's summer program and year-round extended learning opportunities help prepare students for post-secondary success by providing academic support in areas such as Algebra. But, as always, this is a community effort. We are currently seeking Algebra Academic Coaches. Coaches will be paired with a middle or high school student to build a one-on-one mentoring relationship where you can provide individualized academic support in Algebra through weekly tutoring meetings and regular check-ins with a Breakthrough advisor.

Are you our next Algebra Academic Coach? All upper level math support is welcome. Contact Breakthrough's Volunteer Coordinator Elvira Marin at elvira@breakthroughctx.org for more information on how to apply.

*College and Career Readiness Institute, 2013

YOUR GIFT CAN HAVE AN EVEN LARGER IMPACT THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF AN ANONYMOUS DONOR

Recently, we shared the news of an anonymous supporter who donated the sale of a \$690,000 home to benefit Breakthrough. Below is a message from the donor about why he chose Breakthrough to receive such a large gift and how he hopes it can inspire more multi-year giving.

“When I realized we had an opportunity to work with Austin Community Foundation to sell this home and make a large investment in a nonprofit, we knew it had to be Breakthrough. My family grew up in West Austin. We were afforded so many opportunities. We know that the quality of life of our children and grandchildren is directly tied to the quality of life of the children and grandchildren living in East Austin. Breakthrough was the smartest investment we could make. My family and I are inspired by the long-term commitment these students make to their education, family, and their future and the 12-year commitment Breakthrough makes to help them achieve their college dreams. We hope our gift will encourage others to make a long-term investment in their success.”

New or renewed multi-year pledges of any amount will be matched dollar-for-dollar by this anonymous donor. For more information or to pledge your support, please contact Holly Wissmann at holly@breakthroughctx.org or 512.692.9444.

BEAT THE ODDS BENEFIT CONCERT

FEATURING PAT GREEN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, LIVE AT STUBB'S

VIP PARTY & PROGRAM 6 PM | CONCERT 8 PM



Breakthrough's 2017 Beat the Odds Benefit Concert will raise funds and awareness to support Breakthrough's mission of creating first-generation college graduates. The event will include a special performance by Grammy nominated, singer-songwriter and Texas favorite, Pat Green. The concert will be preceded by a VIP Cocktail Reception and Program. Sponsors and their guests will enjoy tickets to the show with access to a private viewing deck, valet parking, dedicated open bar, signature barbeque favorites, and VIP concert credentials. Join us for an unforgettable evening of music under the stars to support Breakthrough's programs and students.

VIP Tickets and General Admission tickets still available at Breakthroughctx.org.

PRESENTING SPONSORS



VISIONARY SPONSORS

THE BOCK FOUNDATION | KATIE & DIRK DOZIER | CAROLYN & JACK LONG | DIANA & GREGG LOWE | TIFFANY & MICHAEL NELS
CHERYL & WALT PENN | JUDY & HECTOR RUIZ | NEIL WEBBER | MARY GARWOOD YANCY & HOWARD YANCY



DREAM MAKER SPONSORS

AILEEN & MIKE AVILES | AMBER CARDEN | HANNAH TEMPLE & CHRISTOPHER SANDERS | MELBA & TED WHATLEY



For more information about Breakthrough's 2017 Beat the Odds Benefit Concert, please contact Kate Garrett at kate@breakthroughctx.org or 512.692.9444.



CREATING FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE GRADUATES



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