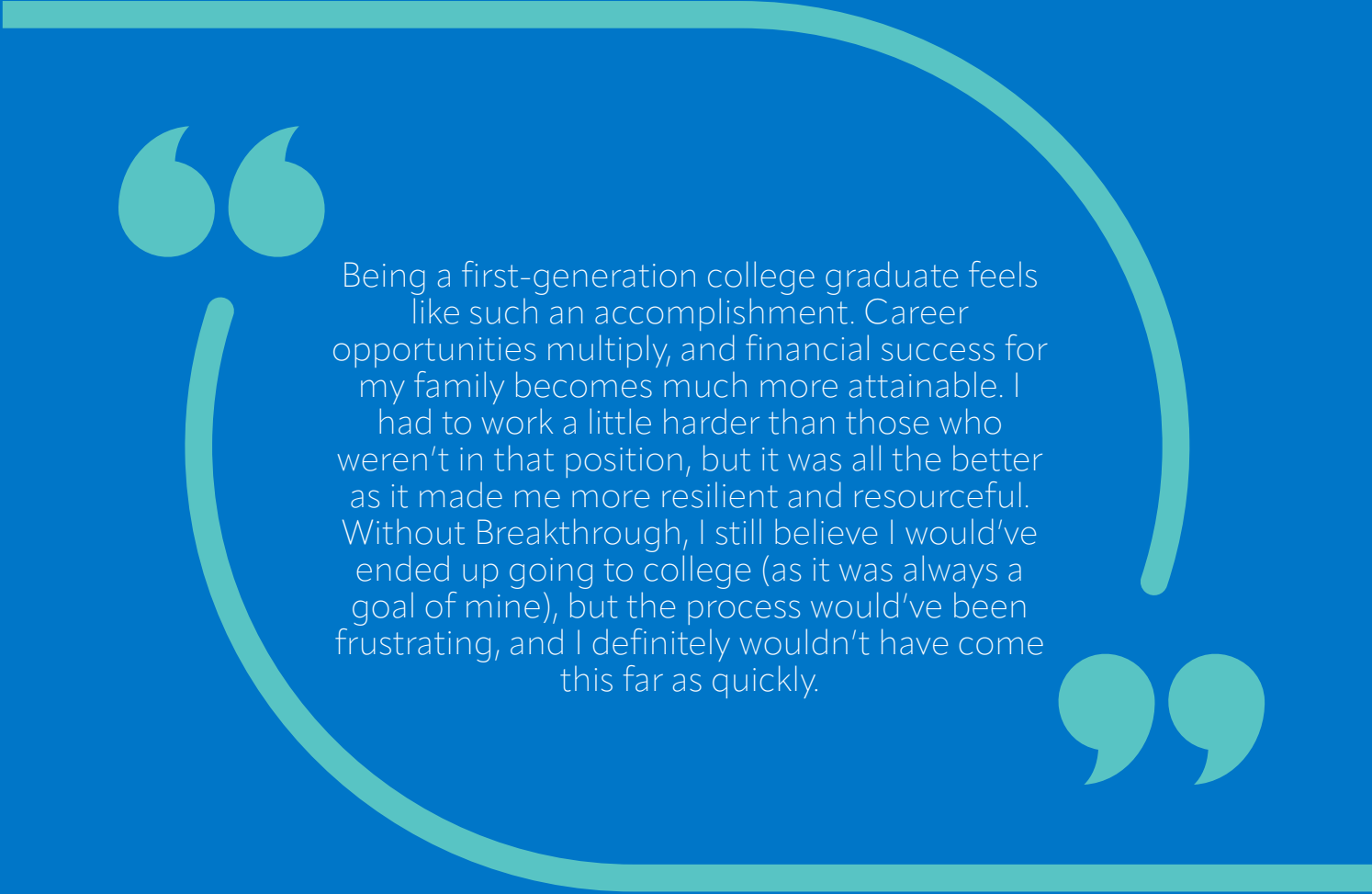


# 2023

IMPACT REPORT





“Being a first-generation college graduate feels like such an accomplishment. Career opportunities multiply, and financial success for my family becomes much more attainable. I had to work a little harder than those who weren't in that position, but it was all the better as it made me more resilient and resourceful. Without Breakthrough, I still believe I would've ended up going to college (as it was always a goal of mine), but the process would've been frustrating, and I definitely wouldn't have come this far as quickly.”

Dear Friends of Breakthrough,

For more than 20 years, we have partnered with thousands of middle and high school students who aspire to be the first in their family to graduate with a degree or certificate. We pride ourselves on making a radical, long-term commitment to students, to and through college, unlocking the true power of education and a lifetime of opportunity.

Over the years, we've been able to evolve from an organization not only impacting the lives of thousands of individual students and their families, but also transforming whole schools and championing policies that advance educational equity for all Central Texas students.

With your support, in 2023, we continued to build upon the past two decades of experience, guided by our vision for a more equitable Central Texas. Our community of Breakthrough students, families, volunteers, partners and donors, like you, showed up in numerous ways to ensure more than 3,200 Breakthrough students had the support they needed to forge their path to postsecondary success.

Together, we continued to build our 12-Year Experience, welcoming our first high school senior class in Del Valle ISD. We took the power of our Schoolwide Program to a new campus, expanding access to high-quality postsecondary advising in our region. We deepened partnerships with higher education institutions and honored the accomplishments of 69 new first-generation college graduates, who earned a college degree or certificate this year. And to end on a high note, we were named the 2023 Example of *Excelencia* for community-based organizations nationally for our work with Latino students – an incredible honor brought about by the efforts of this dedicated community.

As we celebrate the profound success of 2023, let's take a moment to look back. I hope that as you read Breakthrough's 2023 Impact Report, you are struck by the power of your support and are inspired to continue to stand alongside our students.

**THANK YOU** for being part of our journey. We look forward to an incredible 2024!

With gratitude,

Michael Griffith  
Executive Director



# 2023 AT-A-GLANCE



**Named the 2023 Example of Excelencia by Excelencia in Education**, the only national data-driven effort to recognize programs with evidence of effectiveness in supporting Latino success in higher education

*highlights*



**Activated pilot cohort of Breakthrough Student Advocacy Fellows** to advocate for college access and success policies directly to state leaders during the 88th Texas Legislative Session

**Continued build of 12-Year Experience** at Del Valle ISD with addition of the SAT/ACT preparation and launch of the college application process





**Expanded Schoolwide Program**  
to second campus at Austin ISD's  
Eastside Early College  
High School

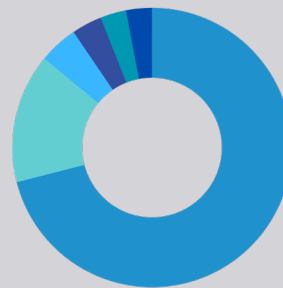
**Deepened partnerships**  
with St. Edward's University,  
Texas State University, and  
Austin Community College  
to serve postsecondary  
students at scale



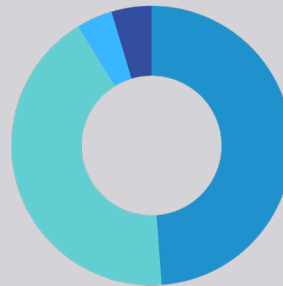
**3,236**  
**STUDENTS SERVED  
ACROSS CENTRAL TEXAS**



**STUDENT  
DEMOGRAPHICS**



- Latino/Hispanic (72%)
- Black/African American (15%)
- White/Non-Hispanic (4%)
- Two or More Races (3%)
- Asian or Asian American (3%)
- Other (3%)



- Female (53%)
- Male (46%)
- Nonbinary (.5%)
- Decline to State (.5%)

**89%** qualify for free or reduced lunch  
**57%** speak a language other than English at home



**353**  
**TOTAL FIRST-GENERATION  
COLLEGE GRADUATES & COUNTING**



**THE 12-YEAR EXPERIENCE**

In 2023, Breakthrough admitted hundreds of new students into our 12-Year Experience, celebrated our largest high school graduating class to date, welcomed our first Del Valle senior class and supported a record number of students transitioning into our College & Career Success program.

## WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE WERE ABLE TO...



Enroll an additional **252 middle school students** and serve 2,636 students in our 12-Year Experience



Support **1,786 middle school and high school students** attending 60+ public schools in Central Texas



Host **143 AmeriCorps Summer Teaching Fellows (59 of whom are Breakthrough students)** from around the country who chose to dedicate six weeks to lead their own classrooms



Engage more than **330 high school students during the summer**, offering multiple workshops for 10th, 11th and 12th graders to connect with peers, learn and build leadership skills, explore career and postsecondary pathways, and familiarize rising seniors with the college application process



Offer our six-week Summer Academy with over **300 hours of summer instruction for 553 middle school students**

## HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023

### 12-Year Experience



**217** graduating seniors



**1,070** colleges applications submitted



**632** unique college acceptances



**95%** graduated on time, compared to 88% of the most recent cohort of their Central Texas peers from low-income communities



**78%** enrolled directly into college, compared to 37% of the most recent cohort of their Central Texas peers from low-income communities





**BREAKTHROUGH SCHOOLWIDE**



In 2023, Breakthrough deepened regional impact through our Schoolwide Program by providing high-quality, in-school postsecondary advising for nearly 500 high school students, decreasing the counselor-to-students ratio to less than 1:75 (compared to the average 1:442 in Texas). We continued our year-round services for every junior and senior at our pilot campus, Manor New Tech High School, transitioned nearly one hundred students to our College & Career Success team and expanded services to a second campus.

## THE BREAKDOWN

### Manor New Tech High School

**301**

students served

**82**

seniors in the Class of 2023

### Breakthrough Schoolwide Class of 2023



**99%** of students completed their financial aid applications



**90%** of students enrolled directly into college, compared to 56% prior to the program launch



**43%** of students enrolled into a four-year college, compared to 35% prior to the program launch

## EXPANDING FOR GREATER IMPACT

### Launching Breakthrough Schoolwide at Eastside Early College High School

In 2023, we took all we had learned from the success of our pilot location to a new partner in Central Texas: Austin ISD's Eastside Early College High School. We partnered with campus faculty and administration to build the school's capacity by creating systems and structures to support every student to postsecondary success. Through the combination of these capacity-building services and student advising, Breakthrough launched our newest Schoolwide Program in November, advising our first class of 162 juniors on campus.

“

Many Breakthrough students I've connected with have been with BT since they were middle schoolers, which wasn't the case for me. I joined in the middle of a pandemic through the Schoolwide Program. I remember my classmates and I receiving emails and Zoom invites from the Schoolwide Program and thinking, "Who are these people?" Looking back now, I can confidently say that I wouldn't be where I am today without the Schoolwide team. My advisor gave me just the right amount of tough love and guidance, hosting events at our high school, connecting me with resources, walking me through various applications, breaking everything down to my family. But above all else, I am most grateful to Breakthrough for pushing me to advocate for myself and holding space for me to be a human and not just a student and achiever.

### LEVA MOKHTARI

Breakthrough College Student  
St. Edward's University





**COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS**

In 2023, Breakthrough's College & Career Success services remained our fastest growing resource. With the addition of the High School Class of 2023 from both our 12-Year Experience and Schoolwide Program, our College & Career Success team served more than 950 students pursuing postsecondary pathways – a 16% increase from just the year before.

## WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE WERE ABLE TO..

- **Begin college advising to 299 high school graduates** from our 12 Year Experience & Schoolwide Program
- **Place 125 students in summer and year-round internships** through our Breakthrough Internship Network
- **Celebrate 69 first-generation college graduates** who earned their postsecondary degree or certificate



## PARTNERING FOR GREATER IMPACT

Breakthrough continued to deepen our partnerships with key institutions of higher education, taking innovations such as peer mentor and co-advising services piloted at St. Edward's University and expanding them to Texas State University and Austin Community College. Through these partnerships, we were able to provide custom orientations for Breakthrough students at each campus.



## BREAKTHROUGH'S COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS PROGRAM NAMED THE 2023 EXAMPLE OF EXCELENCIA

Each year, Examples of *Excelencia* are chosen for their intentionality and evidence of effectiveness in improving outcomes for Latino students through culturally responsive, data-driven efforts. Breakthrough's College & Career Success Program was honored at the community-based organization level and named the 2023 Example of *Excelencia*. Breakthrough was selected from a group of 19 finalists that were gathered from 103 program profile submissions that represented 20 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.



# POLICY ADVOCACY

In 2023, Breakthrough continued to engage in policy advocacy at the legislative, institutional and internal levels. Our efforts included influencing federal, state and local policymaking, supporting institutional change at middle schools, high schools, and colleges and universities in our region, and developing and implementing better internal practices within Breakthrough.

## 2023 POLICY PRIORITIES



### Ensure excellent educational opportunities for K-12 students

- Ensure fair funding for all schools
- Address the teacher shortage
- Promote inclusive school climates and curriculum

### Promote higher education affordability in Texas

- Increase investment in the state's community colleges and four-year postsecondary institutions
- Increase state investment in need-based financial aid
- Allocate federal and state funding for emergency aid to college students

### Support all students to prepare for and succeed in college and career

- Provide effective college preparation for young Texans
- Reduce barriers to college admission
- Support the mental and physical health of postsecondary students

## BREAKTHROUGH ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN 4 COALITIONS IN 2023.



**CENTRAL TEXAS  
COLLEGE ATTAINMENT  
NETWORK**



Texas Legislative Education  
Equity Coalition



**NATIONAL  
COLLEGE  
ATTAINMENT  
NETWORK**



## STUDENT ADVOCACY FELLOWS

As part of our policy and advocacy practice, Breakthrough activated a pilot cohort of five Advocacy Fellows. They spent the year learning about state policy related to college access and success, building on and employing strategic communication and advocacy skills, and used their voices to advocate directly to state leaders during the 88th legislative session.

### Over the course of Texas's 88th Regular Legislative Session, Advocacy Fellows:

- Participated in 15 panels, events, or days of action
- Submitted written & oral public testimony or comment on 9 occasions
- Met with over a dozen legislative offices to advocate on target bills and priorities

Learn more at [BreakthroughCTX.org/Advocacy-Fellows](https://BreakthroughCTX.org/Advocacy-Fellows)



## BREAKTHROUGH PARTNERS WITH THE EDUCATION TRUST & YOUNG INVINCIBLES TO ORGANIZE THE TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)



The SAC is a group of over a dozen community college students from across the state, comprising of Breakthrough students and other first-generation college students, student parents, returning veterans, and adult learners from both rural and urban areas who actively engaged in the work of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance and 88th legislative session. The council gives community college students a voice in shaping education policies and practices across the state. Its members have served as a bridge between students and decision-makers to provide valuable feedback and insights on issues that shape their educational experiences.

**As a result, the SAC played a pivotal role in the creation and passage of House Bill 8 (HB8), which will invest \$678.6 million in affordability and outcomes for community college students across Texas, especially students from low-income backgrounds.**

Scan to read more or visit  
<https://edtrust.org/p/61981>.



# THE STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT FUND

In a recent survey of Breakthrough high school graduates and college students, roughly one third of students reported food and housing insecurity, and more than half reported mental health issues. The Student & Family Support Fund provides temporary financial relief, gap tuition assistance, and mental health services, helping families avert more serious hardships and fortifying students on their postsecondary path.

**87%** of Breakthrough students who received Student & Family Support Funds for college completion in 2023 persisted to the next semester or graduated

## STUDENTS SUPPORTED

**555 STUDENTS**

Received Direct Support from the Student & Family Support Fund

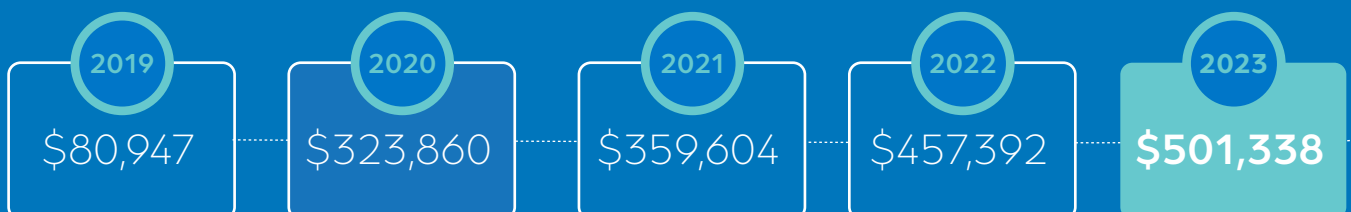
**438**

Received Financial Assistance

**117**

Utilized No-Cost Mental Health Services

## HISTORY & GROWTH





Student and Family Support Funds go on to assist families facing housing and food insecurities and overall act as preventative measures. It is especially helpful since many resources outside the Breakthrough community have strict eligibility criteria or take time to approve. Breakthrough can act quicker, and the support can stop families from experiencing an eviction, a situation that not only affects their immediate housing options but also hinders our students' ability to pursue their educational goals.



Christina Hillard  
Student Advising & Program Coordinator

## BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES

**\$501,338**



45%  
Mental Health Services



18%  
Rental/Housing & Utilities  
Assistance



17%  
Tuition & Textbook  
Assistance



8%  
Professional Services  
(Legal Aid, Tax Preparation,  
Technology Support, and  
Transportation)



6%  
Grocery  
Assistance

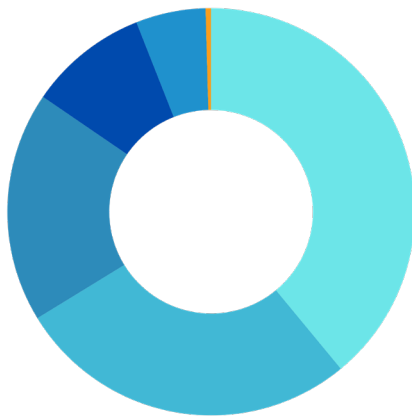


6%  
Direct Financial  
Assistance

# FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2023, more than 930 community members and partners invested \$9,150,980 in Breakthrough Central Texas to help us create a path to and through college for students who will become the first in their families to earn a college degree. Your support of Breakthrough helped provide Central Texas youth with the guidance and the support they need to persist toward their dream of earning a postsecondary degree to change the trajectory of their family forever.

## SUPPORT & REVENUE



Individuals	\$3,570,210
Government	\$2,492,449
Foundations/Organizations	\$1,674,129
Corporations	\$867,327
Fee for service	\$507,000
Promise Fund Disbursement	\$39,866
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,150,980</b>

## EXPENSES



Programs & Services	\$7,777,068
Fundraising & Admin	\$1,506,316
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,283,384</b>

## THE PROMISE FUND

Approximately twenty-percent of the funds raised through The Breakthrough Challenge campaign were designated to establish The Promise Fund, an endowment to help ensure Breakthrough can always fulfill the 12-year promise we make to our students.

### Endowment Fund Financial Report for December 31, 2022 through December 31, 2023:

Market Value as of December 31, 2022 .....	\$1,327,604
Gifts Received .....	\$249,142
Income and Investment Gains/Losses .....	\$204,790
Market Value as of December 31, 2023 .....	\$1,781,536



# OUR PEOPLE

## STAFF SNAPSHOT



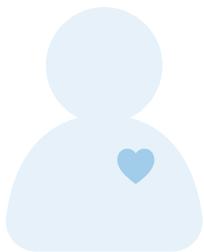
**29**  
Full-Time  
AmeriCorps Members

**20**  
Summer  
Instructional Coaches

**143**  
Summer AmeriCorps  
Teaching Fellows



## VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT



**371**

volunteers supporting  
staff & students

### 2023 Board of Trustees

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Tito Vidaurri, *Treasurer*  
Monica Maldonado Williams  
Kristen Worrall

# CLASS OF 2023

Breakthrough Graduates earned a degree or certificate in 2023

**Adrian Quezada**  
Skillpoint Alliance

**Alessandra Ovalle**  
Texas A&M University

**Alexander L. Silva**  
Skillpoint Alliance

**Alexis Hernandez**  
Texas A&M College Station

**Alicia Tierrablanca**  
Texas State University

**Alyssa Castillo**  
Emory University

**Alyssa Ybarra**  
Texas Tech University

**Amayha Hart**  
University of Texas San Antonio

**Amirica Luckie**  
Texas State University

**April Hernandez**  
Texas State University

**Arleth Tierrablanca**  
University of North Texas

**Becky Lopez**  
Baldwin Beauty School

**Brian Martinez**  
Austin Community College

**Brian Velazquez-Parache**  
University of Texas San Antonio

**Bryan Rangel**  
University of Texas Austin

**Da'Keondrick Whitley**  
University of Texas Austin

**Danna Gonzalez Lopez**  
Goodwill Career Technology Academy

**Demetria Brown**  
Goodwill Career Technology Academy

**Efrain Carrizales Ponce**  
Austin Community College

**Daniel Garibay**  
Texas A&M University

**Emily Jaimes Rogel**  
Houston Baptist University

**Emmanuel Govea Chavez**  
Austin Community College

**Erik Benitez**  
Des Moines Community College

**Fidelmar Martinez**  
Skillpoint Alliance

**Hector Cantu**  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Hiram Ruiz Monroy**  
Southern Careers Institute

**Immaculee Munguyuko**  
University of Texas Austin

**Isaac Jimenez**  
University of Texas Austin

**Isaiah Gutierrez**  
Texas State University

**Ivan Navarrete**  
Texas State University

**James Whitehead**  
BeVelle Barber School

**Jazmin Lopez**  
University of Texas Austin

**Jeffrey Inthasane**  
Austin Community College

**Jessica Reyes**  
St. Edward's University

**Jessica Romero**  
University of Texas San Antonio

**Jocelyn Bahena**  
Goodwill Career Technology Academy

**Joel Dominguez**  
Independent Electrical Contractors

**Jose Duran**  
Austin Community College

**Juan Chavez**  
Texas Tech University

**Juan Reyes Jr.**  
Austin Community College

**Kaitlyn Mills**  
St. Edward's University

**Karolyn Leal**  
University of Texas Austin

**Kevin Abarca Silva**  
Austin Community College

**Kyra Savannah**  
University of Texas San Antonio

**Litzy Rea-Valdez**  
University of North Texas

**Marco Saucedo Jr.**  
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

**Marisol Diaz**  
Texas State University

**Maury Cespedes**  
Texas Tech University

**May Tun**  
University of Texas San Antonio

**Mia Guerra**  
Texas State University

**Michelle Nguyen**  
Southwestern University

**Monisa Smith**  
Austin Community College

**Natalie Renteria**  
Texas State University

**Nathan Rodriguez-Rosales**  
Austin Community College

**Nicholas Peralta**  
Skillpoint Alliance

**Nyja Harris**  
Huston-Tillotson University

**Olga Barahona**  
Austin Community College

**Olivia Dudley**  
University of Houston

**Paulina Ramirez Trujillo**  
Austin Community College

**Precious Obasi**  
University of Texas Austin

**Ricardo Chavez**  
Angelo State University

**Rocio Samaniego Zuniga**  
Texas State University

**Rodrigo Barrientos**  
Texas State University

**Samantha Delgado Torres**  
Texas State University

**Samyog Budha Magar**  
Austin Community College

**Sierra Soriano**  
Texas State University

**Sobeida Degante**  
Texas A&M University

**Tiffany Guerra**  
Texas State University

**Yarely Ortiz**  
Texas State University

**Yasmin Gonzalez Morales**  
University of Texas San Antonio

**Yesenia Hernandez**  
University of North Texas

**Zephyra Hay**  
University of North Texas

**Zion Hipolito**  
YearUp



## ALUMNI NETWORK COUNCIL

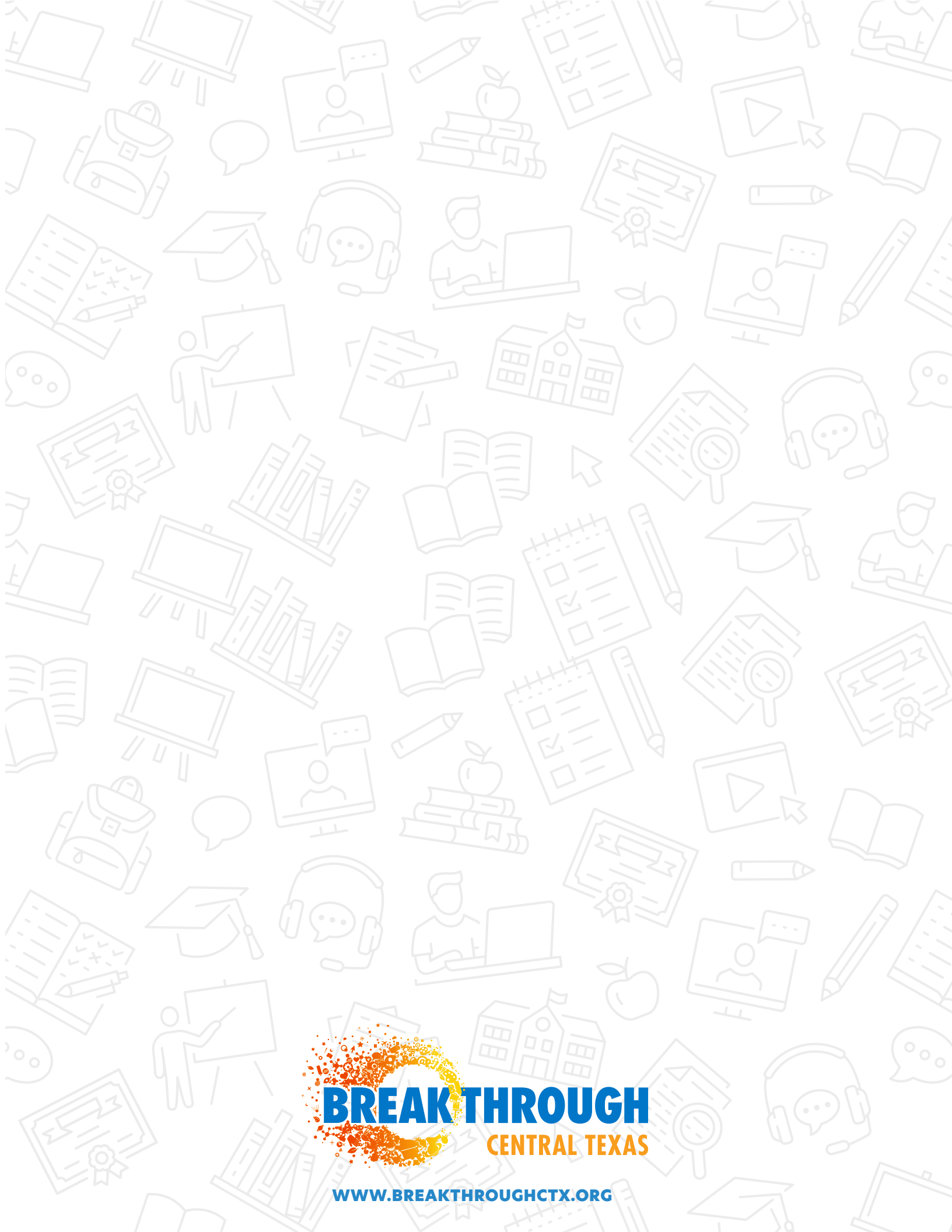
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Gloria Perez  
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**BREAKTHROUGH**

**CENTRAL TEXAS**

[WWW.BREAKTHROUGHCTX.ORG](http://WWW.BREAKTHROUGHCTX.ORG)