

OUR IVISSION

To prepare motivated middle and high school students with limited educational opportunities for success in rigorous college-preparatory high school programs and entry into four-year colleges.

To prepare outstanding high school and college students to enter careers in education.



Dear Breakthrough Community,

2017 was a pivotal year of growth and transition at Breakthrough Silicon Valley. We chose "community" as the theme for this report because you – our community – made 2017 an exceptional year, and we are deeply grateful. You came together and mobilized and, as a result, our work supporting nearly 500 future first-generation college students, and more than 50 aspiring young educators never skipped a beat. In fact, we grew stronger.

The results of our work together speak for themselves: 100% of our Class of 2017 began college last fall with a full 85% at four-year universities. Our alumni continue to thrive in college; 98% have earned a college degree or are on track to graduate within six years. Meanwhile, 88% of our summer teaching fellows were inspired to pursue a career in education after their Breakthrough teaching experience.

At Breakthrough, community means active participation. It means working together towards our shared vision of educational equity, and it means digging deep for young people who deserve better options. Breakthrough's community is our strength and our heart. Our community is you.

We are deeply grateful for the many ways you supported our work in 2017. Here are just a few:

- From after-school tutoring to mock interviews and application reading sessions, our dedicated corps of volunteers devoted over 3,000 hours of service.
- San Jose Unified and Franklin-McKinley School Districts reaffirmed their support, including deeper integration of Breakthrough services with school resources.
- Santa Clara University once again hosted our middle school summer program, giving our students an unparalleled opportunity to learn and grow on an iconic college campus.
- Together, we shattered our fundraising goal at our annual *Are You Smarter Than a Breakthrough Student?* event which provides essential support for our programs.

In 2018, we are deepening partnerships with organizations like The Tech Museum of Innovation and Santa Clara University to expand opportunities for our students; collaborating with the Sobrato Family Foundation to examine ways to fine-tune our work and focus our impact; and formulating a new strategic vision to guide our decision-making.

We hope this report inspires you to learn more about how you can support Breakthrough through your talents, your networks, and your generosity. Thank you for joining with us to create life-changing opportunities for our students and aspiring young educators.

In partnership,

John Hiester Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS

March - Adopted "Safe Haven" policy, in coordination with our school district partners, to support all students and families regardless of nationality, birthplace, or immigration status.

March/April - Conducted first-ever alumni survey with impressive results: 98% of our alumni have earned a bachelor's degree or are on track to graduate in six years.

> May - Welcomed John Hiester to the role of executive director.

June/July - Launched summer programs, hosting over 210 middle schoolers at Santa Clara University and Silver Creek High School, in addition to over 100 high school students at Notre Dame High School and Bellarmine College Prep.

> **July -** Piloted a high school Computer Science Academy focused on web-based game development, sponsored by a generous grant from LinkedIn.

September - Selected as one of 10 nonprofits forming the inaugural cohort of the Sobrato Impact Lab, an 18-month program designed to help participating organizations learn how to better evaluate, and thus strengthen, the impact

of their work.

October - Raised over \$340,000 at seventh annual Are You Smarter Than a Breakthrough Student? benefit, surpassing fundraising goal.

> **November -** Convened the founding board of the BSV Alumni Association, led by college graduates of our program.

December - Selected as a Mercury News Wish Book featured organization.

OUR RESULTS

85% chose to attend a four-year institution

15% chose to start at a two-year college (primarily for financial reasons)

\$839,511 Total financial aid awarded

98% of alumni have graduated, or are on track to graduate, within six years*

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

92% first generation in family to attend college

77% receive free or reduced-price lunch

89% live in a distressed neighborhood

live in a household where English is not the primary

language

19.5%

ANNUAL PROGRAM GROWTH **RATE OVER THE PAST**

FIVE YEARS

203 students

2012

2 2017 Highlights

TUTORS LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD

Pramod Gadde began volunteering in college.

"I want to give all kids an equal chance," he says.
"Volunteering is a chance to give back." His introduction
to Breakthrough Silicon Valley came at our STEM
Challenge last summer, when he volunteered to coach
students through an engineering design challenge.

A principal data scientist at Appzen, Pramod earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from UCLA in 2011, and a master's degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 2013. STEM Challenge piqued his interest, and he soon decided to

volunteer on a regular basis as a math tutor. Now, he heads to Breakthrough once a week after work to tutor a student needing support in algebra.

For Pramod, what sets Breakthrough apart is the depth of support. "It's just more," he says, simply. "Here, there are bonds. And the coolest aspect is that students are in this since after sixth grade, so they have a group of friends who all want to do something. It helps push them."

Over the months, Pramod watched his student's steady improvement. He witnessed the power of one-on-one support. "At first, she didn't want to try things in case she was wrong. She's more confident now – and her test scores are improving, too." At Breakthrough, Pramod's work levels the playing field. He's giving hard-working students an equal chance.

Pramod Gadde Volunteer Breakthrough Tutor PRINCIPAL DATA SCIENTIST, APPZEN

"Here, there are bonds. . . It helps push them."

STUDENTS TEACHING STUDENTS

Flash forward to the year 2020. There's little doubt where we'll find Nohely Peraza: teaching in her very own classroom. That career goal took root last summer as Nohely taught writing in Breakthrough Silicon Valley's intensive six-week middle school summer program. She first heard about Breakthrough from her high school English teacher. "If you want to be a teacher," he said, "Breakthrough is the best program. You'll get the experience because you'll actually be a teacher." Nohely couldn't agree more. "Breakthrough has been one of the best experiences of my life. I got to see firsthand how what I say, what I do, can have a big impact."

Like most of her students, Nohely will be the first in her family to graduate from college. She's majoring

"Even on the first day, my students were asking me. . . 'What's it like to go to college?' It means a lot when you hear about college from someone whose background is similar to yours."

Nohely Peraza

Breakthrough
Teaching Fellow

WILLIAMS COLLEGE

in English at Williams College. As a first-generation college student, Nohely understands the power of our students-teaching-students model. "Even on the first day, my students were asking me questions like 'What's it like to be the first in your family to go to college?' It means a lot when you hear about college from someone whose background is similar to yours."

Armed with many hours of teaching experience and confidence built upon personal growth, Nohely feels ready for her future classroom. "Breakthrough has solidified my desire to be a teacher. And now I know I have what it takes!"



VOLUNTEERS

FUEL OUR COMMUNITY

510 Total volunteers 3,137 Total volunteer hours

80 TUTORS & 1,096 **HOURS**

in subjects like geometry, algebra II,

mock interviews with 78 sophomores conducted by Silicon Valley professionals



263 student backpacks & 60 teacher bags

filled with school supplies by Google employees



.65 hours

prepping for annual "Are You

Adobe Systems Applied Materials AppZen Aruba Networks Bank of America CEFCU Cisco **Deloitte** eBay EY

Fetch Robotics Google **Hewlett Packard Enterprise** LinkedIn **Lockheed Martin Microsoft** Nutanix PwC **Silicon Valley Bank** **Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control** Plant **Symantec Technology Credit** Union Terapede **Texas Instruments VMWare** Xilinx

STEM **LEARNING**

"I love finding out how things work. At Breakthrough, everyone shares ideas. Maybe you're missing something, and someone says something that helps

you think about it another way. Together, it becomes an amazing idea!" That's how middle school student, Alexa, sees STEM at Breakthrough Silicon Valley. At Breakthrough, we weave handson science, technology, engineering, and math throughout our six-year curriculum – in laboratory experiments, math problem-solving exercises, computer coding, engineering projects, and more. Each is carefully tailored to provide our firstgeneration-to-college students crucial exposure to STEM experiences they often lack in everyday life.

Our approach meshes our expertise supporting firstgen students with partners who bring expertise in STEM disciplines. At our summer STEM Challenge, for instance, tech professionals joined students for

an engineering design competition and career discussion. And in our Computer Science Academy, sponsored in part by LinkedIn, we partnered with online learning provider Globaloria to teach high school students the basics of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. During informal lunchtime chats, professionals from companies like Apple, Fetch Robotics, LinkedIn, Microsoft, and Netflix shared stories about their journey into STEM, including their educational pathway and successes, as well as the lessons learned from the failures.

In our middle school program, Alexa and her classmates collaborated on hands-on engineering projects like building a catapult. On top of academic skills and STEM competencies, our curriculum emphasizes critical soft skills like communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. As Alexa knows, learning how things work is not only fun, it opens doors to new ways of thinking and exciting possibilities for the future. "I like science," she says with a smile. "I want to be something in life, someone that changes the world!"



YES, I CAN!

Alexa loves science and history.

"I'm interested in lots of things," she says. "I plan to go to college – and study more math, too." As an eighth grade student at Breakthrough Silicon Valley, she's building a vision for the future. Without Breakthrough, her story might have been different. At school, her classmates rarely share her enthusiasm for learning. And in her world, resources are often in short supply.

"When I got into Breakthrough, I knew it was a door opening," she says. Surrounded by hard-working friends and staff committed to supporting her unique needs, she's inspired to do her best. "Breakthrough kids want the same things I do," she explains. "And if you need help, Breakthrough offers it. Because of Breakthrough, I raised my math grade to a B+!"

Alexa is building skills in math, science, and writing, plus learning strategies like time management and goal setting. She's building skills for success in school - and life. "I used to be really shy in school," she recalls. "Now, I raise my hand. I feel prepared."

Alexa worked hard in our six-week summer program at Santa Clara University. She honed her math skills and as a future first-generation-to-college student, got a glimpse of college life for the very first time. "We aren't just learning about college here – we're learning about everything that comes with college," she beams. "Breakthrough will help me choose the right school and help me get in."





Pictured, left to right: Kiara Cardona (BSV 2017, Chapman University 2021), Jocelyne Cardona (BSV 2010, Macalester College 2014), Consuelo Diaz (grandmother), Ezequiel Cardona (father), Claudia Aguilera (mother), Edson Cardona (BSV 2013, Santa Clara University 2017)

A FAMILY'S DREAM, REALIZED.

inmigrante que llego a este país cuando tenía 7 años, huyendo de la guerra en mi país El Salvador. Como muchos de nosotros hemos llegado a este país con aspiraciones y sueños. Para algunos la definición de sueño puede ser diferente. Puede ser ganarse la lotería, comprarse un carro, comprar una casa, tener un trabajo, poder tener como comer o donde vivir o poder ir a la universidad. En verdad que como padres quizás todos tenemos el mismo

"Mi nombre es Claudia Aguilera una

sueño que nuestros hijos sean felices y que lleguen a la meta de su educación. En nuestro caso quiero decir que ese sueño se ha hecho realidad."

"Ha sido un equipo, breakthrough como su nombre significa 'abre puertas' y esas puertas son para el éxito. Y abrir puertas para todos aquellos sueños que son posibles. Gracias a Breakthrough por ser parte de nuestro éxito. Ahora somos una familia orgullosa y agradecida de toda su ayuda y apoyo.'

My name is Claudia Aguilera. I am an immigrant who arrived in this country when I was 7 years old, fleeing from the war in my country, El Salvador. I arrived to this country, as many of us have, with aspirations and dreams. The definition of a dream can be different for everyone. It could be to win the lottery, buy a car, buy a house, have a job be able to eat or live or go to college. As parents, we may all have the same dream: that our children be happy and that they reach their educational goals. In our case, I want to share that that dream

"It has been a team; Breakthrough, as the name says, means 'open doors' and those doors are to success. And open doors to all those dreams that are possible. Thanks to Breakthrough for being part of our success. We are now a proud and grateful family for all your help and support."

COLLEGE DESTINATIONS: OUR ALUMINI

Daniel Bi, BSV 2012

BS - Molecular Biology, Chemistry minor San Jose State University - 2016

Next steps Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine

future gods: family medicine or emergency room doctor

Daniel Bi is on his way to realizing his dreams. Since graduating from San Jose State University, he's been busy gaining practical experience as an emergency medical technician with Falck Northern California and as a clinical volunteer at the Santa Clara Valley Medical

Center. Soon, an exciting new chapter begins as he joins the Class of 2022 at Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine where he will earn a Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine.

"My earning an advanced degree means the world to my family. They wanted to do so in Vietnam, but due to the war, they had to emigrate. Their lack of ability with English and different access to opportunity made it hard for them in the U.S."

Giselle Ozuna — BSV 2013

BA - Theology, Political Science minor University of California, Riverside - 2017

Next step: building experience at The Silicon Valley Organization **Future goals**: a job in the mayor's office

Giselle Ozuna developed a passion for public policy in college. She learned to advocate for others as a student government representative. Eye-opening internships – at the California Department of Housing and Community Development in Sacramento and the National Fair Housing Alliance in Washington, D.C. – further cemented her interest. Eventually, she plans to earn a master's degree, but for now, she's busy meeting with elected officials in the community and gaining valuable experience in her job as a public policy associate.

"Breakthrough is the reason I was able to attend UC Riverside. And Breakthrough taught me to help the community. It's a ripple effect—you help one person, they help the next."

Ramón Garcia Gomez - BSV 2014

BA Candidate - Philosophy, Politics and Economics University of Pennsylvania - 2018

Next stept management consulting at PwC in New York City
Future quality Master of Business Administration

College opened doors for Ramón Garcia Gomez: a trip to Rwanda; the opportunity to conduct research and write a thesis; a leadership role in the university's Latino community; and career exposure via summer internships. Ramón says at Penn, he thrived on "the joy of learning for the sake of learning," and he looks forward to eventually heading back to the classroom to earn an MBA. Recently, he ran his first marathon and launched a fundraiser around the race benefiting Breakthrough Silicon Valley which raised over \$500.

"Having a Penn degree will not only help me, it will propel my community forward by setting an example that success at an Ivy League school is possible for the children of immigrants who come from modest backgrounds."

Colleges That Admitted the Class of 2017

Arizona State University
Azusa Pacific University
Biola University
Boise State University
Cal Poly Pomona
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
California Lutheran University
Chapman University
Concordia University
CSU Channel Islands
CSU Chico
CSU East Bay
CSU Fullerton
CSU Long Beach

CSU East Bay
CSU Fullerton
CSU Long Beach
CSU Los Angeles
CSU Monterey Bay
CSU Sacramento
CSU San Bernardino
CSU Stanislaus
Dominican University of California
George Fox University
Hawaii Pacific University

Holy Names University Humboldt State University Knox College Linfield College
Loyola Marymount University
Menlo College
Mills College
Mount Holyoke College Mount St. Mary's University New York University Northern Arizona Úniversity Northwestern University Notre Dame De Namur University Oberlin College Occidental University Ohio University Oklahoma State University Otis College Pacific Lutheran University Pacific University Pennsylvania State University Pepperdine University

Pitzer College Quinnipiac University Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Rice University

Rochester Institute of Technology Rose-Hulman Institute Saint Mary's College of California San Diego State University San Francisco State University San Jose State University Santa Clara University Scripps College Seattle University Sonoma State University Suffolk University **UC Berkeley** UC Davis UC Irvine UC Los Angeles UC Merced **UC** Riverside

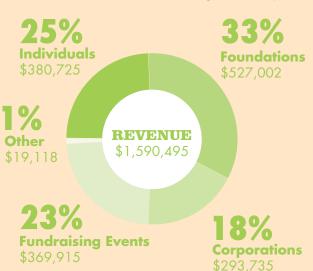
UC San Diego

UC Santa Barbara UC Santa Cruz University of Illinois at Chicago University of Nevada University of Portland University of Puget Sound University of Redlands University of San Diego University of San Francisco University of Southern California University of the Pacific University of Washington US Air Force Academy Wesleyan University Westmont College Whittier College Willamette University William Jessup University Woodbury University Worcester Polytechnic Institute **Xavier University**

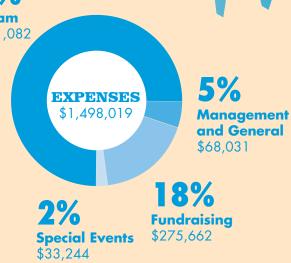
10 Our Alumni Our Alumni 11

FINANCIALS

Unaudited financial data for fiscal year 2018. (February 2017 - January 2018)







"I've always wanted to achieve big things in life,

and with the help of Breakthrough, I'm accomplishing the steps to get there." That's how Johnson, a high school junior, sums up Breakthrough Silicon Valley's impact. "As one of the first in my family going to college, before Breakthrough, I didn't really know what to do."



This year, Johnson entered the rigorous International Baccalaureate program at his school. "I wanted to challenge myself," he says. Chemistry is his favorite subject and his toughest. Surrounded by motivated peers at Breakthrough, he stays focused and aims high. "They're a support family – always pushing me to do the things I want to do. At Breakthrough, I can dream

On top of academic skills and college readiness, Johnson is building social-emotional skills like self-advocacy and self-awareness. When chemistry grew challenging, he started a study group and attended tutoring sessions. And when he needed help organizing his class notes, he turned to Breakthrough. With weekly one-on-one coaching, he developed a system ready for the demands of junior year. Such personal support, he says, would not have been available anywhere else.

Johnson looks ahead to a career in medicine. UCLA is his dream school, and he's learning about other options, too. His future is bright, wherever his journey takes him. "Breakthrough is the pathway to my dreams," he says.

> **Johnson** High school junior

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Valedictorian (\$50,000)+

Applied Materials Elena Marimo Berk Michelle Cale and Duncan Greatwood Intrepid Philanthropy Foundation Quest Foundation The Scott Foundation, Shannon Hunt-Scott and Kevin Scott Sobrato Family Foundation Webb Family Foundation Yellow Chair Foundation

Salutatorian (\$20,000-\$49,000)

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Summa Cum Laude (\$10,000-\$19,999)

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John Chun and Barbara Watanabe City of San Jose Scott and Amory Donahue Jennifer and Leonard Dulski Hillbrook School Christine* and Dave Kennedy Phil Kurian and Noel Butler Rita Lane and Norma Fries Merus Capital Fran Rosch and Alfredo Mantica Amber and Dan* Shaw Silicon Valley Bank Technology Credit Union Sharon Timoner* and Chris Sobczyn Brian and Carol Underwood

Cum Laude (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Steve Adams Susan and Bob Adams Cookie Apichairuk Kathleen Bennett and Thomas Mallov Steven Blank and Alison Elliott



CHRISTINA LAI

Vice President, Corporate Legal Affairs, Applied Materials, Inc.

resume review workshops and mock interview workshops

"I am the daughter of immigrants who were committed to education and providing the best educational opportunities they could for their children. I recognize that doors were opened for me as a result of that education, and that's why Breakthrough's mission speaks to me so powerfully. The highly motivated Breakthrough students who, with their families, are doing the hard work to prepare for college never fail to impress and inspire me."

Blue Shield of California Iris and Charles Bombelyn Tom Brown and Susan Moore Brown David Bruni and Marita Quint Val and Michael Campbell Linda Capello Joanne Chambers Lindsey and Brian Curtis Ellen and Sean Dempsey Allyce Diehl Christy and Peter Doyle East Side Union High School District Shirley and Marc Feldman Teresa Flory Tina Franklin Kenna and Mark French Douglas Hansen Pat and Jennifer Johnson Steve Johnson and Veronika Sarossy Greg and Donna Kostigen Christina Lai and Ron Ho Tom and Patti Larkins Kaylyn and Marc Lehmann Greg* and Victor Leung Alisa and Steve Lewis Ken Linsteadt Ronnie and Karen Lott Jane Machin and Jeremy Doig Sujatha Mandava and Ramana Devarapalli Mary McGrath Courtney Monk* Jeff and Annelise Mora Peter O'Riordan and Diana Darcy

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Amritha Anand Pamela and Pierre Anderson-Brule Brian Berg and Joyce Avery Madonna Bolano Joel and Amber Booker Joanna and Ben Boyer Kev and Robb Brock Lisa Bryington Barr and Miles Barr David and Carrie Callaway



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and Sribalan Santhanam

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Volunteers at Breakthrough resume review workshops and

"We support Breakthrough Silicon Valley because of its terrific programs, amazing staff, and the incredible students who participate in its programs. We learn as much (if not more) from the students than they do from us."

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PETER O'RIORDAN

Kristin Hansen

Retired, former technology executive and Encore Fellow at Breakthrough Silicon Valley

director after completing Encore Fellowship; continues to volunteer technology expertise.

"It is remarkable to see the determination these young people show in the face of the considerable challenges they deal with. I'm happy to play a small role in helping them achieve their goals."

Elisabeth Martin Sesek and Edward Sesek Dan and Amy Siegel David Silver Greg Singer Ann and Bill Skeet Vera Sudiono Super Duper Burgers Lan Takahashi Mark Valentine Alison and Frank Van Diggelen Ian Van Wert Jake and Trish Vandenberg lessica Wenzel Stephanie Wu Sabrina Zirkel

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Based on donations received February 2017 through January 2018. While we work hard to ensure the accuracy of all information presented, we sincerely apologize if we have made any errors or omissions.

SPECIAL THANKS

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The Tech Museum of Innovation - Tech Challenge

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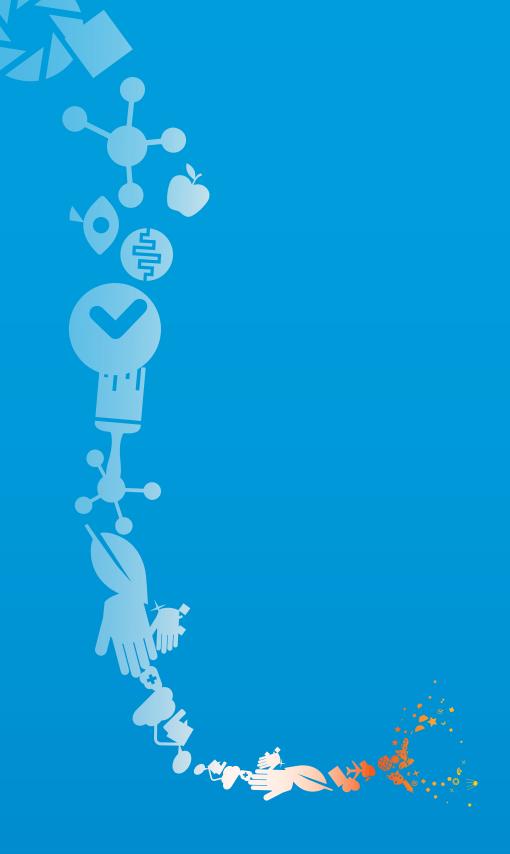
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1635 Park Avenue San Jose, CA 95126 (408) 287-6357 www.breakthroughsv.org