



The
**BREAKTHROUGH
CHALLENGE**

ABOUT THE COVER

Salvador Gloria-Moreno is a senior at The University of Texas at Austin, where he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology with a UTeach certification. During his first semester in college, Salvador created this self portrait, entitled "Luminous Opportunity," for a Breakthrough art competition. It celebrates the Breakthrough advisors who have been "beacons of light" in his life – guiding him and other students on their educational journey and providing a safe space where they can express themselves, be themselves, and grow as individuals. In 2020, this artwork was gifted to every donor who invested in The Breakthrough Challenge, as a small token of our gratitude for the countless opportunities you have unlocked for Salvador and thousands more Breakthrough students. Upon graduation, Salvador hopes to pursue a career in education himself, so that he can be that beacon of light for the next generation of young people following in his footsteps.

Scan QR code below or visit BreakthroughCTX.org/BreakthroughChallenge to meet Salvador and learn more about his journey.



THE BREAKTHROUGH CHALLENGE

Dedicated to all who fueled the dreams
of more than 3,000 young people
to realize the life-changing power of a college degree.

Our profound gratitude to you.



Transformational Impact *requires* **Transformative Champions**

Five years ago, we put forward a challenge to our community to help Breakthrough take a quantum leap toward a bold North Star: to double the number of students from low-income Central Texas communities who become first-generation college graduates.

You accepted our challenge, stretching your investment in Breakthrough just as our students stretch courageously every day to create new possibilities for themselves and their families.

As we celebrate the profound success of The Breakthrough Challenge, let's take a moment to look back. Guided by our new five-year strategic plan and fueled by your investment, when the pandemic hit, we were adaptive and responsive to our students' changing needs. Our community of Breakthrough students, families, volunteers, partners, and donors, like you, showed up in numerous ways, giving us the confidence to serve when our community needed us most.

Today, as a result of this campaign, we have tripled the number of first-generation college graduates, doubled the number of students served, and multiplied our impact. With your support, we can proudly say that Breakthrough Central Texas has become the leading college access and success nonprofit organization in Central Texas.

Thank you, Breakthrough Champions!

With sincerest gratitude on behalf of all of us at
Breakthrough Central Texas,

Michael Griffith
Executive Director



The **BREAKTHROUGH CHALLENGE** **2019-2023**

With your investment in The Breakthrough Challenge, we exceeded our campaign goals, ultimately evolving from an organization that is not only impacting the lives of thousands of individual students and their families, but also transforming whole schools and championing policies that improve access to postsecondary education for all Central Texas students.

Together, we accomplished the following:

ACHIEVED EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

More students. More first-generation college graduates.
More capacity.

SCALED PROGRAMS WITH PURPOSE

Expanded services at the high school and postsecondary level of our signature 12-Year Experience.

EXPANDED PATHWAYS FOR GREATER IMPACT

New program strategies and key infrastructure investments.

BUILT FOR THE FUTURE

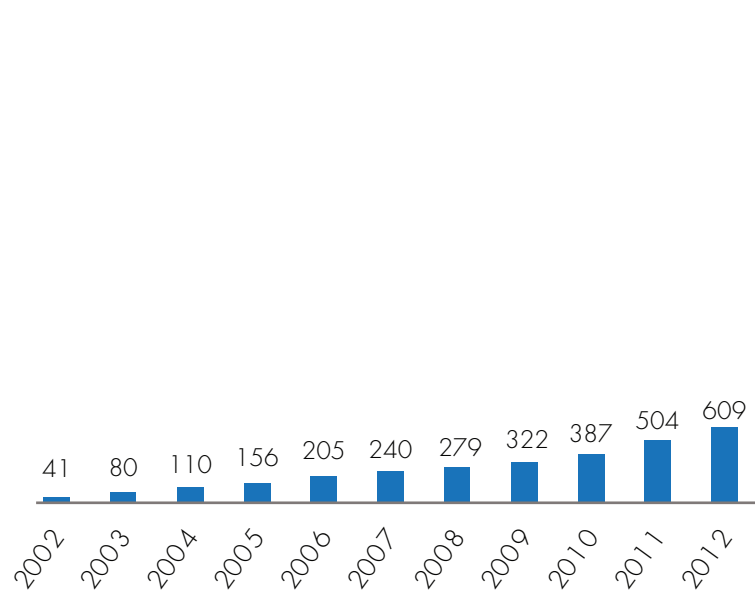
Promise Fund endowment to help fulfill our long-term promise to students and their families.

A close-up portrait of a young boy with short, dark, curly hair and blue-rimmed glasses. He is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a grey and white patterned t-shirt. The background is a blurred teal color.

**ACHIEVED
EXPONENTIAL
GROWTH**

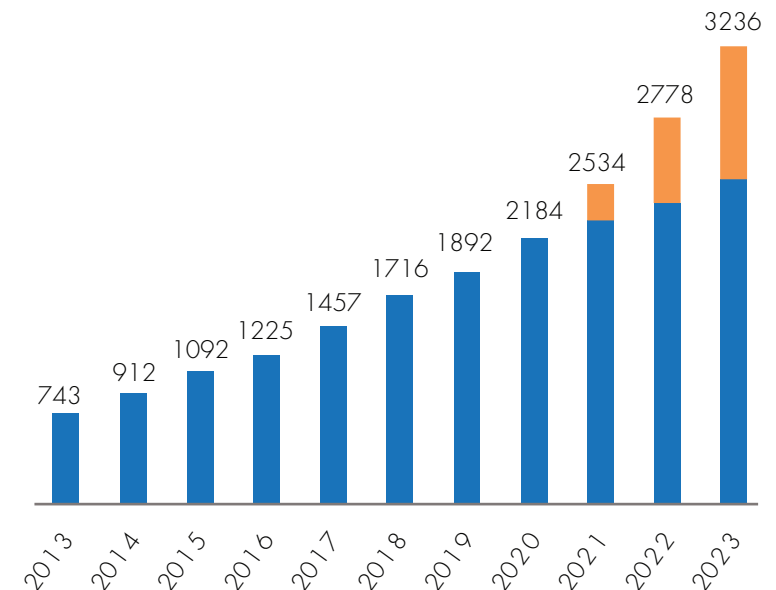
ACHIEVED EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

The big headline: we **exceeded** our ambitious campaign goals! Specifically, to triple the number of first-generation college graduates and enroll 1,400 new Breakthrough students – serving more than 3,000 students overall.



With your investment, we were able to:

- **Triple the number of college graduates** from 113 in 2018 to 357 first-generation college graduates in 2023.
- **Double the number of students we serve** on their college journey to nearly 1,500 students prior to the campaign to more than 3,200 in 2023.
- **Double our organizational capacity** to nearly 100 full-time staff and AmeriCorps members, from just under 50 in 2018.



■ 12-Year Experience ■ Schoolwide Postsecondary Advising Program



**SCALED
PROGRAMS
WITH PURPOSE**



The 12-Year Experience

"Breakthrough is not a program, it's an experience."

Ted Whatley, Founding Breakthrough Board Trustee

Your investment allowed us to continue to build out the extended learning and advising services that Breakthrough is known for at the high school and postsecondary level. Specifically, we established our High School Program at Del Valle ISD and expanded the number of students in our College & Career Success program by 228%, from 290 in 2018, to 950 in 2023.

Additionally, we listened, learned, and innovated, continuously refining our services to meet students' whole needs at critical points along their path to becoming first-generation college graduates, including:

- Expanded support for students pursuing two-year degrees and certificates
- Direct financial assistance
- Access to mental health services
- Increased collaboration with strategic higher education partners

As we looked ahead to the potential to develop new program strategies, we recognized that our signature collection of services, provided from middle school through college graduation, needed a name – something that would provide greater clarity for our students, families, and stakeholders across the organization. We named it Breakthrough's 12-Year Experience.



**EXPANDED PATHWAYS
FOR GREATER IMPACT**

ARLINGTON



EXPANDED PATHWAYS FOR GREATER IMPACT

Building upon two decades of experience honing the 12-Year Experience and guided by our vision for a more equitable Central Texas, Breakthrough developed two new program strategies to expand our capacity for greater impact. Your investment in The Breakthrough Challenge provided seed funding for the launch of Breakthrough Schoolwide and Breakthrough Policy Advocacy. Together, these pathways took what we know works – trusting, adaptable, long-term relationships with students, families, and school partners – and allowed us to serve more students and to drive change at the school and policy level.



Breakthrough Schoolwide

Through the 12-Year Experience, we met countless aspiring first-generation college students who had not had the opportunity to join Breakthrough in middle school and were seeking college and career guidance as juniors and seniors. We also met countless educators and school administrators who yearned for more capacity to provide their students with the postsecondary advising they need and deserve.

With your support, we set out to pilot the Postsecondary Schoolwide Advising Program - Breakthrough Schoolwide. The objective: to partner with Title I high schools to transform them into best-in-class college access institutions, providing year-round postsecondary advising services to every junior and senior on campus to pursue their dreams after high school graduation.

In 2020, we launched the Breakthrough Schoolwide program pilot at Manor New Tech High School, immediately reducing the counselor-to-student ratio to less than 1:75 (compared to the average on 1:442 in Texas). The results from the first two classes of high school graduates are remarkable. 89% of the school's Class of 2023 enrolled directly into a bachelors, associates, or certificate program, compared to 56% prior to the program launch. Motivated by this transformation, we expanded the program to a second campus, Austin ISD's Eastside Early College High School, in fall 2023.



Breakthrough Policy Advocacy

In order to achieve greater equity in college access and success in Central Texas, we have a responsibility to advocate for policies that support all students to succeed on their path to college graduation, especially those who can benefit most from the life-changing power of a postsecondary degree or certificate. With your support, we launched Breakthrough Policy Advocacy in 2020, guided by our core belief that the individuals who are being personally impacted by inequitable educational policies should be the leading voices in the construction and reform of those very policies.

Our goal: to uplift the voices of our students and to work in coalition with education and community partners to champion federal, state, and local policies that promote equity in college access and attainment.



Building Organizational Capacity

In order to achieve the exponential growth, scale, and impact we envisioned through The Breakthrough Challenge, we built organizational capacity with key infrastructure investments. With your support over the past five years, we have grown our team of program advisors and invested in key staff positions, such as human resources, curriculum development, student and talent recruitment, data and evaluation, and fundraising, to ensure that we could reach our ambitious goals in a way that is both sustainable and maintains the fidelity and quality of our programs.

The result: at every grade level during middle and high school, our students outpace their peers on critical milestones, including high school graduation, school attendance, enrollment in advanced coursework, STAAR scores, and college entrance exams. These impacts carry into college, where Breakthrough students enroll, persist, and complete college degrees and certificates at significantly higher rates than their peers in the region.



CLASS of 2023

#FinallyFinished

You Did It

2023

BUILT FOR THE FUTURE

BUILT FOR THE FUTURE

Approximately twenty-percent of the funds raised through The Breakthrough Challenge were designated to establish The Promise Fund, an endowment to ensure we can continue to fulfill our long-term promise to Breakthrough students, families, and communities. In 2023, we received the first distribution from this fund to help fuel our program operations.

The Promise Fund

Endowment Fund Financial Report for December 31, 2022 through December 31, 2023:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Market Value as of December 31, 2022 | \$1,327,604 |
| Gifts Received | \$249,142 |
| Income and Investment Gains/Losses | \$204,790 |
| Market Value as of December 31, 2023 | \$1,781,536 |

THE BREAKTHROUGH CHALLENGE



Implemented new five-year strategic plan calling for the scaling and innovation of 12-Year Experience and development of two new program strategies

Selected Manor New High School as pilot campus for Schoolwide Program and hired Chief Schools Officer to lead program design

Engaged community-based Campus Postsecondary Leadership Council to shape integration of 12-Year Experience and Schoolwide Program in Manor ISD

Scaled 12-Year Experience to establish High School Program for pioneering class of Del Valle Breakthrough students

Celebrated first class of graduating high school seniors in Northeast Austin ISD cohort of 12-Year Experience

Established Student & Family Support Fund in response to overwhelming need for financial relief due to COVID-19 pandemic

Formally launched Schoolwide Program serving first class of juniors at Manor New Tech High School

Created Policy Advocacy Practice, hiring Data & Policy Analyst and engaging students, families, community partners, and education equity coalitions to develop our first policy agenda



Participated in first Texas Legislative Session, providing testimony on local, state, and federal policies that more equitably serve first-generation college students

Piloted co-advising model for Breakthrough students at St. Edward's University, an innovation to support students at college campuses with greater scale

Renamed College & Career Success Program to better represent inclusive approach to supporting students on a variety of postsecondary pathways, including 4-year, 2-year, and certificate programs

Designed Policy Advocacy programming around three key priorities: ensuring excellent educational opportunities for K-12 students, promoting higher education affordability in Texas, and supporting all students to prepare for and succeed in college and career

Celebrated first class of Schoolwide Program high school graduates

Broadened array of postsecondary supports adding staff with expertise in 2-year and trade, vocational, license, and certificate pathways

Continued build out of college readiness resources, including College & Career Prep Guide, College Fit Guide, and a 42-point checklist from application to the first day of college

Dedicated College Access team to meet the specialized needs of high school seniors and their families to navigate college and financial aid application process



Activated pilot cohort of Breakthrough Student Advocacy Fellows to advocate directly to state leaders during the 88th Texas Legislative Session

Continued build of 12-Year Experience at Del Valle ISD with addition of the SAT/ACT preparation and launch of the college application process

Named one of four Examples of Excelencia nationally by Excelencia in Education, the only national data-driven effort to recognize programs with evidence of effectiveness in supporting Latino success in higher education

Deepened partnerships with St. Edward's University, Texas State University, and Austin Community College to serve postsecondary students at scale

Expanded Schoolwide Program to second campus at Austin ISD's Eastside Early College High School



“To me, the Breakthrough Challenge is about changing educational inequity in Central Texas. I’m excited that 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. You all, along with the Breakthrough students give me hope for a brighter future.”

Joe Anthony Cruz
Breakthrough Graduate
Ithaca College

BREAKTHROUGH CHALLENGE COLLEGE GRADUATES

EARNED DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE, 2019-2023

American Public University System

Eric Munoz

Angelo State University

Erick Hernandez
Ricardo Chavez

App Academy

Efrain Saldana

Austin Community College

Aldair Luna
Alejandro Tejada
Amayha Hart
Ariah Rivera
Ashantiana Odu
Berenice Martinez
Bobby Mercado
Brian Martinez
Cecilia Coke
Cinthia Moctezuma
Efrain Carrizales Ponce
Gustavo Salinas
Iris Jimenez
Ishajaneke Overton
JaCorey Johnson
Jeffrey Inthasane
Jose Duran
Juan Reyes Jr.
Karina De Leon
Kevin Abarca Silva
Krista Alonso
Litzzy Rea-Valdez
Lucinda Vasquez-Vallejo
Maria Aldape
Monisa Smith
Nathan Rodriguez-Rosales
Nayeli Barcenaz Perez
Olga Barahona
Paulina Ramirez Trujillo
Seth Granados
Stacy Navarro

Austin Dental Assistant Academy

Julio Damian Gutierrez

Austin Medical Assistant School

Sherlyn Vargas

Baldwin Beauty School

Becky Lopez

Bates College

Bijou Kanyambo

Bennington College

Stephanie "Stevie" Martinez-Farias

BeVelle Barber School

James Whitehead

Boston University

Donavon Young

Central Texas Beauty College

Mykaela Ruiz- Lujan

Claremont McKenna College

Julian Castaneda

College of Health Care Professions

Kristin Ellison
Lizbeth Morales Salazar
Nazareth Gonzalez

Concordia University

Marilyn Montero
Daniel Valadez
Jessica A. Martinez
Travion Walker

Des Moines Community College

Erik Benitez

Emory University

Alyssa Castillo

Goodwill Career Technology Academy

Demetria Brown
Jocelyn Bahena
Paige Green

Hendrix College

Ashley Ybarra

Howard University

Folasade "Sade" Fashina
Ymani "Mani" McIntosh-Plummer

Huston-Tillotson University

Jeyner Canaca
Nyja Harris

Independent Electrical Contractors

Norlan Diaz
Joel Dominguez

Ithaca College

Joe Anthony Cruz

Macalester College

Robert Grace

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Hector Cantu

Our Lady of the Lake University

Erika Carbajal Ramos

Pomona College

Karen Alpuche
Perla Grimaldo

Rice University

Kimberly Olea

Roffler School of Hair Design

Francisco Herrera

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Jeniffer Saucedo
Karina Munoz
Marco Saucedo Jr.

Sam Houston State University

DeAndrea Foy
Jonathan Hernandez
Stephanie Lopez-Lara

Schreiner University

Natalie Raper

Skillpoint Alliance

Nicholas Peralta
Adrian Quezada

Southern Careers Institute

Hiram Ruiz Monroy

Southern Methodist University

Jorge Torres

Southern New Hampshire University

Abisai Andrade
Maria Mendez

Southwestern University

Brenda Sanchez
Kevin Guzman
Michelle Nguyen

St. Edward's University

Aileene Rosales
Amanda Chavez
Angeles Barrera
Bridget Gonzalez
Eddy Sanchez
Enrique Resendiz
Ernesto Gomez
Jessica Reyes
Jose Garibay

Juan J. Garcia

Kaomi Matos
Lucita Rodriguez
Luis Salinas
Marissa Pena
Melanie Campos
Melissa Palacios
Norma Reyes
Olibia Barrientos
Raul Trujillo
Ricardo Apanco-Sarabia
Robin Resas
Victoria "Vickie" Yescas

St. Mary's University

Daniel Reyes
Guadalupe Delgado
Natalia Viruegas

Stephen F. Austin University

DeAndralyn Dorsey
Yair Zarate

Tarleton State University

Prince Umanmielen

Texas A&M - Corpus Christi

Cristy Lopez-Santana

Texas A&M University

Abel Landin
Alessandra Ovalle
Alexis Hernandez
Antonio Brandon
Carlos De La Cruz
Elias "Daniel" Garibay
Esteban Armenta
Geovanny Rodriguez
Jose Zubieta
Minerva Garcia
Sobeida Degante
Stefany Rodriguez
Yesenia Aviles

Texas State University

Aaron Esparza
Alicia Tierrablanca
Amirica Luckie
Andrea Grimaldo
April Hernandez
Ashley "Charlize" Figueroa
Betbirai "Beth " Rocha
Breana Miller
Bryan Garcia
Carlos Alvarez
Da'Keona Jones
Eduardo Zurita
Fausta Garcia

Texas State University cont.

Giselle Rodriguez
 Isaiah Gutierrez
 Ivan Navarrete
 Jaqueline Chavira
 Jaqueline Martinez
 Jocelyn Sanchez
 Mackenzie Alexander
 Marisol Diaz
 Mayra Olguin-Cruz
 Mia Guerra
 Morgan Grimaldo
 Naomi Padilla
 Natalie Renteria
 Rachel "Renee" Reyes
 Raven Ruiz-Lujan
 Rocio Samaniego Zuniga
 Rodrigo Barrientos
 Samantha Delgado Torres
 Sheila Nunez
 Sierra Soriano
 Tiffany Guerra
 Veronica Carerra Martinez
 Vincent DePaz
 Yarely Ortiz

Texas Tech University

Alyssa Ybarra
 Andrea Torres
 Arianna Maldonado
 Cristal Garcia
 Eli Lopez
 Grecia Lopez
 Jacob Cortez
 Jessica Lopez-Reyes
 Juan Chavez
 Lorena Banda
 Lucy Saucedo
 Maury Cespedes

Texas Woman's University

Fatima Gloria

Trinity College

Maria Martinez Rui

University of Houston

Brandon Perez
 De'Asia Johnson

University of North Texas

Arleth Tierrablanca
 Desiree Davis
 Lupe Brena
 Rodrigo "Trey" Vivar
 Yesenia Hernandez

University of Texas Arlington

Daniel Rubio

University of Texas at Austin

Andrea Sanchez
 Asia Dockery
 Brenda Saucedo
 Brianda Campos
 Bryan Rangel
 Da'Keondrick Whitley
 Danielle Hinojosa
 Edith Arriaga
 Eduardo Hernandez
 Guadalupe Lopez
 Immaculee Munguyuko
 Isaac Jimenez
 Jazmin Lopez
 Jorge Villa
 Mado Nagiciro Bukuru
 Mariana Monroy
 Marlene Huerta
 Precious Obasi
 Sophia Cruz

University of Texas at Dallas

Erick Villa
 Jose Rodriguez
 Matteo Sarmiento
 Odalis Cartagena

University of Texas at San Antonio

Breonna Ray
 Brian Velazquez-Parache
 Guadalupe Hernandez
 Jabrell Scott
 Jessica Romero
 Kyra Savannah
 Robert Evans
 Yasmin Gonzalez Morales

University of Southern Florida

Antonio Zurita

University of Virginia

Amanda Campos

YearUp

Zion Hipolito

STEERING COMMITTEE**Honorary Co-Chairs**

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 Mayor Kirk Watson

Co-Chairs

Christie Bybee
 Walt Penn
 Jessica Slade,
Breakthrough Founder

Hannah Temple
 Ted Whatley

Grace Holland,
*Chief Development &
 Communications Officer
 (2014-2022)*

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 Malia & Steve Aycock
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Michael Griffith,
Executive Director

Holly Wissmann,
*Chief Development &
 Communications Officer*

LUMINOUS OPPORTUNITY

BY SALVADOR GLORIA-MORENO

"[Breakthrough] has opened the opportunity for us to use it as a beacon of light that can guide us through the darkness we may encounter in the world. And in all the support, guidance, and love the Breakthrough community gives us, it opens an opportunity for us to become beacons of light for ourselves."

