

2024

IMPACT REPORT





Breakthrough helped me a lot. From field trips, to staying educated, to learning more about different colleges and really starting to think professionally – not only about school, but life afterwards as well. I thank every single one of my advisors for their support and ongoing love they always send to me and my family. From day one it has been nothing but kindness and a family environment. It took me growing up, but once I did, I truly came to appreciate all they have done.

on the cover

Prince Umanmielen

Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, Tarleton State University, 2022

Master of Education in Sports Administration, East Central University, 2024

Dear Breakthrough Community,

Over the past two decades, we've had the honor of partnering with thousands of middle and high school students who aspire to be the first in their families to earn a college degree or certificate. As we continue this important work, we take pride in reflecting on the remarkable journey we've shared with these students, their families, our partners, and the communities that have supported us along the way.

Building upon this momentum, 2024 became a year of extraordinary growth and advancement. Together, we welcomed the first senior class at Eastside Early College High School, marking a new chapter in our Schoolwide Program. We celebrated our first class of high school graduates from Del Valle ISD, as well as the incredible achievements of 87 new first-generation college graduates—each one a testament to resilience and tenacity.

In the summer, we took another exciting step forward, moving from our longtime 11th Street headquarters to a larger space at 5th & Tillery. This new location now houses over 100 employees and AmeriCorps members working together to expand our reach and continue our support. And to end on a high note, we were named the 2024 FAVE Local Nonprofit by the Austin Young Chamber, an award that celebrates the resilience, adaptability, and innovation that define us.

As all of this unfolded, we were busy planning for the future. We finalized a new strategic plan to ensure that we continue to make an even greater impact in the years to come. We are entering a pivotal chapter, with an ambitious strategy for the next five years.

By 2029, we aim to:

- Triple the number of Breakthrough students graduating from college each year
- Nearly double the number of students engaged in Breakthrough
- Admit more than 3,000 new middle school and high school students
- Expand the Schoolwide Program to an additional high school campus
- Provide 600 Summer Teaching Fellows and Student Advocacy Fellows with invaluable experience, fueling a diverse pipeline of future educators and community leaders

As you read through Breakthrough's 2024 Impact Report, I hope you'll see the profound impact of your support in every student's journey and feel inspired to continue standing with us as we work to create lasting change.

Thank you for being such an essential part of our story!

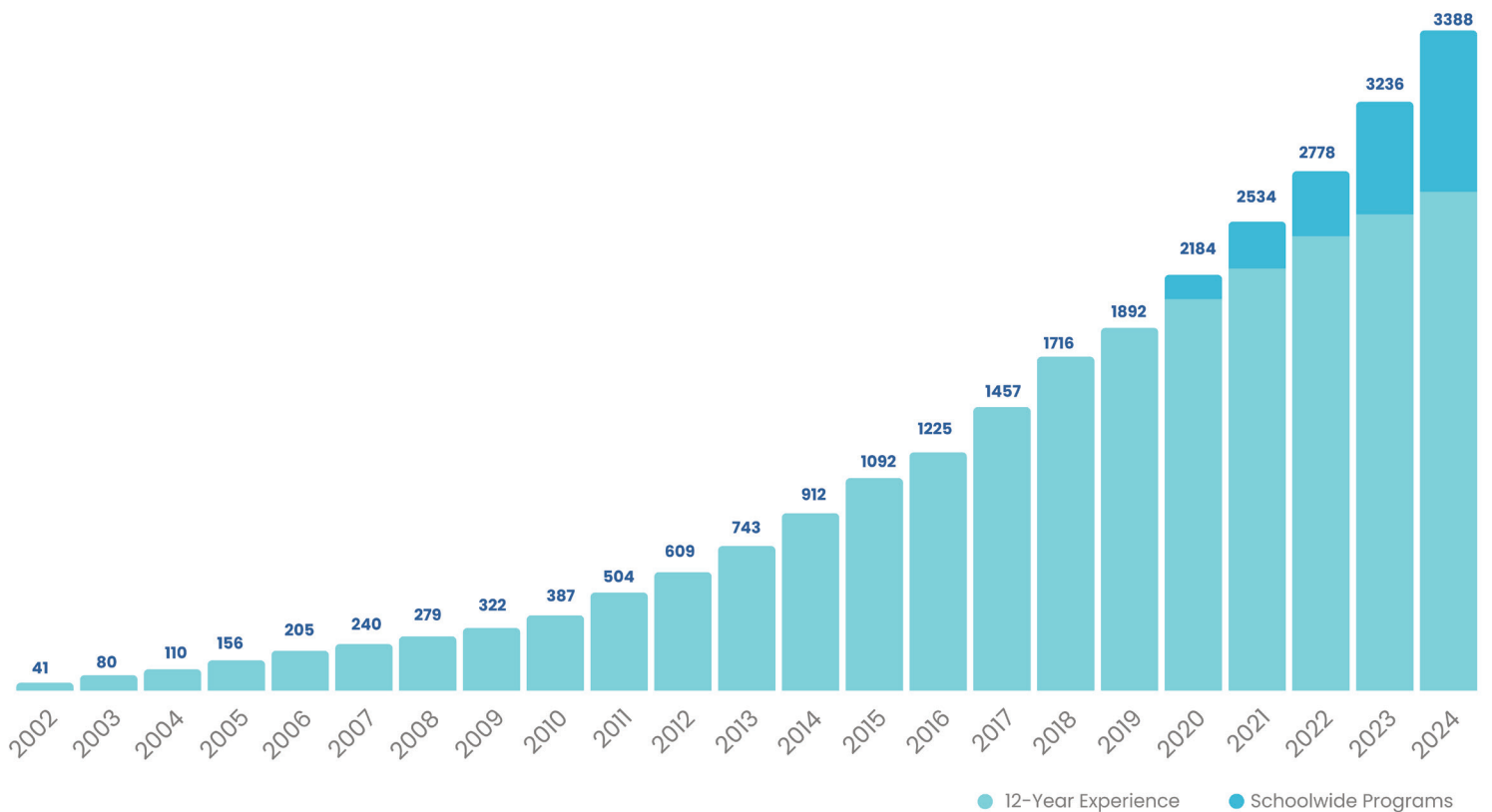
With gratitude,



Michael Griffith
Executive Director



2024 BREAKTHROUGH IMPACT



More than 742 community members and partners invested \$11,104,155 in Breakthrough Central Texas to help us create a path to college and career success for students who will become the first in their families to earn a college degree or certificate.

3,388

Central Texas
students served

600+

newly admitted
students

478

first-generation
college graduates &
counting



Breakthrough made its national debut on **PBS News**, shining a spotlight on our mission to elevate student voices and advocate for greater college access opportunities.



Bank of America announced Breakthrough as one of its 2024 **Neighborhood Builders**, receiving \$200,000 to help families build generational wealth through higher education, skills development, and job training.



Breakthrough was named the 2024 **FAVE Local Nonprofit** by the **Austin Young Chamber**, an award that celebrates the resilience, adaptability, and innovation that define us.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

In 2024, we supported middle school students in our 12-Year Experience with a range of programs that nurtured their academic growth and personal development. Our one-on-one advising ensured that each student had a dedicated, knowledgeable advisor who served as their personal advocate, guiding them from middle school through high school transition.

The Middle School Summer Academy offered a six-week, full-day experience with college-prep courses, STEM-focused learning, electives, meals, and field trips. During the school year, students participated in Saturday Programs to boost academic skills and build community, while our After-School Hours provided a safe space for enrichment, book clubs, study groups, and peer connection.

With your support, we were able to...



Admit 329 new students into our 12-Year Experience Program



Support 639 middle school students across Austin, Manor and Del Valle ISD



Offer our six-week Summer Academy to hundreds of students to prepare them academically and emotionally for the next school year



Provide 225 academic support events including after school hours, Saturday programming, field trips, and more



Survey results from participants in the Middle School Summer Academy showed 94% of students and parents surveyed express satisfaction with Breakthrough's program

HIGH SCHOOL



Breakthrough’s Schoolwide Program has had a transformative impact on our scholars’ postsecondary preparation and long-term success, particularly at Eastside Early College High School. The program’s design—rooted in sustained, individualized support—has effectively bridged gaps that often hinder low-income and first-generation scholars from accessing and thriving in higher education.

Dr. Susan Thames, Principal at Eastside Early College High School

Breakthrough provides high school students in our 12-Year Experience and Schoolwide Program with a unified pathway to postsecondary and career success. Students in the **12-Year Experience** participate in summer institutes that build leadership, communication, college, and career readiness skills, while receiving personalized advising and tutoring during the school year to support academic progress and postsecondary planning. **Schoolwide Program** students receive comprehensive, year-round postsecondary advising creating capacity-building support for participating high schools.

We provide support to all high school students throughout the college admissions process, offering help with essays, applications, financial aid, and test prep. Students and families join workshops on scholarships, loans, and FAFSA/TASFA, and work with volunteer Application Coaches. Students also explore college and career options through campus visits, internships, and hands-on experiences.

With your support, we were able to...

12-Year Experience



Support **969 high school students** in Austin, Manor & Del Valle ISD



Graduate the **first senior class** from Del Valle ISD



Engage **hundreds of high school students** during the summer through grade-specific institutes

Schoolwide Program



Support **559 juniors and seniors** at Manor New Tech & Eastside Early College High Schools



Welcome the **first senior class** at Eastside Early College High School



Maintain an average of **1:60 advisor-to-student ratio**—well below the 1:390 state average



Host **247 high school events** for students in our 12-Year Experience & Schoolwide Programs to prepare for postsecondary pathways

CLASS OF 2024

391

graduating seniors

97%

graduated high school on time

89%

enrolled directly into college



I didn't realize how much I needed that support until this year when I attempted college on my own. I thought I could handle it all by myself because my confidence had been rising from my achievements—getting certified in manufacturing, for instance. I thought it would be a breeze, but I was wrong. My dream school rejected me, and I was devastated. I had limited my options because I was sure of my acceptance, but Breakthrough didn't give up on me. They kept me searching for the next best thing. In the end, with their help, I found my future.

Anthony | Del Valle ISD Graduate



**COLLEGE &
CAREER SUCCESS**

In 2024, Breakthrough’s College & Career Success (CCS) services continued to be our fastest growing resource, supporting college students through a robust network of programs designed to help them persist on their postsecondary journey.

Year-round, our **comprehensive advising** ensured students received individualized guidance on academics, financial planning, and accessing key resources. Our **summer programming** offered focused support during critical transitions—whether helping new college students navigate enrollment, empowering sophomores to overcome the challenges of their second year or helping students successfully transfer between institutions and stay on track toward graduation. Through the **Breakthrough Internship Network**, students gained vital professional skills and real-world experience via paid summer internships in Austin and beyond.

With your support, we were able to..



Transition 325 high school graduates to the CCS Program from 12 Year Experience & Schoolwide Programs and Serve 1,221 students pursuing postsecondary pathways

Host 10 custom orientations for incoming freshmen at partner institutions of higher education including Austin Community College, Texas State University, St. Edward’s University and more



Place 96 students in summer and year-round internships through the Breakthrough Internship Network



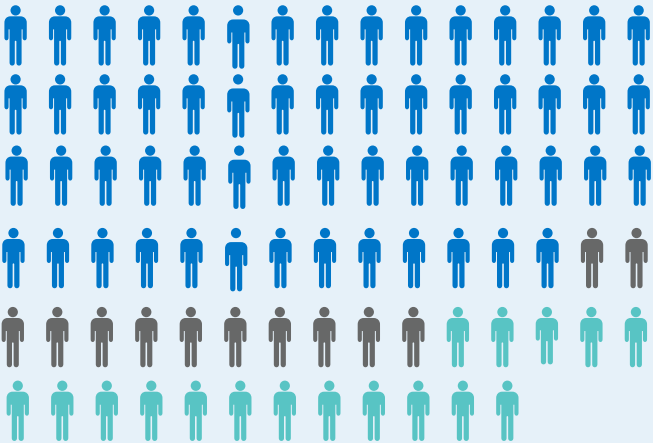
Host 13 professional development sessions for over 200 students through the Breakthrough Internship Network, covering resume building, interview skills, and other career readiness topics



Celebrate 87 new first-generation college graduates who earned a postsecondary degree or certificate

TOTAL GRADS

478
... & counting



■ Bachelor's ■ Associate ■ Certificate

POLICY & ADVOCACY

In 2024, 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 practices within Breakthrough's own direct service model.

With your support, we were able to:

Build on the momentum of our pilot Advocacy Fellows cohort by **launching the Breakthrough Research and Policy Internship in Spring 2024**. Four Breakthrough college students researched how affordability challenges and opportunities impact first-generation students' postsecondary success in Central Texas.

Host and participate in various events, including two statewide convenings on addressing college students' basic needs, and a panel on the Higher Ed Immigration Portal's K-12 Advising Guide.

Collaborate closely with state and national partners to improve the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Remain a leading partner in the Texas Community College Student Advisory Council, by speaking at higher education conferences, testifying at Senate subcommittee hearings, and engaging with media to spotlight community college pathways across Texas.

Actively participate in **five key coalitions and initiatives**



THE STUDENT & FAMILY SUPPORT FUND

Through our Student & Family Support Fund, **406 students received direct support** – 336 of them were for financial assistance and 70 utilized no-cost mental health services.

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

\$428,528



47%
Mental Health
Services



29%
Tuition & Fees



16%
Basic Needs

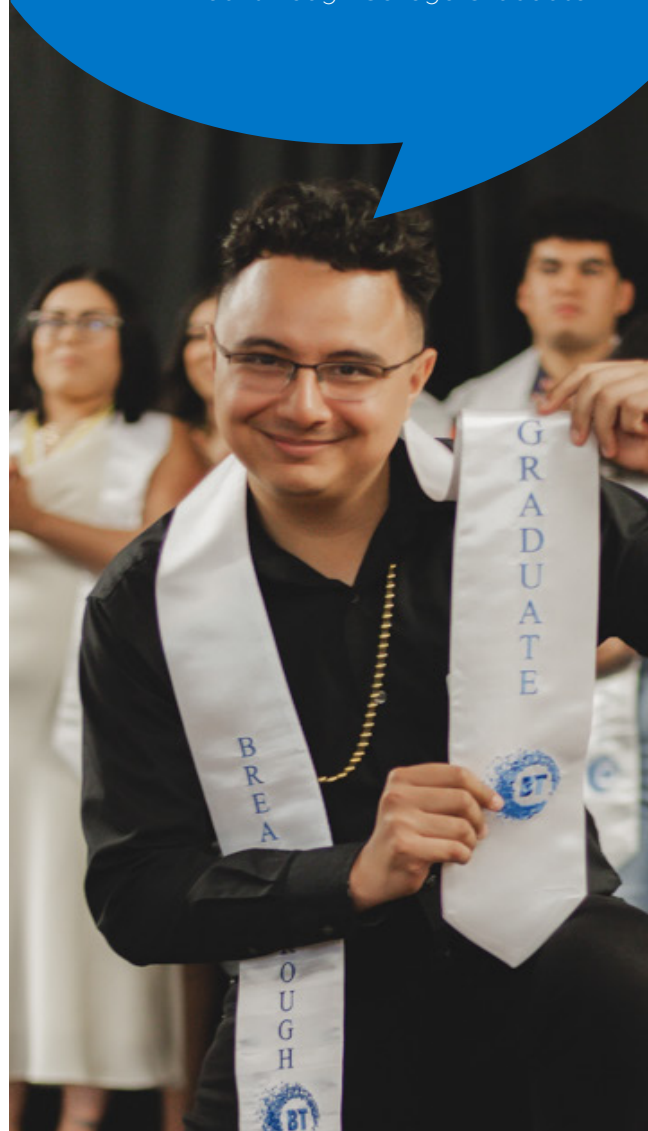


8%
Cash Assistance



As a Research and Policy Intern with Breakthrough last year, I gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by those who are the first in their families to earn a degree — challenges that went beyond my own. Analyzing student surveys and leading focus groups with nearly a dozen students, I realized the emotional toll many experience as they strive to meet basic needs while managing family responsibilities and the demands of earning a degree. I also saw how barriers like housing instability and financial strain are not only pervasive but often go unnoticed. It became clear that targeted interventions, such as emergency financial assistance and tailored academic resources, are essential to ensuring that students not only access college but thrive once there.

Ricky Lefranc Pierantozzi
Breakthrough College Graduate



MARIA

4X TEACHING FELLOW



I am so proud to be a part of this beautiful community as a student and teaching fellow. I enjoy giving back to Breakthrough because of everything it has done for me over the years. I also hope to make the same impact on these middle schoolers. Every time we have field trips, teacher vs student volleyball, pie days, and celebrations it brings me back to when I was in middle school experiencing these things for the first time and never wanting it to be my last.

OUR PEOPLE



72

Full-Time Staff



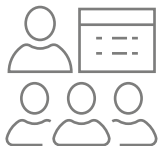
28

Full-Time
AmeriCorps Members



18

Summer
Instructional Coaches



117

Summer AmeriCorps
Teaching Fellows



271

volunteers



Alumni Network Council

Staff Liaison
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Co-Chairs
Javier Ramirez
Jabrell Scott

Mackenzie Alexander
Carlos Alpuche
Karen Alpuche
Jeyner Canaca
Julian Castaneda
Nyja Harris

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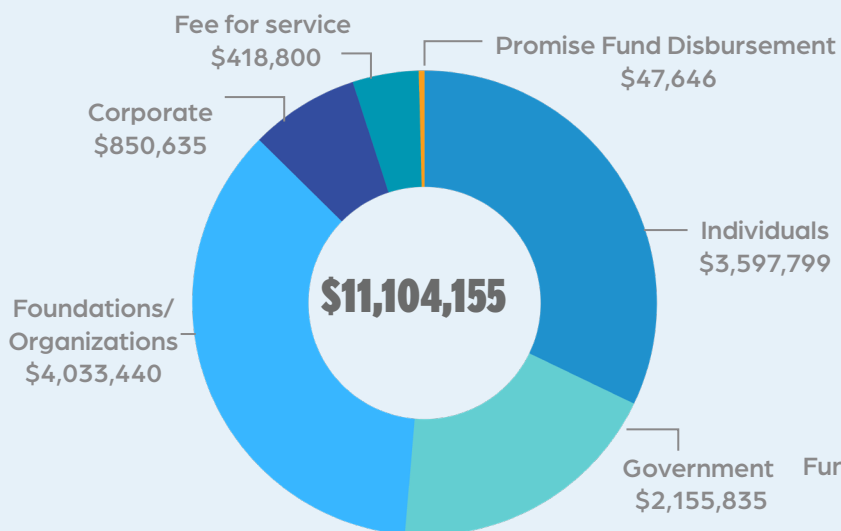
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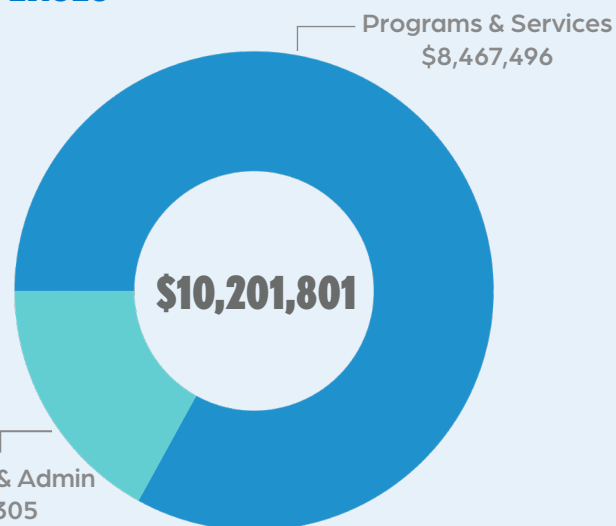
FINANCIAL REPORT



SUPPORT & REVENUE



EXPENSES





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, 2023 through December 31, 2024:

Market Value as of December 31, 2023	\$1,781,536
Gifts Received	\$57,848
Income and Investment Gains/Losses	\$148,082
Market Value as of December 31, 2024	\$1,953,166

CLASS OF 2024

Breakthrough Graduates earned a degree or certificate in 2024

Aaliyah Gutierrez Cano
St. Edward's University

Alejandro Tejada
Texas State University

Alice Timugura
The University of Texas at Austin

Alondra Silva
Texas Tech University

Amaris Ochoa
Texas State University

Analicia Castillo
Texas State University

Angel Ojeda
College of Health Care Professions

Ariah Rivera
The University of Texas at Austin

Ariana Burgos
Austin Community College

Augustine Ambrose Habintege
Skillpoint Alliance

Berenice Martinez
The University of Texas at Austin

Breon Ray
Austin Community College

Brian T. Djomatou
Skillpoint Alliance

Carolina Jimenez Mendoza
Sam Houston State University

Celeste Robertson
St. Edward's University

Chad Miller
Angelo State University

Charmira Maxwell
Texas A&M University Galveston

Christopher Mejia Gutierrez
The University of Texas at Austin

Corinne Cromeans
American Public University System

Cynthia Salinas
St. Edward's University

Da'Shyra Cleveland
University of Texas at San Antonio

Denia Perez Gutierrez
Phlebotomy USA

Diahvyon Wood
Prairie View A&M University

E'Maurai Glass
University of Texas at San Antonio

Edher Raunel Reyes-Romero
Austin Community College

Eduardo Garcia
The University of Texas at Austin

Emanuel Cruz-Barrera
Universal Technical Institute

Fernando Aguilar
Austin Community College

Fernando Fermin
St. Edward's University

Flor Urquiza
Baldwin Beauty School

Francis Carbajal-Ramos
University of North Texas

Gabriela Rojas
Texas State University

Gaudencia Elizabeth Garcia Lopez
Texas State University

Gerardo Benitez Ugarte
St. Edward's University

Isayris Hinojosa-Sanchez
Texas State University

Jacqueline Grimaldo-Hernandez
St. Edward's University

Jada E. Davenport
Avenue Five Institute

Janeth Aviles
Texas A&M University College Station

Javier Villa-Rangel
St. Edward's University

Jennifer Benitez
The University of Texas at Austin

Jennifer Jaimes
Texas State University

Jeremiah Thompson
The University of Texas at Austin

Jesus Uresti-Mireles
University of Texas at San Antonio

Joel Martinez
Texas Tech University

Jordan Olea-Iniguez
St. Edward's University

Jose Garduno
Austin Community College

Joshua Ramirez Galindo
Impact Barber Academy

Juliet Alejandra Serna
Austin Community College

Julio Damian Gutierrez
Austin Community College

Kamryn Wooten
Texas A&M University College Station

Katelyn Martinez
Paul Mitchell Cosmetology & Beauty School

Kelita Aleman
Prairie View A&M University

Kevin Amaro
University of Texas at Dallas

Kiana Dean
Texas Woman's University

Leonardo Lopez-Barrientos
St. Edward's University

Lisandro Silva
Universal Technical Institute

Lluvia Santana
Texas State University

Mandy Chan
Texas A&M University College Station

Marco Zavaleta
Texas State University

Maria Grimaldo
St. Edward's University

Maria Rangel
Trinity University

Maurice Robert Johnson
Tesla START

Michael Martinez
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Miranda Galvan
Austin College

Nancy Yecenia Ramirez
St. Edward's University

Natalie Davis
Southwestern College

Neal Gandhi
University of Texas at Dallas

Nijya Willis
Austin Community College

Nishan Sunar
Tesla START

Noemi Nova-Nunez
Austin Community College

Pedro D. Barrera
Austin Community College

Ricardo Gomez
Austin Community College

Rodrige Mumbili
Huston-Tillotson University

Sabrina Macedo
The University of Texas at Austin

Sahian Salas
Texas Woman's University

Salvador Gloria Moreno
The University of Texas at Austin

Sara Amanda Berglund
Austin Community College

Shahain Degante
St. Edward's University

Sofia Mendoza
CyberTex Institute of Technology

Stephany Uriostegui
The University of Texas at Austin

Sydney Denmon
Prairie View A&M University

Tiffany Cromeans
St. Edward's University

Victor Alfonso Posada, Jr.
Tesla START

Yael Sanchez
Concordia University

Yessenia Torres Aguilar
Austin Community College

Zulema Velez-Ventura
Texas Christian University





SCAN TO VIEW

**Breakthrough's
2024-2029 Strategic Plan**

or visit BreakthroughCTX.org/Impact

@breakthroughctx



BREAKTHROUGH
CENTRAL TEXAS

BREAKTHROUGHCTX.ORG