

BREAKTHROUGH CENTRAL TEXAS

# 2025

IMPACT REPORT





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Becoming a first-generation college graduate feels incredibly rewarding and meaningful. When I first joined the program, I was a first-gen student trying to navigate everything on my own, but over time my parents also earned their degrees in healthcare. Knowing that I played a part in motivating them to pursue their own education makes this achievement even more special. I'm extremely proud to have reached this milestone, not only for myself but for my family as well. Being part of Breakthrough has made a huge difference. It gave me the guidance, encouragement, and support that I wouldn't have had otherwise.



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on the cover

**Rofiat**

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology  
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

# message from

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# MICHAEL GRIFFITH



### Dear Breakthrough Community,

Every year, our students remind us of the power of possibility. They step into classrooms, summer programs, and advising relationships with curiosity, courage, and determination—and in doing so, they show us what it means to dream boldly, work tirelessly, and transform their own futures. At Breakthrough, we have the honor of walking alongside them, supporting their journey from middle school to college and beyond, and witnessing the extraordinary impact of every student who comes through our programs.

In 2025, we continued advancing the goals of our 2024–2029 Strategic Impact Plan. One of the year’s major milestones was the launch of our Pathways to Opportunity Campaign, a \$30 million accelerator fund that will triple the number of Breakthrough students graduating college and nearly double the number of students engaged by 2029. Alongside this initiative, we achieved numerous other milestones that will continue to strengthen student success and advance our mission.

### Together, we...

- **Expanded student access** by welcoming 600 new students to our Schoolwide and 12-Year Experience Programs.
- **Advanced high school and college success** by supporting 500 high school seniors through graduation and celebrating 174 students who received postsecondary degrees, bringing the total to more than 600 graduates.
- **Strengthened staff and program capacity** by adding 7 new year-round staff roles (bringing the team to 110) and training 6 Student Advocacy Fellows along with 120 Summer Teaching Fellows.
- **Deepened higher education partnerships** by securing a fourth formal higher education partnership with Huston-Tillotson University while continuing our collaborations with Austin Community College, St. Edward’s University and Texas State University.
- **Fueled organizational growth** by raising more than \$14 million, implementing our first comprehensive marketing plan, and redesigning the volunteer program for greater engagement and impact.

As you read through Breakthrough’s 2025 Impact Report, we hope you’ll see the difference your support makes in every student’s journey. Together, we are empowering students to dream bigger, reach further, and create lasting change in our communities.

Thank you for being an essential part of our story!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Griffith".



# BREAKTHROUGH'S PATH TO COLLEGE

Leading the way in college access & success across Central Texas

**THE  
12-YEAR  
EXPERIENCE**

**MIDDLE  
SCHOOL**

**HIGH  
SCHOOL**

**ASSOCIATE  
DEGREE**

**CERTIFICATE**

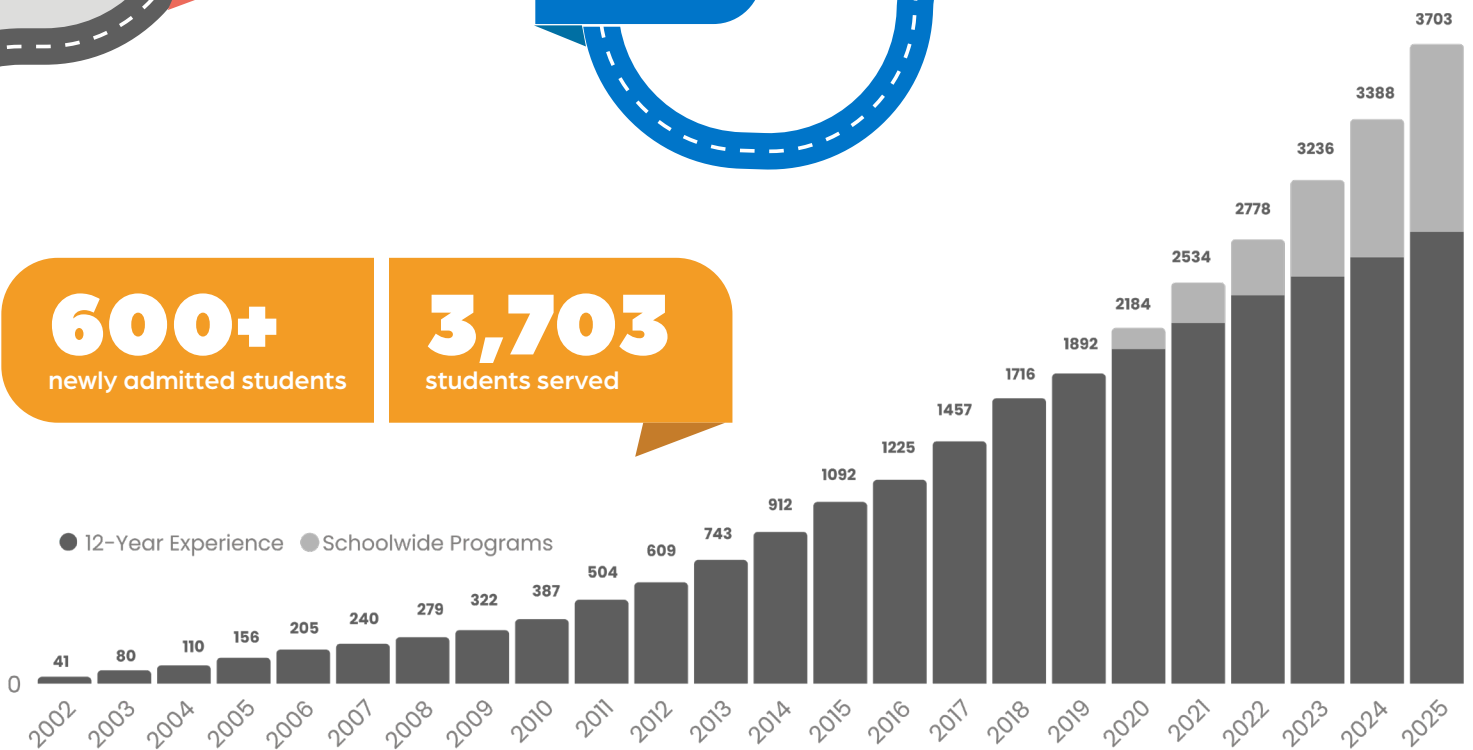
**COLLEGE &  
CAREER  
SUCCESS**

**642  
TOTAL COLLEGE  
GRADUATES**

**BACHELOR'S  
DEGREE**

**HIGH  
SCHOOL**

**THE  
SCHOOLWIDE  
PROGRAM**



**600+**

newly admitted students

**3,703**

students served



# middle school

The Middle School Program supports students in our 12-Year Experience through academic enrichment, leadership development, and individualized advising. Through summer learning and school-year programming, students strengthen core academic skills, prepare for the upcoming school year, and build the confidence needed to succeed in high school and beyond. Each student is paired with a dedicated advisor who serves as a consistent advocate, guiding them from middle school through the transition to high school.



## With your support, we were able to...



Admit 297 new students into our 12-Year Experience Program



Support 686 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 292 academic support events including after school hours, Saturday programming, field trips, college visits and more



**93%**  
of students and parents surveyed expressed satisfaction with Breakthrough's program



# high school

The High School Program gives students in the 12-Year Experience and Schoolwide Program a unified path to college and career success. It offers summer leadership institutes, individualized advising, academic and test prep support, and college guidance to help students build the skills and confidence needed to transition to college and pursue opportunities beyond high school.

# With your support, we were able to...

## 12-Year Experience



Support 1,010 high school students in Austin, Manor & Del Valle ISD



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

## Schoolwide Program



Support 690 juniors and seniors at Manor New Tech & Eastside Early College High Schools



Graduate our 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 416 high school events for students in our 12-Year Experience & Schoolwide Programs to prepare for postsecondary pathways



Skillpoint Alliance Field Trip



High School Success Conference

## CLASS OF 2025

**504**  
graduating  
seniors

**98%**  
graduated  
on time

**88%**  
enrolled directly  
into college

## Scaling with Quality, Delivering Results

Breakthrough's Schoolwide Program strengthens postsecondary advising for students and builds staff capacity to support every learner. Launched at Eastside Early College High School (ECHS) in 2023 with our first class of juniors, the program has already transformed outcomes.

### Eastside ECHS Class of 2025

# 78%

**of Breakthrough students enrolled directly into college** up from 20% before the Schoolwide Program began at Eastside ECHS.

“

As a first-generation student, [Breakthrough's belief in my potential] has been everything. I come from a family where no one has gone to college, and while that's a challenge, it's also been a source of strength. It means that I get to pave the way for my family. I get to honor my parents' sacrifices and hard work by earning a degree, something they didn't have the chance to do.

Adriana, Del Valle High School

”



# college & career success

The College & Career Success (CCS) Program supports college students from our 12-Year Experience & Schoolwide Programs through a robust network of programs designed to help them persist and succeed on their postsecondary journey. Through individualized advising, financial aid and scholarship support, transition programming for incoming college students, persistence coaching for current students, and career preparation through paid internships, students receive the guidance and real-world experience needed to reach graduation and beyond.

# With your support, we were able to...



Transition 411 high school graduates to the College & Career Success Program from 12 Year Experience & Schoolwide Programs and serve 1,565 students pursuing postsecondary pathways



Place 71 students in summer and year-round internships through the Breakthrough Internship Network

Host 23 professional development sessions for over 200 students through the Breakthrough Internship Network, covering resume building, interview skills and other career readiness topics

Host 9 custom orientations for incoming freshmen at partner institutions of higher education including Austin Community College, Texas State University, St. Edward's University, University of Texas at San Antonio, University of Texas at Austin and more



“

I stuck with Breakthrough because they've stuck with me. Breakthrough's consistent support—that's not easy to find. They gave me mentors who saw something in me, even when I couldn't see it in myself. What kept me involved all these years was simple – this is my family; this is who I'm most comfortable being vulnerable around.

**Ryanna**

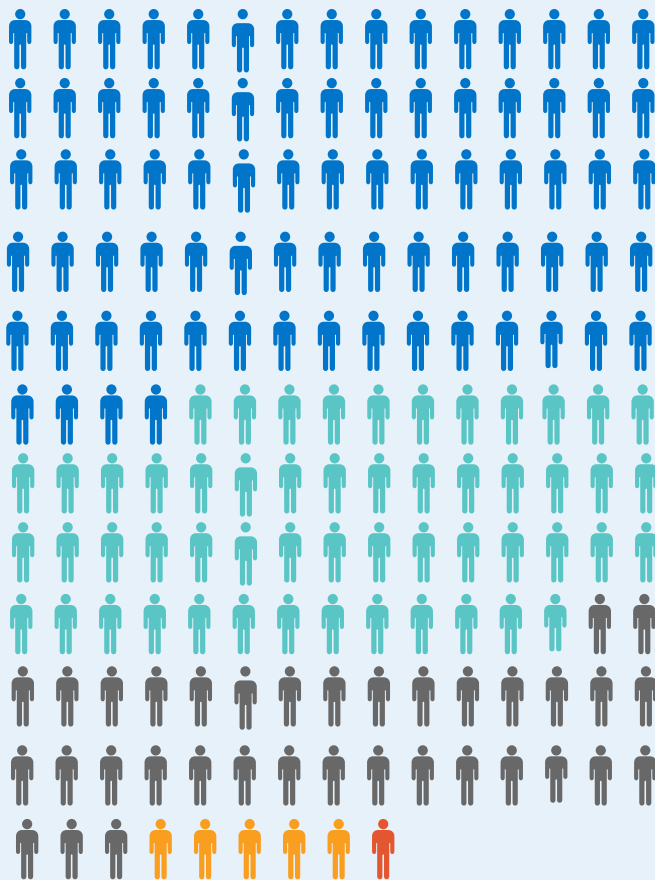
St. Edward's University  
Bachelor of Arts in Social Work

”

# 2025 college graduates

**With your support, we were able to celebrate 174 first-generation college graduates** who earned a postsecondary degree or certificate.

Of these, 84 received a certificate or associate degree in 2025 and are continuing their postsecondary journeys with Breakthrough's guidance and support.



■ Bachelor's Degree    ■ Associate Degree  
■ Certificate    ■ Master's Degree    ■ Juris Doctor





**TOTAL  
COLLEGE  
GRADS**

**642**  
... & counting

# policy advocacy

Breakthrough engages in policy advocacy that improves higher education access and success for present and future first-generation college students. Our efforts influence federal, state, and local policymaking, support institutional change at middle schools, high schools, and colleges and universities in our region, and contribute to developing and implementing stronger internal practices within Breakthrough.

## With your support, we were able to...

Co-lead the Texas Higher Education Student Advisory Council's advocacy efforts that helped advance need-based aid, equity-focused funding, and performance-based funding for community colleges

Co-launch a national initiative, College Corner, on the Higher Education Immigration Portal, equipping K-12 counselors to better support undocumented students and their families on the path to college

Engage in federal advocacy at the 2025 National College Attainment Network Leadership Summit, bringing students to meet with lawmakers to champion college access for first-generation students

Partner with advocates statewide to develop resources and deliver training that helps immigrant-origin students navigate recent changes to in-state tuition and stay on the path to college success

Actively participate in five key coalitions and initiatives



## 2025 Policy Priorities



Ensure Excellent Educational Opportunities for K-12 Students



Promote Higher Education Affordability in Texas



Prioritize Texas Student Wellbeing



Support College and Career Preparation





## Student Advocacy Fellows

In 2025, our student-led Policy Advocacy Program engaged with Texas's 89th Regular Legislative Session. Breakthrough college students learned about state and federal public policy related to college access and success, practiced communication and advocacy skills, and used their voices to advocate directly to state and federal leaders.

### Over the course of Texas's 89th Regular Legislative Session, 6 Student Advocacy Fellows:

Hosted or participated in summits, events, and other professional development on engaging diverse communities with educational policy

Advocated directly during organized advocacy events and visits to legislative offices

Served on student panels at events

Delivered oral and written testimony and created advocacy collateral

Supported campaigns and actions through sign-ons, emails, and calls, regarding AmeriCorps funding, Executive Orders, federal budget making, Texas Dream Act changes, school voucher bills, school finance bills, and more

Participated in media engagement, such as the *The Hechinger Report* and the *Austin American-Statesman* (AAS), highlighting growth in first-gen student access and advocating for Pell Grants



Scan to read more on AAS.

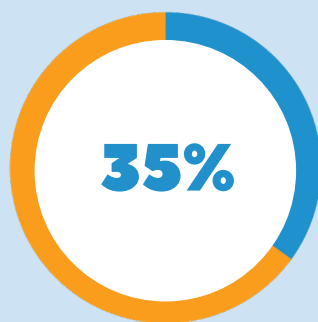


# AmeriCorps Summer Teaching Fellowship

Our AmeriCorps Summer Teaching Fellowship offers college-aged individuals a paid, nine-week summer experience that introduces teaching as a meaningful and attainable profession. Fellows lead classrooms, build strong relationships with students, and receive more than 100 hours of teaching, training, and mentorship – gaining a clear view of what it means to teach and lead.

Instructional Coaches elevate this experience by modeling excellent instruction, providing daily coaching and feedback, and guiding Fellows as they plan lessons, manage classrooms, and strengthen their instructional practice.

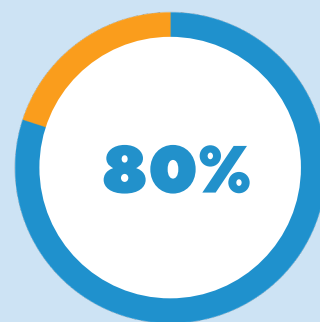
Even for Fellows who choose paths beyond education, the experience is transformative. They leave with confidence, strengthened leadership skills, and a deeper sense of purpose.



**were  
returning  
Teaching Fellows**



**of Teaching  
Fellows were  
Breakthrough  
students**



**of Teaching Fellows  
had a previous  
connection to  
Breakthrough**



**120**

AmeriCorps Summer  
Teaching Fellows



**14**

Summer  
Instructional Coaches



“

I am so proud to be a part of this beautiful community as a student and teaching fellow. I enjoy giving back everything Breakthrough does for me during the school year and hope to make the same impact for 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.

**Jocelyn**  
Breakthrough Student &  
Former Teaching Fellow

”



# our community



**79**  
Full-Time Staff



**31**  
Full-Time  
AmeriCorps Members



**435**  
Volunteers





Breakthrough was honored with Texas State University's "Friends of Student Success" award, recognizing our shared commitment to student achievement. Our innovative public-private partnership includes robust data-sharing, co-advising, emergency fund support, and priority advising events that help Breakthrough students enroll, persist, and graduate.



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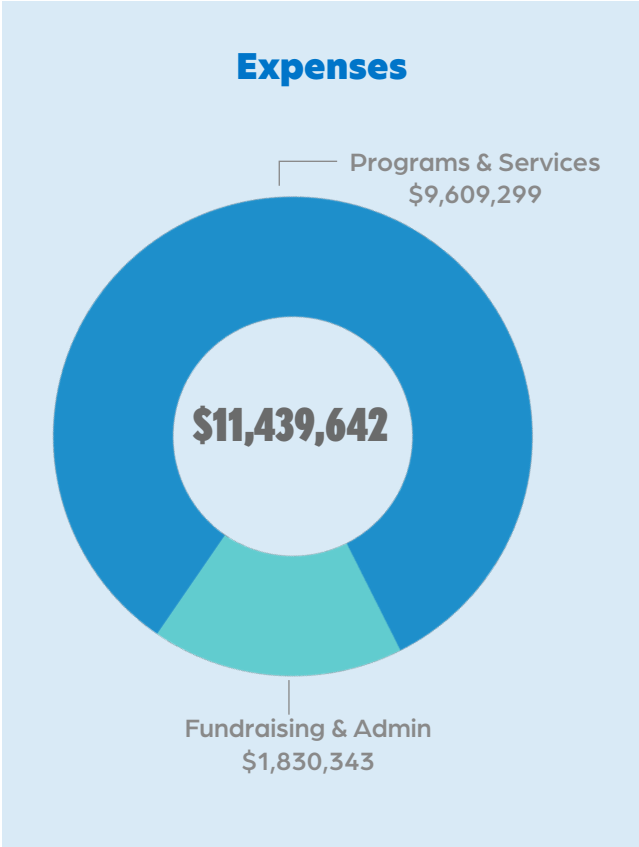
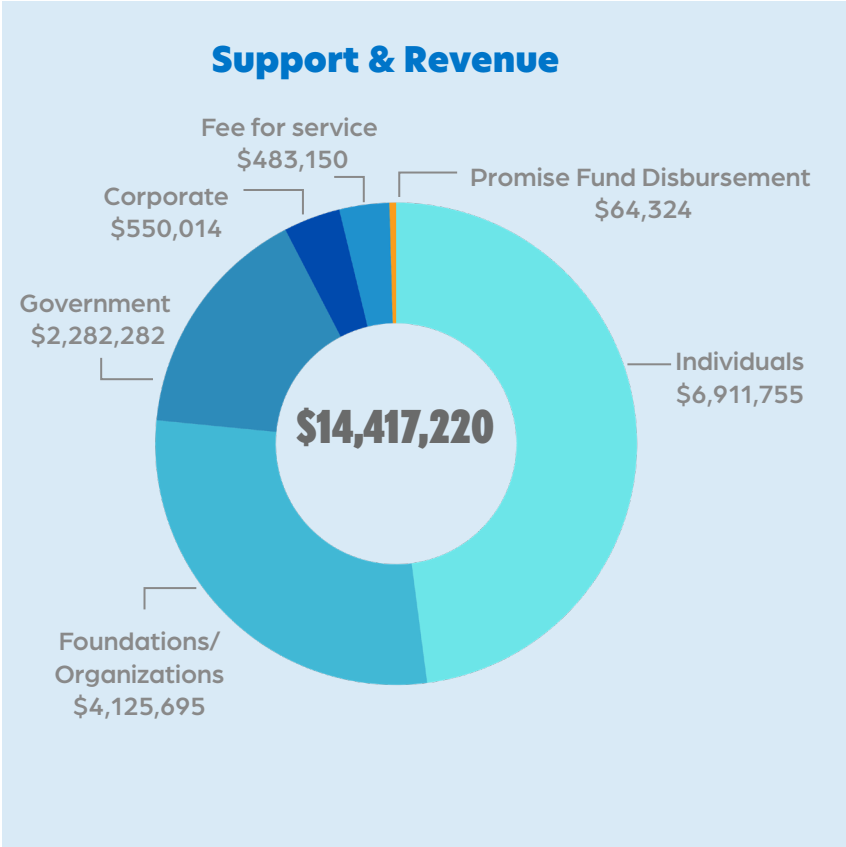
**Alumni Network Council**

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 Jose Vara  
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# financial report

More than 931 community members and partners invested \$14,417,220 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.



## 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, 2024 through December 31, 2025:

Market Value as of December 31, 2024.....	\$1,953,166
Gifts Received .....	\$36,443
Income and Investment Gains/Losses .....	\$217,594
Market Value as of December 31, 2025 .....	\$2,456,465

# student & family support fund

Breakthrough's Student & Family Support Fund makes a meaningful difference for hundreds of students each year, offering stability, essential resources, and mental health support that keep them moving toward their college goals when they need it most.

In 2025, we provided direct assistance to approximately **365 students**. About 300 received financial support to help meet essential needs, and 65 accessed no-cost mental health services.

## FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

# \$543,865



40% Tuition & Fees



27% Mental Health Services



16% Cash Assistance



15% Basic Needs



2% Legal Aid

“

One of our students shared that beginning mental health services with Breakthrough during her senior year made all the difference in her transition to college. Therapy has helped her navigate living on her own for the first time, manage shifting family dynamics, and feel supported through every step of the change. Through Breakthrough's Mental Health Support, she has received regular, consistent care from the same therapist she's had since high school – a steady source of support she deeply relies on.”

**Brittini**

Breakthrough's

Student & Family Support Specialist

”

## A recent Breakthrough study found...

# 58%

of students worry about affording college

# 1 in 3

could not cover a \$500 emergency

# 28%

experience food insecurity

# 38%

experience housing insecurity

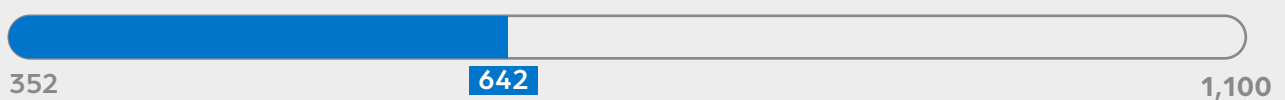
# PATHWAYS to OPPORTUNITY *campaign*

In 2025, Breakthrough Central Texas launched its most ambitious initiative yet. On October 1, we publicly unveiled the Pathways to Opportunity Campaign, a bold \$30 million accelerator fund designed to expand educational opportunity for thousands of students across Central Texas.

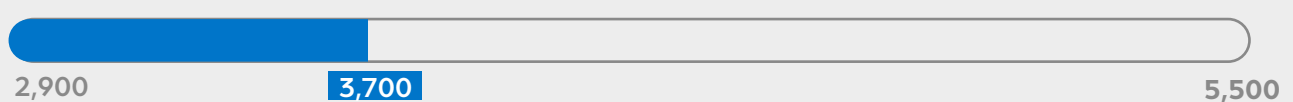
Thanks to tremendous early support from campaign chairs and donors, Breakthrough had already raised \$24.8 million toward its \$30 million goal as December 31, 2025, with significant matching challenge grant by Christie and Clint Bybee and Carolyn and Jack Long encouraging others to invest in student success. This campaign represents more than a fundraising effort – it's an investment in the future of students, families, and the Central Texas community, unlocking the power of education and a lifetime of opportunity.

## With your support, we were able to make significant progress towards our goals.

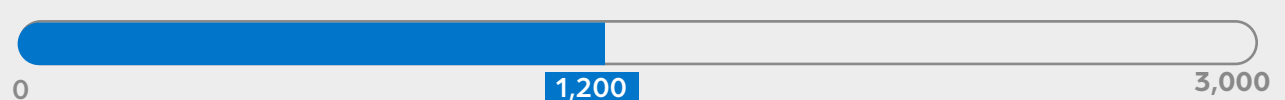
Triple the number of Breakthrough students graduating college each year, celebrating 1,100 total first-generation college graduates by 2029



Nearly double the number of students engaged in Breakthrough to 5,500 served by 2029



Admit more than 3,000 new middle school & high school students to Breakthrough over the next 5 years



Provide invaluable field experience to 600 Summer Teaching Fellows and Student Advocacy Fellows, fueling a diverse pipeline of future educators and community leaders



Expand the Schoolwide Program to transform high school campuses and bring Breakthrough's radical long-term commitment to more students



Eastside ECHS is serving an academically diverse group of students whose wide-ranging strengths, needs, and experiences are giving us powerful insight into how to better support postsecondary success. What we're learning from this diverse student community is directly strengthening the Schoolwide Program model and guiding how we expand it to an additional campus.

**Breakthrough creates cohorts of students and faculty, a community that supports them and shows them the way to a future they might not have otherwise considered. With the Pathways to Opportunity Campaign, we can grow and bring the support of Breakthrough to more students, showing them the possibilities and options they have!**

**Mary Beth Canfield**  
Campaign Co-Chair | Pathways Investor



“  
**When I hear about the incredible Pathways to Opportunity Campaign, I’m excited that thousands more students will be able to find a home in the Breakthrough community. That more will be able to envision themselves going to college. That more will be able to defy expectations and realize their dreams.**

**Jeremiah**  
Breakthrough Alum

”  
**Scan to learn more about Pathways**



**Campaign Committee**

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Robin & Gene Shepherd

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Ricky D. Green  
Carolyn & Jack Long

Irma Brand  
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Brad Johl

Walt Penn  
Jessica Slade  
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**SCAN TO VIEW**  
**Breakthrough's**  
**2024-2029 Strategic Plan**  
or visit [BreakthroughCTX.org/Impact](https://BreakthroughCTX.org/Impact)

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