



BREAKTHROUGH CENTRAL TEXAS
2022 IMPACT REPORT



Starting from when I was a young 6th grader to college graduation, Breakthrough really empowered me to accept who I was and pursue my goals. My dreams surpass college, but graduation is the first step towards achieving them. Breakthrough never allowed for negativity to pierce my beliefs about myself. When I needed help and could not find it in myself, they stepped in and provided me support through mentorships, financial support, counseling, tutoring, and especially understanding complicated mountains of paperwork. With the help of Breakthrough, college graduation has become a reality for my family and has changed the trajectory of my life and the lives of my family members.

RODRIGO VIVAR, III

University of North Texas, Class of 2022

FRONT COVER



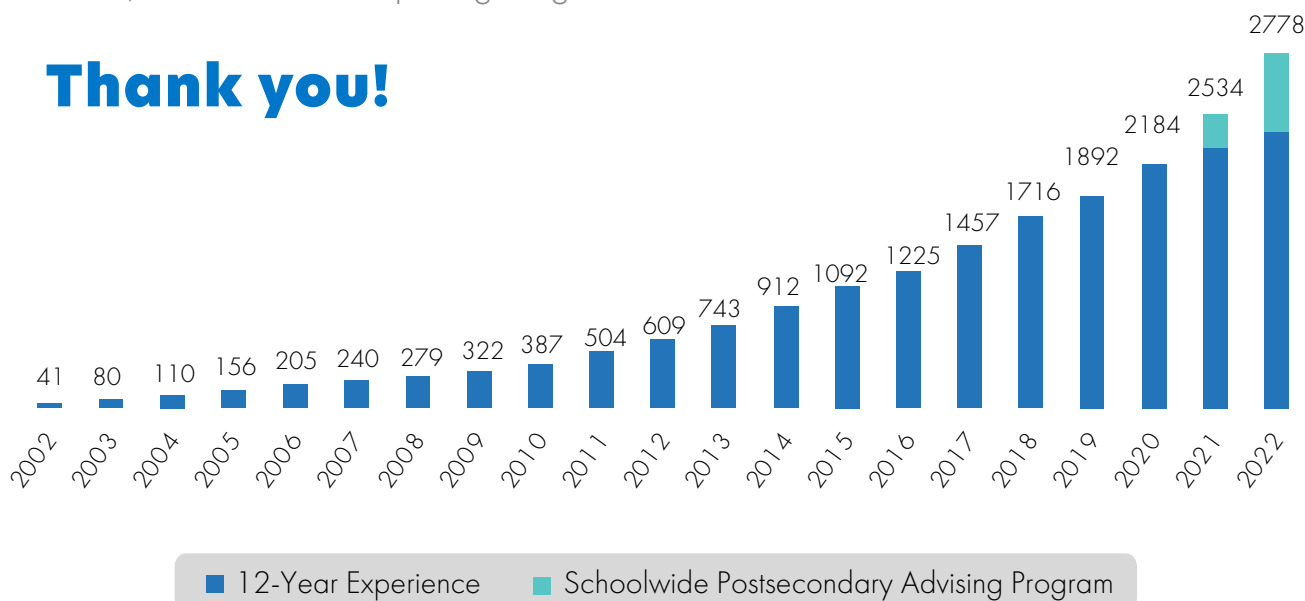
In 2022, Breakthrough Central Texas celebrated its 20th anniversary as an organization.

For more than 20 years, Breakthrough has been inspired by students and their families to reshape the future of Central Texas: A place and time where all students can experience the life-changing power of a postsecondary degree.

In 2002, we welcomed 40 middle school students from under-resourced communities to begin a transformative learning experience. Twenty years later, Breakthrough Central Texas has touched the lives of thousands of students and their families — and hundreds of future educators — through life-changing educational experiences.

Because of our students' hard work and determination and your dedicated support, Breakthrough has grown from a small program serving just 40 students annually to serving more than 2,700 students and surpassing 280 graduates in 2022.

Thank you!





THE BREAKTHROUGH IMPACT

In 2022, community members and partners invested \$7,274,552 in Breakthrough Central Texas to help us create a path to and through college for students who will become the first in their families to earn a college degree. Your support of Breakthrough helped provide Central Texas youth with the guidance and the support they need to persist toward their dream of earning a postsecondary degree to change the trajectory of their family forever.

2,778

Students served in
Breakthrough's 12-Year Experience
and Schoolwide Programs

598

MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENTS

1,365

HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS

815

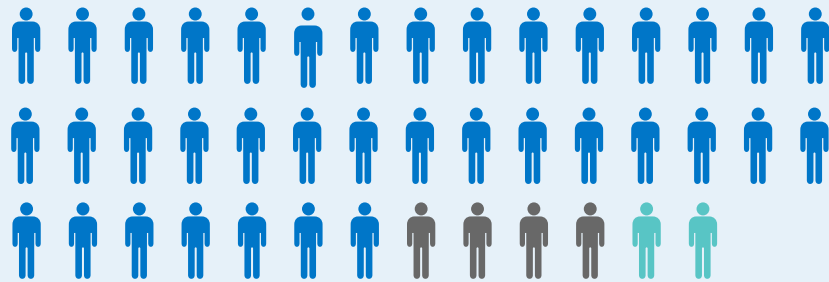
STUDENTS PURSUING
POSTSECONDARY PATHWAYS

COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS

CLASS OF 2022

43

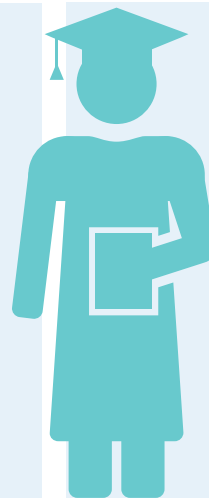
POSTSECONDARY
GRADUATES



■ BACHELOR'S ■ ASSOCIATE'S ■ CERTIFICATES



On average, 60% of Breakthrough students graduate from college within six years, compared to 38% of their peers from low-income communities.



288

TOTAL FIRST-GENERATION
COLLEGE GRADUATES
& COUNTING!



**POLICY ADVOCACY
PRACTICE**

5

COALITIONS IN WHICH BREAKTHROUGH
ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES

10

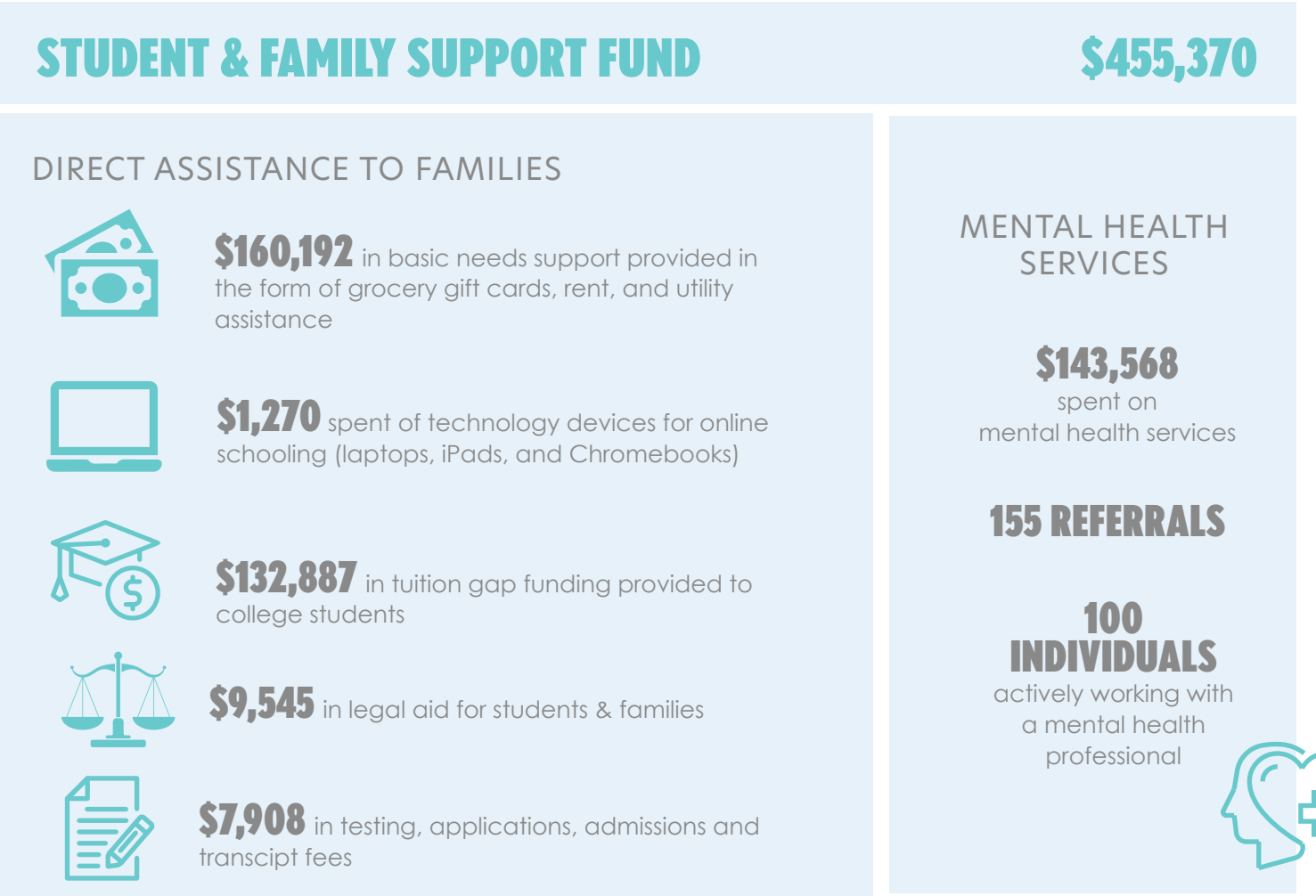
EDUCATIONAL/ADVOCACY EVENTS
BREAKTHROUGH HELPED HOST

SUPPORTING STUDENTS & FAMILIES IN TIMES OF NEED

The profoundly disruptive and life-altering pandemic affected all students across Central Texas. The effect was amplified for students and families in our region's under-resourced and marginalized communities. Many students' families found themselves unemployed or facing vastly reduced income and in need of emergency support. A significant number of families were ineligible for unemployment benefits. Many faced housing and food insecurity. Others could not afford or lived in rural areas without access to reliable internet at home or technology devices to provide their children with online learning. Given Breakthrough's role as a trusted advisor to our students, our families reached out for support in navigating the financial fallout of this pandemic.

In 2022, while the world and our community had largely returned to "normal," the economic fallout was still very real for many of our students and their families. Coupled with our region's soaring affordability crisis and devastating inflation, many families continued to struggle – their livelihood, well-being and dreams of becoming first-generation college graduates threatened. Our students and families relied on Breakthrough to help them navigate this crisis in both the short and long-term.

Formalized in March of 2020, the Student & Family Support Fund provides mental health services, gap tuition assistance and financial assistance to students and their families who suddenly find themselves without means to pay rent, mortgage or utility bills or buy groceries.



THE RETURN TO IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING

In summer of 2022, Breakthrough students reunited in-person, engaging in hands-on learning in and out of the classroom. Staff was thrilled to welcome back students, teaching fellows, and instructional coaches to our signature Middle School Summer Academy at sites across Austin, offering new curriculum and exciting field trips. High school students attended leadership institutes, explored college and career options, and prepared for the college admissions process alongside their Breakthrough peers and advisors.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE WERE ABLE TO...



Offer our five-week Summer Academy with 72+ hours of in-person instruction time for 400+ middle school students and help them rebound from the pandemic, recover lost learning and reconnect to the Breakthrough community.



Engage more than 250 high school students through our Summer Spectacular Program and Senior Institutes, offering multiple in-person workshops for 10th and 11th graders to connect with peers, learn and build leadership skills, and explore career and postsecondary pathways, and familiarizing rising seniors with the college application process.



Transition 241 graduating seniors to our College & Career Success Program, with 77 of them participating in Thrive Summit.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER ACADEMY OUTCOMES

Because students from low-income communities are at a disadvantage when it comes to accessing enrichment programming over the summer months, an emphasis of our program is providing rich learning opportunities in core subjects, sparking a love of learning and lessening summer learning gaps.

According to survey results:

90% of Academy-attending students agreed or strongly agreed at the end of the summer with the statement, "I want to attend a college after I graduate high school."

96% of families with participating students agreed with the statement "Breakthrough helps me support my child's success in school."

84% of families with participating students agreed with the statement, "Being involved with Breakthrough has increased my knowledge about the steps necessary to get to and graduate from college."



(RE)INTRODUCING THE BREAKTHROUGH INTERNSHIP NETWORK

FORMERLY FUTURE FOCUS

In 2011, Future Focus Founder Dan Keelan and Accenture Austin partnered to launch an ambitious and transformative internship program for Breakthrough and KIPP students. Since then, Future Focus has placed more than 500 interns at 100+ Austin companies, connecting students to paid internships and expanding their opportunities while providing host companies with exceptionally motivated and hardworking interns from diverse backgrounds.

Along with Dan Keelan, Accenture understood the value of combining strong financial performance with doing social good – the “double bottom line” of successful companies. Ultimately, an investment in these students is an investment in the future of the Austin workforce and community.

In 2022, as Breakthrough continued to serve more and more college students, we believed the organization was uniquely positioned to acquire and scale Future Focus. This resulted in re-introducing this transformational program under a new name – the Breakthrough Internship Network. With the continued support of Dan Keelan and the creation of an Advisory Council of prominent business leaders, Breakthrough partnered with Austin companies and expanded the internship opportunities available to our students, providing more staff support and year-round resources, ultimately leveraging our network to build bigger and better opportunities.

Our collective efforts have allowed all students who want and need a summer internship, to benefit from this life-changing experience.

2022 ADVISORY COUNCIL

Gene Austin

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Dr. Jim and Irma Brand

CEO, Victoria Emergency Associates

Munira Fareed

Board Trustee

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SVP, Corridor Title

Kevin Ilcisin

SVP, Strategy & Corporate Development, NI

Bobby Jenkins

CEO, ABC Home & Commercial Services

Catherine Morse

Partner, Enoch Kever

Michael Ramirez

Austin Market President, VeraBank

Kelli Raymond

VP, Human Resources, Horizon Bank

Janice Ta

Senior Council, Perkins Coie

Brandon Tolany

SVP, WW Sales & Marketing, Silicon Labs



We've really enjoyed getting to know Breakthrough interns, and they just bring so much to our organization. We've filled multiple positions with Breakthrough interns. We interviewed a handful of them and wanted to hire all of them. Breakthrough plays a real important role in the middle piece by not only providing students access to important internships, but equipping them with the support to ensure they are successful in those internships.

Emma Morris

Talent Acquisition Manager at Silicon Labs



My internship has prepared me for my future career by introducing me to new skills such as Tableau, HTML, networking and more! My favorite part of this internship was the opportunity to learn new skills, employee resource groups (ERGs) and networking.

AMIRICA LUCKIE

Breakthrough College Student
Reporting Analyst Intern, Accenture



150

APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED

92

PARTICIPATING
STUDENTS

83

INTERNS
PLACED

35

PARTICIPATING
HOST COMPANIES

10

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
OPPORTUNITIES
HOSTED

LAUNCHING THE ALUMNI NETWORK

In 2022, with a record number of Breakthrough students crossing the postsecondary graduation stage, founding Alumni Council members launched the Breakthrough Alumni Network. The Network is an opportunity to connect with fellow Breakthrough Central Texas alumni and continue to build meaningful relationships that can mutually benefit them and their community post-graduation.

BY THE NUMBERS

288

Members

10

Council Members

1

Staff Liaison

3

Alumni Board
Trustees

Co-Chairs

Jabrell Scott
Javier Ramirez

Council

Carlos Alpuche
Karen Arredondo, *Staff Liaison*
Carlos De La Cruz
DeAndralyn Dorsey
Esteban Armenta
Gloria Perez
Huy Nguyen
Jose Vara
Julian Castaneda
Karen Alpuche
Yasmine Smith

GOALS

Growing as a Professional

The Network offers networking opportunities, support with career aspirations and graduate school pathways, as well as professional development opportunities.

Lifting While We Climb

At the core of the Alumni Network mission, alumni seek ways to support younger Breakthrough students on their paths to graduation through volunteerism, monetary gifts and mentorship.

Building a Stronger Network

The Network aims to bring together earlier classes and Breakthrough's newest graduating classes to make connections, celebrate career successes, and give back to the community.

The Network hosted their first professional development opportunity, a Financial Empowerment Workshop, to learn how alumni can break through money hang-ups and build long-lasting wealth.

The Network raised funds during Amplify Austin to award \$500 scholarships to 5 graduating high school seniors.

40+ Alumni gathered to launch the Breakthrough Alumni Network at Abel's On The Lake, where graduates from the past 10 years had the opportunity to meet one another and connect.



OUR PEOPLE

STAFF SNAPSHOT



Full-Time Staff

26

Full-Time
AmeriCorps Members

20

Summer
Instructional Coaches

121

Summer AmeriCorps
Teaching Fellows

Helping Build the Next Generation of Educators Through Our Summer Teaching Fellowship Program

Nine years after our program launch, Breakthrough was on the brink of expansion into a second district. That same year, the organization won its first AmeriCorps grant to help support capacity. Since 2011, Breakthrough has grown to become one of the largest AmeriCorps programs in the state. Each year, remarkable college students and recent graduates from across the country dedicate a term of service to our students -- as Summer Teaching Fellows and year-round advisors, receiving the benefit of joining a national service movement, an education award, leadership experiences and other exceptional benefits.

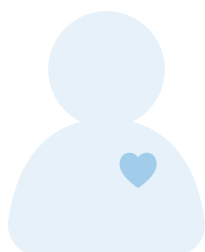
In 2020, leveraging our long-standing position as a successful AmeriCorps program, Breakthrough Central Texas applied for and received approval to host Breakthrough Houston as they bring this valuable asset to their own community. To date, through this expansion, hundreds of AmeriCorps members are apart of Breakthrough programs across Texas.



AmeriCorps



VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT



300+

volunteers supporting
staff & students

2022 Board of Trustees

Esteban Armenta, *Alumnus*

Jeanette Auerbach

Cyndi Bock

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Walt Penn

Michael Ramirez

Sergio Rodriguez, *Vice-Chair*

Jabrell Scott, *Alumni Network Co-Chair*

Taylor Sisson, *Finance Chair*

Jessica Slade

Jasmin Vara, *Secretary, Alumna*

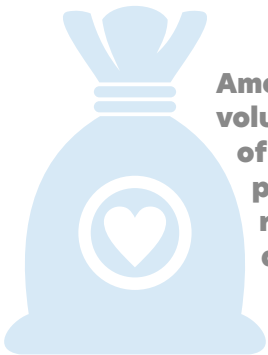
Tito Vidaurri, *Treasurer*



I have been a part of Breakthrough since I was in 6th grade. I remember sitting in the St. Andrew's Middle School Commons and mumbling the exact same cheers as my students at 8:00 in the morning while I wondered how my teachers had so much energy. I'm pretty sure I joined Breakthrough before I knew what it actually was, and now I don't even know where I'd be without it. This community supported me in ways I didn't even know, and I can't even begin to express how much it means to be giving back to a community that strives to bridge the educational disparities seen in marginalized communities.

MARIANA

Breakthrough Student &
AmeriCorps Teaching Fellow



AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, released a ROI study that measured the value of federal funding invested in education-focused programs. The study found Breakthrough Central Texas returns as much as \$54.56 of value to the government and communities for every federal dollar invested.

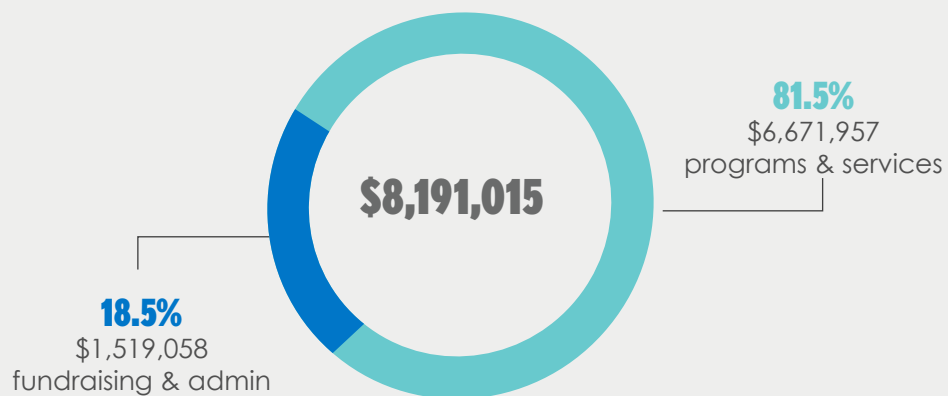
Read more at BreakthroughCTX.org/ameri-corps-roi/

FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE BREAKDOWN

Individuals	\$3,508,796
Foundations/Organizations	1,529,038
Corporations	419,491
Government	1,403,727
Fee for service	413,500
<hr/>	
Total	\$7,274,552

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



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.

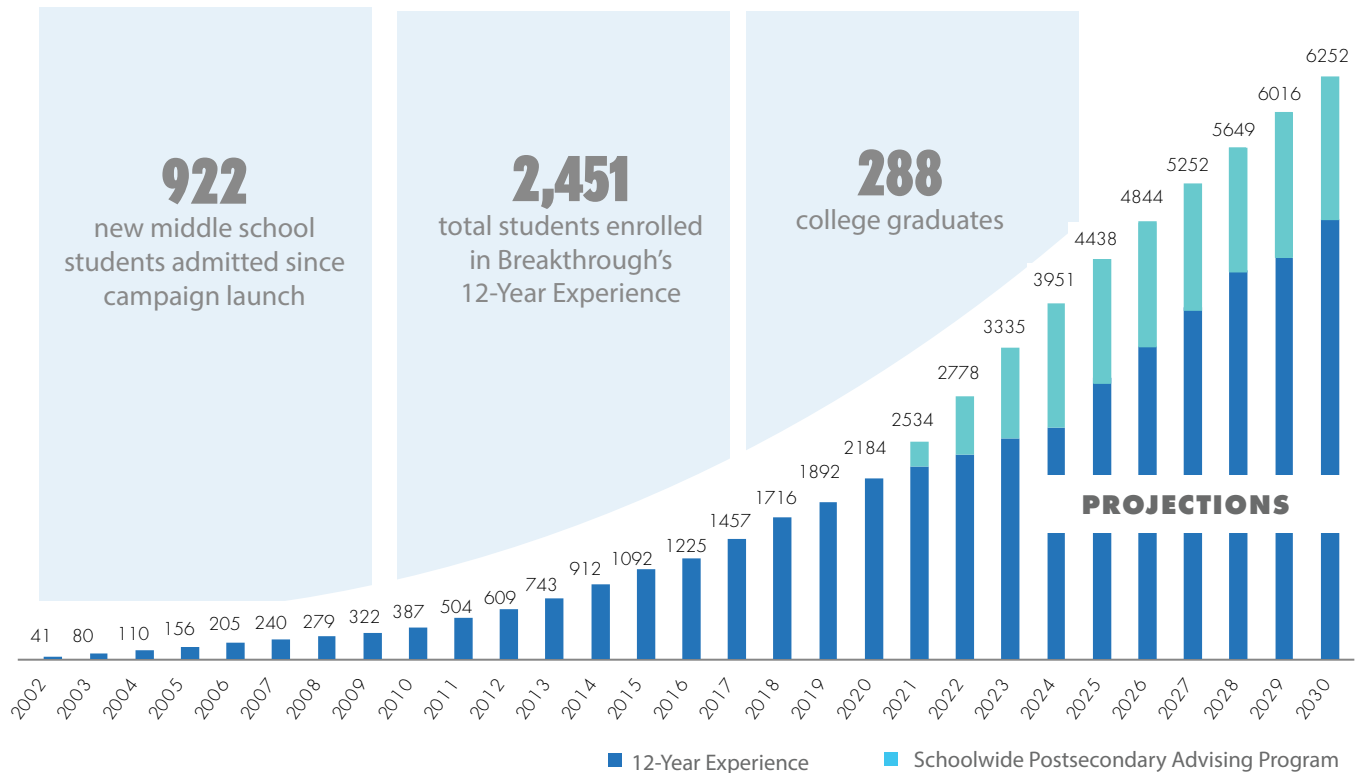
Endowment Fund Financial Report for December 31, 2021 through December 31, 2022:

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.

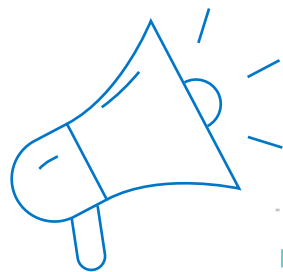
How We Advocate

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



**THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN
COLLEGE DREAMS**



www.breakthroughctx.org