

BREAKTHROUGH CENTRAL TEXAS

to **PATHWAYS** **OPPORTUNITY** *campaign*



OCTOBER 2025

ON THE COVER
JESSICA ROMERO
Breakthrough Graduate
University of Texas at San Antonio



EVAN
Breakthrough Student
Manor ISD, 7th grade

to **PATHWAYS OPPORTUNITY**

**A \$30 million accelerator campaign
to unlock the power of education and
a lifetime of opportunity for
thousands of Central Texas Students**



A COMPLEX PROBLEM

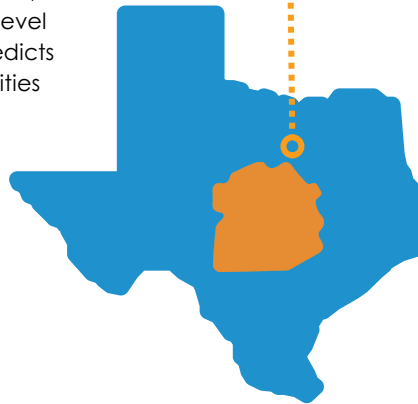
All Central Texans deserve the opportunity to benefit from the life-changing power of a college degree or certificate. Our community is full of young people with big dreams of the lives made possible by college and career success.

Unfortunately, **only 1 in 7 Central Texas high school graduates from low-income communities** - approximately 1,600 students - go on to earn a college degree or certificate each year. We have a tremendous opportunity to support thousands more of these students each year.

Despite 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 students from low-income communities.

WHY WE EXIST

Too often, a student's circumstances of birth – race, ethnicity, family's income level or immigration status – predicts the educational opportunities they will be afforded.



THE CENTRAL TEXAS OPPORTUNITY

9,500

low-income high school graduates each year

Only 14%

realize college success

According to E3 Alliance research, Central Texas students who do not complete a postsecondary credential within six years of finishing high school have only a 12% chance of earning a living wage as young adults.

By helping students overcome the many systemic barriers to higher education, we can have a multi-generational impact – replacing the cycle of poverty with a future of self-sufficiency, choice, and hope.



DA'KEONDRICK

Breakthrough College Graduate
The University of Texas at Austin
Bachelor of Science in Electric Engineering

A PROVEN SOLUTION

Breakthrough is the leading college access and success nonprofit in Central Texas. For more than 20 years, we have partnered with thousands of middle school and high school students who aspire to be the first in their family to graduate college. Together, we help each student find their unique pathway to college and career success – whether it be a bachelor's or associate degree, license, or certificate. It's about a plan after high school.

WE'RE IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

We make a radical, long-term commitment to partner with students, families, and communities for up to 12 years, beginning as early as 6th grade. In addition to our direct support for students to and through college, we partner with targeted public high schools in low-income communities to transform them into best-in-class college access institutions. Through our advocacy efforts, we elevate the voices and experiences of our students and families to champion policies that advance educational equity for all students at the local, state, and federal policy level.

WE SUPPORT THE WHOLE STUDENT

We combine comprehensive, individualized advising with academic learning, career preparation, and leadership development – from middle school summer programs to college internships. This includes high-quality postsecondary counseling to guide students to apply to, afford, and persist on their chosen educational pathway after high school. Supporting the whole student also means helping them overcome non-academic obstacles, including direct assistance for unexpected financial hurdles, mental health services, and basic needs.

WE GET REAL RESULTS



At every grade level, our **students outpace their peers on critical milestones**, including school attendance, grades, test scores, and college entrance exams.



97% graduate from high school on time, compared to 85% of their peers from low-income communities.



85% enroll directly in a bachelor's, associate, or certificate program, compared to 34% of their peers from low-income communities.



Nearly 60% graduate with a college diploma or certificate, compared to 14% of high school graduates from low-income communities.

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MUCHAS



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Everyone knows that the college application process is difficult, and it was for my daughter Jae too, but she always knew she had support from the Breakthrough staff. Whatever stage she struggled with, she knew who to talk to about it to get the job done.

She was accepted to all of her top college choices and could choose the best fit because of that! Breakthrough made the possibility of going to college seem real to me too. I was inspired to apply for myself and have been taking college classes for 2 years.

I'm so grateful to my daughter and to Breakthrough for helping me to build the future that I want for myself at the same time as I support Jae in reaching her dreams.

MIRACLE

Parent of Breakthrough Student, Jae
Warren Wilson College 8



ADAIR
Breakthrough Student
Manor ISD, Class of 2023

PROFOUND IMPACT

Every first-generation college graduate creates an enormous ripple effect that lifts the hopes, dreams, and ambitions of their extended families and communities.

- Breakthrough is **a cost-effective investment of \$2,000 per student, per year**, triggering multigenerational impact for families.
- For first-generation college graduates, the **median annual income surpasses that of their parents** within six years.
- Graduates with any postsecondary degree or certificate have **significantly greater earning potential than those with a high school diploma alone** - up to \$1 million more in lifetime earnings for a degree.
- An ROI study by AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, found that Breakthrough Central Texas yields as much as **10x the return of value for every funder dollar invested**.
- **The children of first-generation college graduates are more likely to go to college themselves** and to experience better career and financial outcomes.
- **College success leads to a host of other benefits**, including better health outcomes, less reliance on public assistance, more civic engagement and, as parents, more active involvement in their own children's education.



DEMETRIA

Breakthrough College Graduate
Huston-Tillotson University
Bachelor of Arts in Human Biology

CAMPAIGN GOALS

A \$30 million campaign to accelerate our impact and unlock the power of education for thousands of young people by 2029

\$30 Million Accelerator Campaign 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 and high school students** to Breakthrough over the next five years
- **Expand the Schoolwide Program** to transform high school campuses and bring Breakthrough's radical long-term commitment to more students
- **Provide invaluable field experience to 600 Summer Teaching Fellows and Student Advocacy Fellows**, fueling a diverse pipeline of future educators and community leaders

Key Funding Priorities:

- **Hire** up to 50 additional full-time staff and AmeriCorps members, growing the team to 140 people
- **Increase** fundraising capacity to leverage \$30 million in additional public and private dollars - a total investment of \$60 million by 2029
- **Build** systems, structures, resources, and tools to ensure quality, efficiency, and sustainability as organization scales to double in size and more than triple in impact
- **Launch** Breakthrough Schoolwide Program at a third campus, building pathways for hundreds more young people
- **Invest** \$3 million in Student and Family Support Fund, increasing our capacity to support student well-being



EMMANUEL

Breakthrough Student
Austin Community College

ALFREDO

Breakthrough Student
Texas State University

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

The educational pathway that a student chooses after high school is a key determinant of future success.

We want Central Texas to be one of the best - not one of the worst - regions in the state for young people to realize college and career success.

We invite you to unlock the power of education and a lifetime of opportunity for thousands of Central Texas students. Your investment will transform their education experience, breaking down barriers for them to become the first in their family to earn a college degree or certificate. Together, we will create a ripple effect, lifting the hopes, dreams, and ambitions of their families, and creating a lasting impact in our community for generations to come.



“

I would not have gotten to or through college without Breakthrough. The support and safety net they provided me and my family empowered me to get through the toughest parts of my educational and personal journey. Breakthrough held my hand through it all. My mother is extremely grateful. I made her sign that piece of paper in 5th grade [for me to join the program]. Now, she couldn't be prouder.

KAOMI

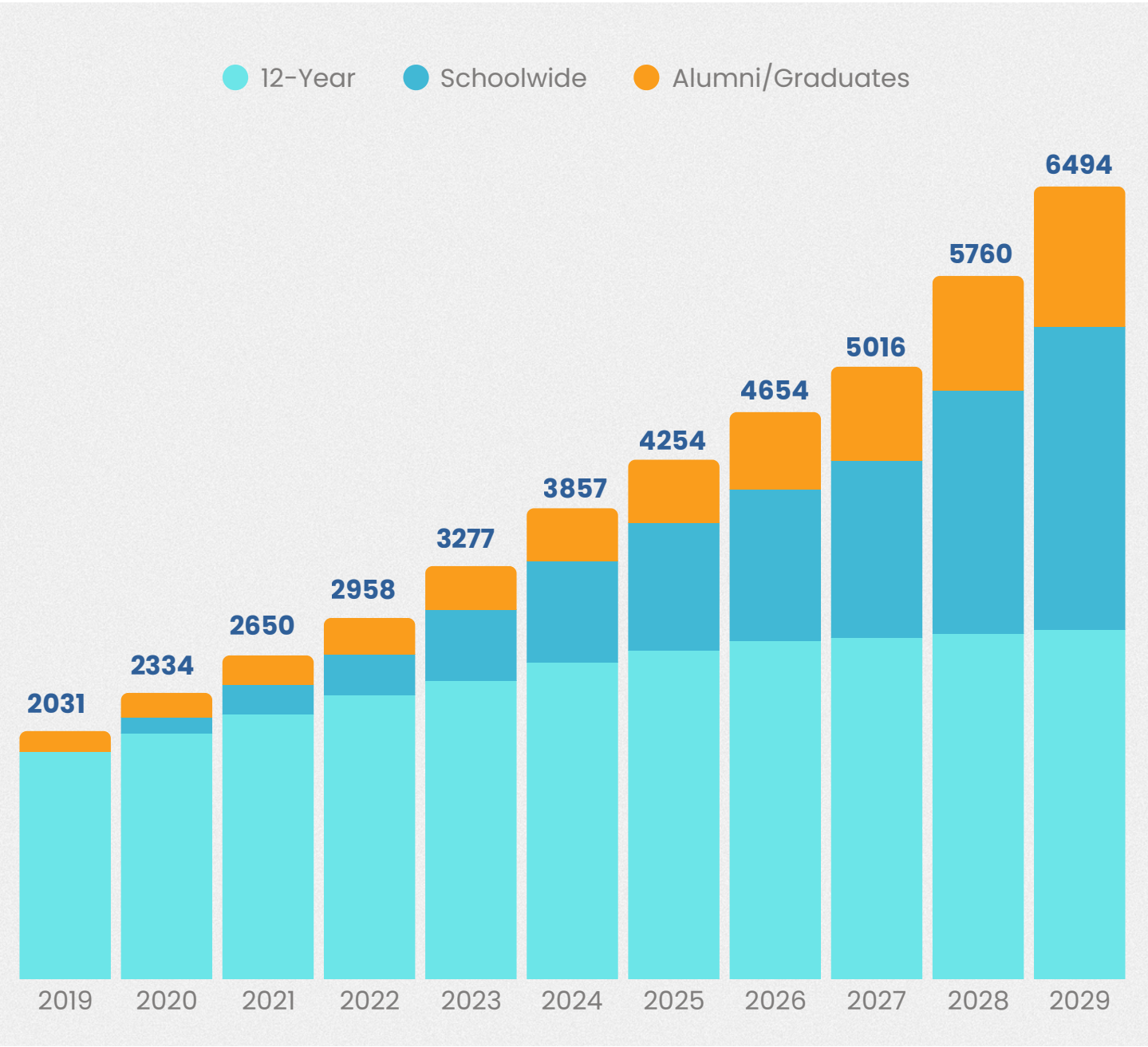
Breakthrough College Graduate

St. Edwards University, Bachelor's of Science in Social Work

BREAKTHROUGH ENROLLMENT

2019-2029

Pathways to Opportunity will accelerate Breakthrough’s ability to support many more students -- more than 5,500 by 2029.





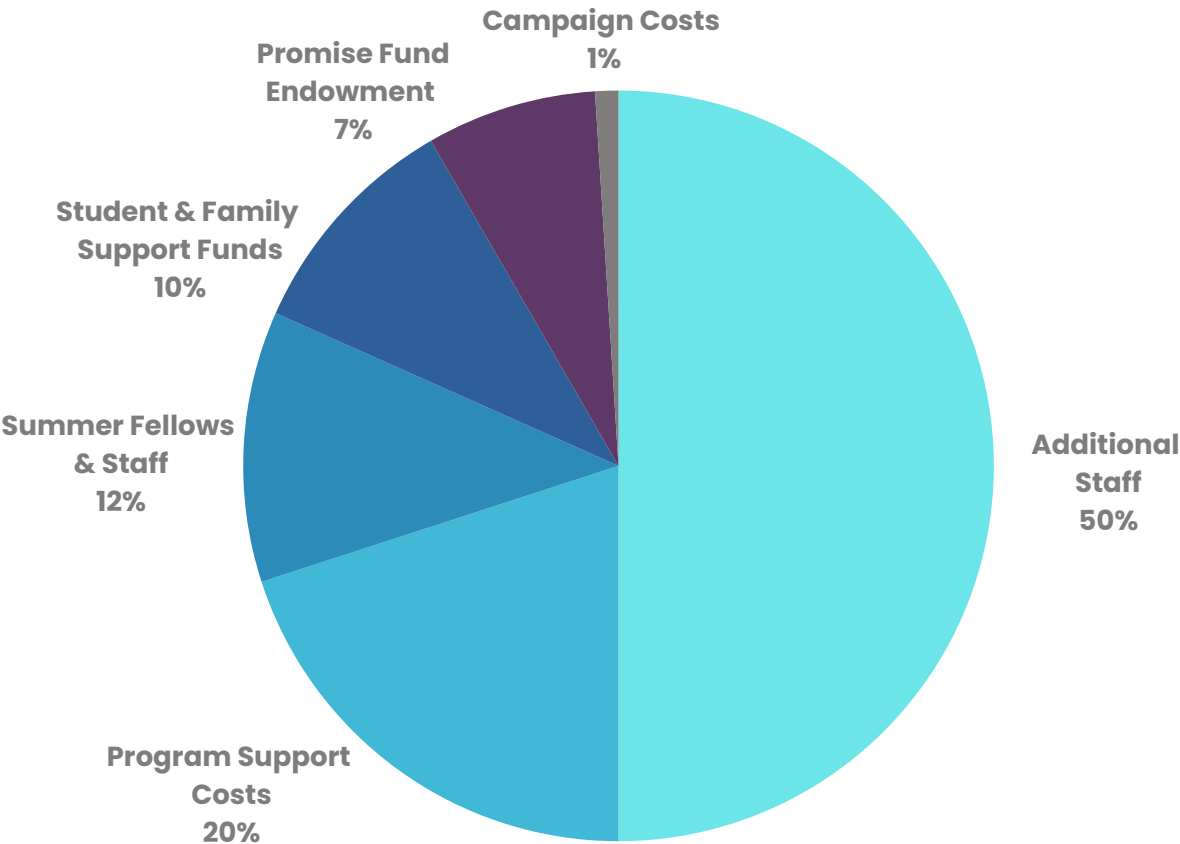
ELI

Breakthrough College Graduate
Texas Tech University
Bachelor of Science in Sport Management

CAMPAIGN BUDGET

SPENDING PLAN

The Pathways to Opportunity is an innovative campaign to invest in Breakthrough students and their journey to and through college. Below is the allocation for the \$30 million investment to expand Breakthrough's impact and student success by 2029.



\$15M Investment in Additional Staff
Adding nearly 50 Breakthrough staff and advisors to impact more students



\$3.5M in Summer Fellows and Support
Inspiring 600 young people to teach Breakthrough students and build classroom skills



\$6M in Program Support
Equipping programs with supplies and staff with professional development



\$2.2M in the Promise Fund Endowment
Growing investment to support Breakthrough's longterm commitment to students



\$3M in Student and Family Support
Providing critical emergency aid, mental health services, and scholarship funds



\$300k in Campaign Costs
The increased capacity and costs to successfully meet the ambitious campaign goals

The 30 for 30 Funding Leverage

The \$30 million Pathways to Opportunity Campaign provides the runway to raise an additional \$30 million in public and private dollars -- a total investment of \$60 million to scale Breakthrough's programs with quality over the next five years. The multi-year support from Campaign Gifts allows Breakthrough to build capacity to diversify key sources of philanthropy beyond individual donations, expand fee-for-service from districts, colleges, and nonprofits that benefit from our expertise, and increase local, state, and federal contracts.

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

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Robin & Gene Shepherd

Irma Brand
Christie & Clinton Bybee
Amber Carden
Brad Johl
Walt Penn
Jessica Slade
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Gary Farmer
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Community Volunteer

*First-generation college graduate

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