



## THE BREAKTHROUGH CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN YEAR ONE REPORT

**On behalf of the Board of Trustees, students, and staff of Breakthrough Central Texas, thank you for your generous support of the \$10 million Breakthrough Challenge campaign.**

Your investment is more important today than we ever could have imagined when we launched the campaign in 2019. While the profoundly disruptive COVID-19 pandemic has affected all students across Central Texas, the impact is amplified for our region's under-resourced communities. Our students faced unprecedented economic and emotional stresses as they navigated campus closures and loss of access to school-based supports and resources, as well as for many, housing and food insecurity. Nearly a year since its onset, the pandemic continues to challenge us daily to adapt how we conduct advising, programs, and interventions to best meet our students and families where they are.

Fortunately, with the thoughtful support of you and more than 185 fellow campaign investors, the pandemic has not derailed our long-term plans. We remain committed to the ambitious North Star vision that inspired the Breakthrough Challenge and continues to serve as our guide: to double the number of first-generation college graduates from low-income communities in Central Texas.

To that end, the Breakthrough Challenge campaign funds are providing the launch capital to help Breakthrough *achieve growth, scale programs, and build capacity for greater impact by 2023*. We are pleased to share with you these highlights on your impact.

### ACHIEVING GROWTH



**530**

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS  
SINCE CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

**2,139**

TOTAL STUDENTS TO DATE

While recruitment efforts in 2020 were challenged by the pandemic and resulting school closures, we are more than one-third of the way to our goal of enrolling an additional 1,400 middle school students by 2023. These students are following in the footsteps of our nearly 180 trailblazing college graduates.

### SCALING PROGRAMS

#### High School Programs

During the 2019-2020 school year, Breakthrough established the High School Transition Program for our newest 12-year Experience site in Del Valle ISD to help 8th grade students and their families understand their options for high school pathways and navigate this critical transition. All Breakthrough students were admitted to the Del Valle Early College High School Program and have successfully transitioned to high school with guidance from one additional full-time advisor and full time AmeriCorps leader hired to begin building out high school programs and services in the district.

#### College Completion Program

2020 also marked the matriculation of our largest class of high school seniors to date.

#### CLASS OF 2020

**500**

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

**97%**

GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL  
ON TIME

**88%**

BEGAN THEIR COLLEGE JOURNEYS  
VIRTUALLY & IN-PERSON  
AT 40 INSTITUTIONS

With the addition of Class of 2020, the College Completion Program grew by 58% - from 291 to 461 students. Two full-time advisors and two full-time AmeriCorps members have been added over the past two years to scale critical college advising services to our fastest growing program. While we are so proud that our students persevered and enrolled in college at a comparable rate to 2019, the pandemic has led to a 32% drop in postsecondary enrollment for students from high poverty schools nationwide, making these services even more critical as our students struggle to stay enrolled.

# BUILDING CAPACITY FOR GREATER IMPACT

In order to achieve our long-term vision for greater regional impact, the Breakthrough Challenge is also funding critical infrastructure, such as the addition of our first full-time Director of Talent, and providing seed capital for two new program initiatives.

## Postsecondary Schoolwide Advising Program

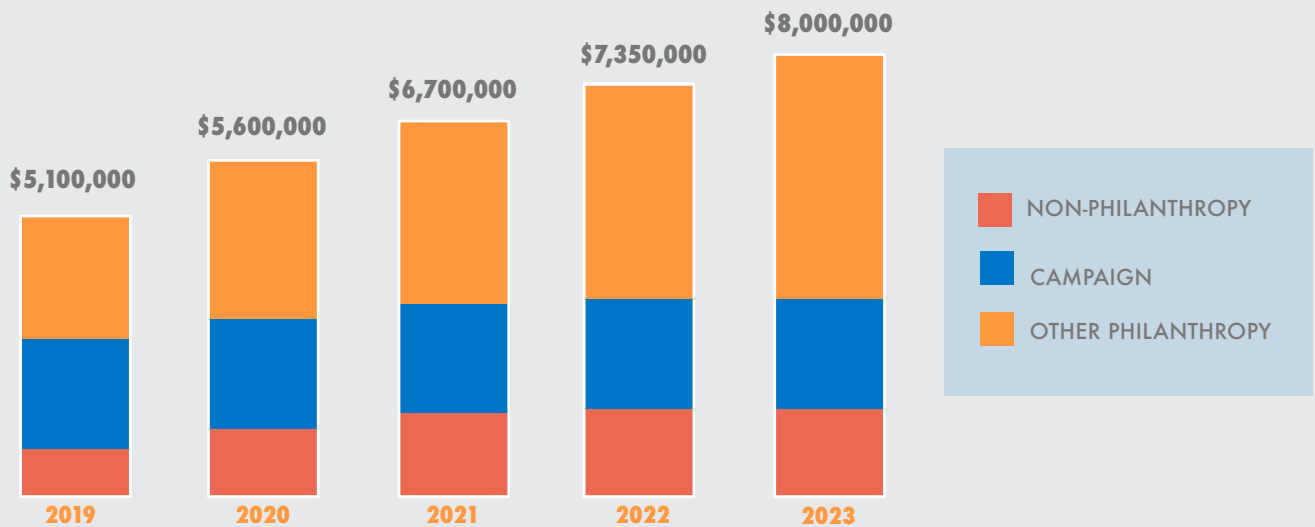
This month, we formally launched the pilot for Breakthrough’s Postsecondary Schoolwide Advising Program (PSAP) at Manor New Tech High School. The program is designed to build the capacity of a local school district to support all students toward success after high school while offering direct advising services to all juniors and seniors through at least their first year of college. We are thrilled that through this partnership, 142 juniors at Manor New Tech will receive high-quality, personalized advising on their postsecondary options, with hundreds more coming up the pipeline behind them. In conjunction with this effort, our newly established Campus Postsecondary Leadership Team, composed of key administrators, teachers, students, and family members, is meeting regularly to align on the approach of our services in this community – for both this new program and for students enrolled in our 12-Year Experience.

## Policy Advocacy

The past year has highlighted more than ever how connected the ability to go to school and realize one’s educational dreams is to many other factors, including health, economic and racial justice. To address these systemic barriers, we have begun a policy advocacy practice, leveraging our practical expertise and elevating the voices of our students, families, and community partners to advocate for public policymaking that helps all young people and their communities to thrive, especially those most vulnerable. In preparation for the Texas 87th legislative session, we have engaged with the Austin College Attainment Network (ACAN), Postsecondary Advocates Coalition for Equity (PACE), and the Texas Legislation Education Equity Coalition (TLEEC) to develop an equity-focused policy agenda.

# REVENUE PROJECTIONS 2019-2023

The Breakthrough Challenge campaign is providing an essential foundation of support needed to build our organizational capacity to achieve planned growth and develop these new program strategies, but there is still more work to be done to reach our North Star goal.



**Thank you for your investment and partnership to make these advancements possible!** While this report reflects the short-term impact of your investment, we know that every new first-generation college graduate creates an enormous ripple effect that lifts the hopes, dreams, and ambitions of their immediate and extended families and their community.

For questions or more information, or to schedule time to discuss the impact of your investment, please contact Holly Wissmann, Director of Philanthropy, at [holly@breakthroughctx.org](mailto:holly@breakthroughctx.org) or 512.961.5256.