

the **BREAKTHROUGH CHALLENGE**

CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT

In 2019, Breakthrough launched The Breakthrough Challenge – a \$10 million campaign to propel the organization toward an ambitious new North Star: to double the number of college graduates from low-income communities in Central Texas.

Despite Austin being among the most highly-educated cities in the nation for adults, our region has one of the lowest college graduation rates in the state among children from under-resourced communities. We challenged the community to join us in changing that...and you accepted the challenge!

186 generous community members came together to invest \$10.5 million in The Breakthrough Challenge campaign.

Even the COVID-19 pandemic could not derail our long-term plans. This generous investment has provided the critical launch capital to help Breakthrough **achieve growth, scale programs and build capacity for greater impact by 2023.**

We are pleased to share the following highlights. While this report reflects the short-term impact of our community's investment, we know that every new first-generation college creates an enormous ripple effect that lifts the hopes, dreams and ambitions of their immediate and extended families and their communities.

THE PROMISE FUND

Approximately twenty-percent of the funds raised through The Breakthrough Challenge campaign are designated to establish The Promise Fund, an endowment to help ensure Breakthrough can always fulfill the 12-year promise we make to our students. We anticipate annual distributions from the Fund to begin in 2023.

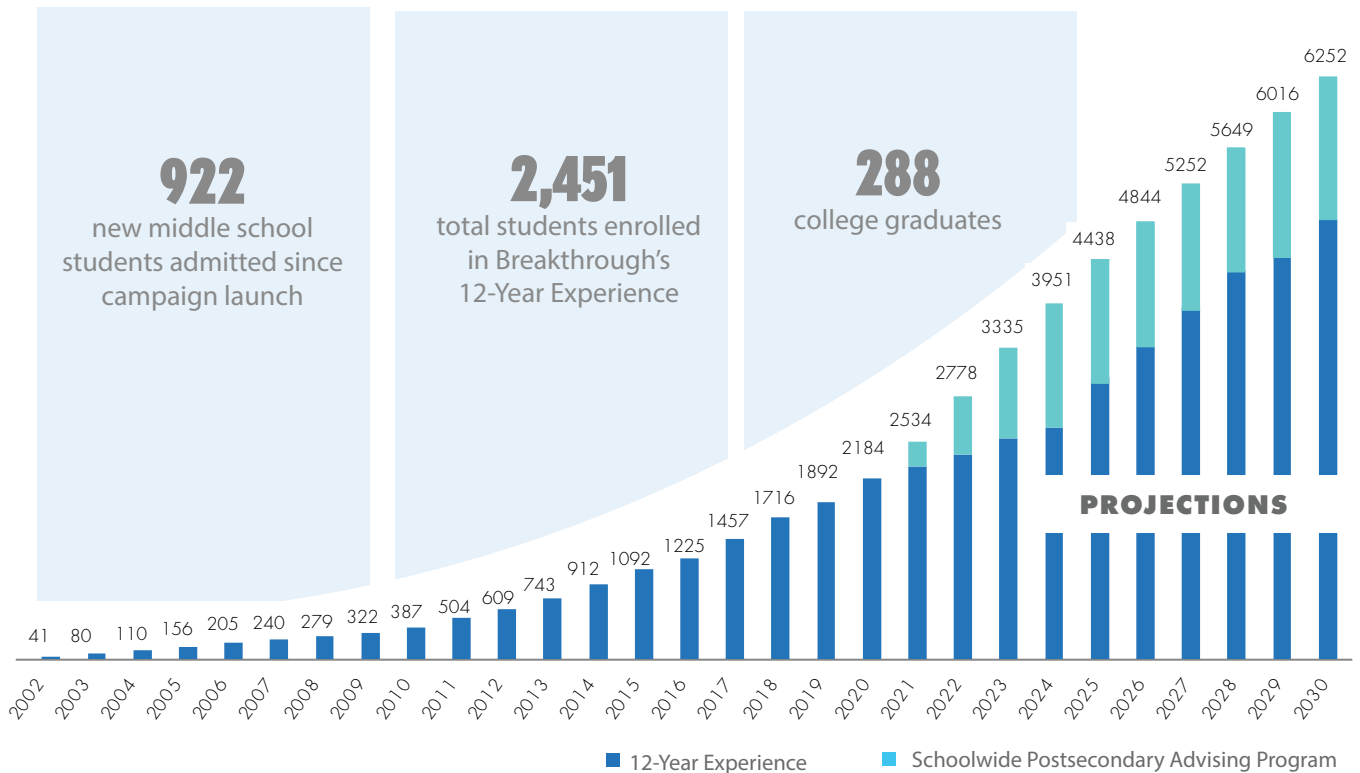
Endowment Fund Financial Report for December 31, 2021 through December 31, 2022:

Market Value as of December 31, 2021	\$1,312,503
Gifts Received	\$249,142
Income and Investment Gains/Losses	\$(234,041)
Market Value as of December 31, 2022	\$1,327,604



ACHIEVING GROWTH

With The Breakthrough Challenge investment, we set out to enroll an additional 1,400 middle school students into Breakthrough's 12-Year Experience and triple the number of college graduates by 2023. While recruitment efforts in 2022 continued to be a challenge, with access to in-person recruitment opportunities still limited during our winter/spring recruitment season, we are now 66% of the way to our student enrollment goal. In addition, the number of college graduates has nearly tripled and is on track to surpass our goal.



Becoming a first-generation college graduate means more to me than I can put into words. The imposter syndrome I have felt my entire life melted away the moment I walked across the stage. I finally feel confident enough to say I 100% believe in myself. I feel honored to know that I accomplished this and did not just do it for me – I did it for my family. This will forever change future generations to come.

ASIA DOCKERY

The University of Texas at Austin
Class of 2022

SCALING PROGRAMS

In 2022, scaling Breakthrough High School and College & Career Success Programs was defined by both growth and refinement of services to best meet the needs of our students and families.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

We continued to build out programs and advising for our first pioneering class of Breakthrough students in Del Valle ISD through their sophomore year, 11th grade Summer Spectacular Program, and transition to their junior year with SAT/ACT preparation and launch of the college application process.

In order to meet the highly specific needs of high school seniors, Breakthrough re-organized our high school advisors to establish a College Access team dedicated solely to advising and supporting seniors and their families to navigate the college application and financial aid process and critical transition to college. Building on our 20 years of practical experience advising aspiring first-generation college graduates, this team formalized a senior advising philosophy inclusive of all postsecondary pathways and created tools and resources such as our College & Career Prep Guide, College Fit Guide and a 42-point checklist to ensure students complete all the steps necessary to get from application to first day of college.

COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS PROGRAM

Breakthrough's College & Career Success Program remains our fastest growing program. With the addition of the Class of 2022, the program grew to serve 815 students – a 180% increase since the campaign launch in 2019. To build the capacity of our team to advise students well on a variety of postsecondary pathways, Breakthrough added two full-time advisors to the team with expertise in trade, vocational, license and certificate (TVLC) pathways and navigating Austin Community College. In addition, we continue to deepen our partnerships with key institutions of higher education, taking innovations such as peer mentor and co-advising models piloted at St. Edward's University to other in-state partner schools, such as Texas State University, Prairie View A&M University, and others.



Staff added in 2022 to scale High School and College & Career Success Programs:

4

full-time advisors

3

Summer College Completion Fellows



HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2022

12-Year Experience

432

unique acceptances

78

colleges & universities

197

students transitioned to College & Career Success Program

78%

of students enrolled directly in college, compared to 37% of the most recent cohort of their Central Texas peers from low-income communities.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR GREATER IMPACT

In order to achieve our long-term vision for greater regional impact, The Breakthrough Challenge has allowed us to expand from one program strategy focused solely on direct service to students and families to three program strategies that seek to advance educational equity at the student, campus and policy level.

BREAKTHROUGH SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAM

In 2022, Breakthrough celebrated the first class of graduating seniors from our Breakthrough Schoolwide Postsecondary Advising Program (PSAP) at pilot campus partner, Manor New Tech High School. With remarkable results from this first pioneering class, we began planning in late 2022 for expansion of the program to a second campus launching in Fall 2023.

The foundation of Breakthrough Schoolwide includes two pillars: 1) building capacity of high schools to become best in class in supporting postsecondary access, and 2) equipping and empowering students with high quality and intensive postsecondary advising for up to eight years.



CAPACITY BUILDING. First, the program **supports participating high schools with capacity-building support to become high-quality, college access institutions** for students traditionally marginalized from postsecondary experiences. Through a rigorous co-design process, Breakthrough staff collaborates with administrators, faculty, students, and families to create the school systems, structures, and culture that support every student to access postsecondary education and achieve their goals.



ADVISING. Second, Breakthrough Schoolwide provides **high quality advising and college and career experiences for every 11th and 12th grade student** at participating high schools. Breakthrough advisors deliver advising services and experiences at a low 1:75 advisor-to-student ratio (compared to 1:442 state average) and support and align existing counseling and advising resources on campus.



Upon graduation, students receive up to six years of enrollment and persistence support from Breakthrough's College & Career Success Program advisors until they successfully achieve postsecondary success.



We have witnessed first-hand the tremendous impact Breakthrough makes on our scholars' lives at our school. The impact of Breakthrough's one-on-one college advising is measurable, creating a ripple that sends positive waves throughout our learning community. We are excited how this schoolwide program is enriching our scholars' lives and has proven to improve postsecondary access, readiness, and achievement.

Bobby Garcia

Principal, Manor New Tech High School

323

**STUDENTS
SERVED**

121

**SENIORS IN THE
CLASS OF 2022**

Students at the pilot location of Breakthrough Schoolwide:

91% of students completed their financial aid applications, more than 30 percentile points higher than previous classes.

86% of students enrolled directly to college, more than 30 percentile points higher than previous classes.

70% of students enrolled into a four-year college, more than double the rate of previous classes.



POLICY ADVOCACY

Breakthrough's policy advocacy practice is driven by a core belief: youth and practitioners, the individuals who are navigating and being personally impacted by inequitable educational policies, should be the leading voices in the construction and reform of those very policies.

Since the inception of our policy advocacy practice in 2020, Breakthrough has developed a policy agenda that leverages our 20 years of practical expertise and elevates the voices of students, families and community partners. Together, we advocate for public policymaking that helps all young people and their communities to thrive, especially those most vulnerable.

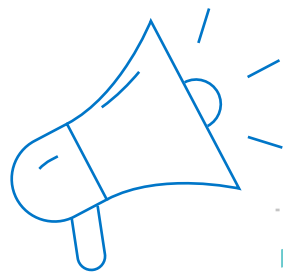
How We Advocate

Breakthrough engages in policy advocacy at the legislative, institutional and internal levels. These efforts including 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. We go about our work by sharing our experience, collaborating with other advocates, and improving Breakthrough's practices.

**5 COALITIONS IN WHICH
BREAKTHROUGH
ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES**



**CENTRAL TEXAS
COLLEGE ATTAINMENT
NETWORK**



**#RealCollegeTX
Advisory Committee**



10 EDUCATIONAL/ADVOCACY EVENTS BREAKTHROUGH HELPED HOST

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