



The Breakthrough

LEADER

Exceeding expectations.

On May 28, more than 100 members of the Breakthrough community gathered at Headliners Club in downtown Austin to celebrate a group of 2016 Breakthrough graduates whose college dreams have been realized.

“The degree you earned is just the symbol that lets the world know you have made it this far and have some great skills to bring to a job. It matters. But what matters even more is the lesson you take from the journey you just completed to the next journey of the rest of your life,” said Michael Griffith, Breakthrough’s Executive Director, as he addressed a room full of new engineers, fashion designers, entrepreneurs and teachers – Breakthrough graduates who have broke down every barrier to achieve their college dreams and are now launching their own careers.

Each graduate present has a hero’s story, like Jocelyn Monroy. Jocelyn is the first in her family to graduate from college, but it wasn’t easy. Her parents moved to Austin with an 8th grade education and a dream for a better life for their children. Working 7 days a week, up to 16 hours a day, they were not able to be as active in Jocelyn’s academic life as

she would have liked. But their commitment to her education was evident, as they would often tell her, “We’re not rich and we don’t have much money. That’s why we work so hard. So that you can focus on school and your education can be your inheritance.”

It was not until Jocelyn joined Breakthrough that she fully understood the power that education had to change her life.

“Breakthrough made me believe I could become a college graduate. I am proud to graduate from UT Austin and pass on a new legacy to my own daughter. I am the first in my family to graduate college. I won’t be the last.”



Jocelyn Monroy with her daughter

Champions Celebration

PRESENTED BY
NXP

More than 1,200 Breakthrough friends and supporters filled Stubb's on May 13 for an evening of music under the stars to celebrate Breakthrough's programs and students. Our 2016 Champions Celebration and Benefit Concert Presented by NXP kicked off with a cocktail reception honoring this year's Champion, Ted Whatley, followed by live music from Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter Patty Griffin.

Special thanks to our presenting sponsor NXP, our event co-chairs Katie Stolp and Margaret Casey, our amazing host Stubb's BBQ, and Neil Webber and the Topfer Family Foundation who generously matched up to \$50,000 in gifts made the night of the event. Together, Breakthrough Austin's Champions Celebration Presented by NXP raised more than \$300,000 to support Breakthrough's mission of creating first-generation college graduates.

A letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends of Breakthrough,

We talk a lot about growth at Breakthrough. Our growing number of students, staff, and supporters is always front of mind. We even have the privilege of watching our students grow from 12-year-old middle school students to college graduates embarking on a career. We witness their transformation from adolescents to well-spoken, hardworking, and caring young adults. Our experience in watching this transformation over and over again reinforces our belief in something called growth mindset - an understanding that intelligence and ability can be developed through dedication and hard work. Though our students aren't ready for college and career as 6th graders, if we give them the right opportunity to learn and reinforce their innate desire to grow, they can and will get there.

It's a powerful mindset and one that infuses our entire organization. We think critically about our work with students and look for ways to serve even more. To that end, we launched a growth campaign in March to expand to serve an additional 600 students by 2018. I encourage you to grow with us, to stretch your giving as Breakthrough students are stretching courageously every day to break down the barriers that stand in their way of a college education.

To learn more about our **More Breakthroughs, Brighter Futures Growth Campaign**, please contact Holly Wissman at 512.692.9444 or holly@breakthroughaustin.org. Thank you for helping us create a legacy of opportunity for our growing community.

With gratitude,

Michael Griffith



Thank you to our lead corporate sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor:

Magna Cum Laude Sponsors:



HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2016 SETTING NEW RECORDS

In 2010, a class of fifty-five 6th graders walked through the doors of Breakthrough Austin and made a twelve year commitment to their education. Those 6th graders have now officially graduated high school and are well on their way to becoming the first in their families to graduate from college.

On May 21, graduates and their families gathered at St. Edward's University to celebrate the class of 2016 at Breakthrough's annual High School Graduation Celebration. This group represents the largest class of graduates Breakthrough has ever had, and sets a new record by receiving 198 distinct college acceptance letters to 59 colleges and universities across the country. This outstanding group of graduates joins more than 200 additional high school graduates who are all striving towards their college dreams. Each and every one is a role model to nearly 1,000 younger Breakthrough students across Central Texas.

Special thanks to St Edward's University, Amaya's Taco Village and Sedan Inc. for making this celebration possible.



Partner Spotlight: **Applied Materials Foundation, Samsung, National Instruments**

Three leading Austin tech companies have graciously deepened their support for Breakthrough by offering a new experience to our students through employee expertise. Each partnership with Applied Materials Foundation, Samsung and National Instruments allows our students to learn from professionals in the fields of science and math and get a first-hand look at the tech world. Employees at these corporations have become dedicated volunteers and mentors for our students while leading STEM activities, robotics competitions, and career exploration programs. With a focus on STEM education, all three partners have committed to providing our students with the tools they need to grow academically and professionally.

We are fortunate to have key partners who believe in the success of our students as they continue on their path to becoming first-generation college graduates.



Experience Breakthrough

Summer is an exciting time for Breakthrough, as hundreds of middle school, high school and college students kick off their summer learning with us. We would love for you to share in their experience! Join us this summer to Experience Breakthrough and see our programs in action.

Visitors Days

Join us for a special behind-the-scenes peek at Breakthrough's signature program. This six-week, academically intensive summer program is designed to prevent summer learning loss for our middle school students. Take a tour, talk to students and AmeriCorps Teaching Fellows, and see the transformative impact that Breakthrough has on the lives of our students.

Tuesday, July 12

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM, Manor Middle School
12900 Gregg Manor Rd, Manor, TX 78653
Meet at the main entrance to Manor Middle School
Complimentary parking is available in front of the school.

Thursday, July 21

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM, St. Andrew's Middle School
3209 Shoal Creek Boulevard, Austin, TX 78705
Meet at the main entrance to St. Andrew's Middle School
Complimentary parking is available in front of the school.

Presentations of Learning

Breakthrough students at each grade level, from middle school through college, demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have developed during the summer by participating in Presentations of Learning. Community volunteers provide essential feedback on student presentations. This meaningful interaction with caring adults and professionals helps prepare our students for both college and professional life.

11th Grade Breakthrough Branches Out

Tuesday, July 26, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, Location TBD
(25 volunteers needed)

Thursday, August 4, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Samsung Austin Semiconductor
(25 volunteers needed)

Middle School Summer Program

Wednesday, July 27, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Manor Middle School
(50 volunteers needed)

Thursday, July 28, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
UT Austin
(36 Volunteers needed)

Friday, July 29, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
St. Andrew's Middle School
(32 volunteers needed)

Future Focus College Internship Program

Thursday, August 11, Time TBD, Farm Credit Bank of Texas
(36 volunteers needed)



CONTACT

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www.breakthroughaustin.org

LOCATION

Breakthrough Austin
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Austin, TX 78702



Breakthrough is proud to be an AmeriCorps program.



To RSVP for one or more Experience Breakthrough opportunities, contact Jene Shepherd at jene@breakthroughaustin.org.