

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



# **BREAKTHROUGH IN FOUR STEPS**

Breakthrough partners with school districts and families to identify 6th-graders who are academically-motivated and aspire to become firstgeneration college students.

Middle school students lay the foundation for success through our year-round programs. Breakthrough's "students-teaching-students" model helps students build academic confidence and develop collegegoing mindsets along with their peers. Families are empowered to be informed educational advocates for their students.

Breakthrough works with students and families to thrive in high school, starting with choosing the best high school for them. Support continues through academic advising, tutoring, career exposure, leadership development programs, and parent education.

High school students and their families benefit from a robust college access program including family education, student workshops, standardized test prep, and individualized college admissions counseling.

# **DEAR FRIENDS**,

I am thrilled to share Breakthrough Silicon Valley's 2018 Annual Report, and to reflect on the impact we achieved together-for our students, their families, and our Teaching Fellows. I am proud of what we accomplished together and filled with gratitude to all of you-our community of champions-who have made this impact possible.

More than 50 committed volunteer tutors provided critical 1:1 support, 20 corporate partners embraced our students and our mission, and 56 outstanding Teaching Fellows poured their hearts and souls into providing a launchpad for their students' college journeys. Countless more provided generous financial support.

Together with Breakthrough, you made a difference for first-gen students and aspiring young educators:

We are deeply grateful for the many ways you supported our work in 2018. Here are just a few:

- support, we doubled the capacity of our college advising program.
- enrollment grew by 170%.
- college-bound students.
- attending college.

As I look ahead, I am excited, inspired, and hopeful. We have just graduated our largest class ever, including our first graduates from our Franklin-McKinley School District site in East San Jose. We have launched a new initiative that will support our students to grow as leaders, welcomed talented new staff members, and are building infrastructure to more fully support six years of robust programs for nearly 600 students.

I invite you to enjoy this 2018 Annual Report and to join us in celebrating the impact you created through your support. Thank you for your commitment to creating educational equity.

With my deepest gratitude,

John Hiester **Executive Director** 



• As schools face budget deficits, and teachers and counselors are strained to provide individualized

• Breakthrough is enriching more lives than ever. In 2018 we welcomed 550 students across six grades and two school districts, completing an aggressive six-year growth initiative, during which our total

• We celebrated the Class of 2018 as 97% enrolled full-time into college. 85% are attending four-year colleges and universities, far outpacing national averages for low-income and first-generation

• Your generosity blew us away on a magical night at our Are You Smarter than a Breakthrough Student? in October. By contributing over \$500,000 that night, you ensured that every Breakthrough student has access to the support, knowledge, and tools they need to realize their dreams of

# **2018 HIGHLIGHTS**

# **OUR RESULI**

91% of Class of 2018

received an offer to a four-year college or university 85% of students chose to

attend a four-year institution

MAY

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

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

in 2017-2018

548

students served

### FEBRUARY 2018 MARCH

(members of the Class Breakthrough's of 2019) traveled to newest cohort. college tour. Our largest junior class

alumni interviewed more than 140

-On National College Decision Class of 2018 spots at schools like USF, UC SLO, University and Stanford.

### JUNE

With the launch completed our and serve 6 across both of our towards for seven

JULY

BTSV hired a second full-time thereby extending to our growing 12th graders and and complicated

### SEPTEMBER

BTSV celebrated the college careers! 97% enrolled directly into enrolling directly into college-bound students.

280 people attended the 8th annual Are You Smarter than a more about the event

DCTO

95% first generation in family to attend college

78% receive free or reduced-price lunch

live in a household where English is not the primary language

### NOVEMBER

BTSV was selected as a 2018 Top-Rated



### JANUARY 201

BTSV's Board of Directors approved a new 2-year establishes the priorities student alumni as partners

# RODRIGO

### Princeton University, Class of 2020 **BTSV Teaching Fellow – 8th Grade Literature and Poetry**

### **CAREER GOAL: High School Spanish or Social Studies Teacher**

When I was 11 years old, my parents got deported. It was a big hit to my family. My dad was an electrician. He had a great job. I moved in with my older sister in San Jose, and when my niece came along, it was the three of us. I helped raise her. It was very difficult for us.

I'd thought about being a teacher before, but now I know that's what I want to do. At Breakthrough, I got the whole experience. I got to plan my own lessons. I got to be the teacher in the room. And my Instructional Coach was great. I learned better habits that come with being an active teacher. The biggest thing I learned about myself is that I am capable of doing anything I set my mind to.

I talked about my life with my students – just the normal things I do. One day, I shared a poem that was very personal, from my experiences being a Latino student. I was the person telling them, "I'm doing this with you, and we are going to be okay!" Having one person that just pushes you a little – it can change a lot.

Breakthrough students go outside of what's being taught – they go beyond. Those are the moments that make teaching worth it the little moments, when a student teaches you.

# DALE

### **Bellarmine College Preparatory BTSV Class of 2019**

### **EDUCATIONAL GOAL: Major in Engineering**

always helped take care of me. They're really excited to see me go to college.

Without Breakthrough, I wouldn't have gotten all this support. I can't imagine where I'd be now without that. Breakthrough taught me from an early age about academic workload, about prioritizing and time management – all those practical skills that will continue to help me in the future.

Over the summer before senior year, understand his students. We talk about

I want to take this time to explore the world and what I can do in the world. I feel like I'm



## PERLA

### Sylvandale Middle School **BTSV Class of 2023**

### **CAREER GOAL: Pediatrician**

I want to be a person that my kids look up to and know that I worked hard and succeeded.

My friends at school don't really talk about going to college. With Breakthrough, I feel like we go in more prepared for the school year. I know I'm not going to struggle like some of the other kids will.

At Breakthrough, my classes are never more than eight students. When I need extra help, I know I'll get it here. In school, it's more intimidating to ask a question.

In the summer program, my favorite subjects were chemistry and writing. I enjoy learning about the elements. And my writing has improved. Before, I would do one draft, but over the summer, I'd do five or six. More edits make my writing better.

After the summer, I was way more excited about math. I started out in regular math at school, and then I experience at Breakthrough really helped me do that. Everything being already because of Breakthrough.

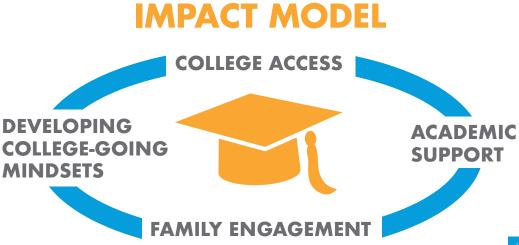
I think Breakthrough is going to continue to help me by pushing me, so I don't give up, so I always do my best, even if something is really challenging. Breakthrough is such a positive community. If you ever get a bad grade on a test, everyone says 'l can help you with that!'



Thanks to their generous philanthropy and groundbreaking sector-building work, the Sobrato name looms large in the Valley's nonprofit community and also here at Breakthrough Silicon Valley. The Sobrato Family Foundation has made a tremendous impact on Breakthrough and on the lives of our students and teaching fellows, contributing over \$260,000 towards our mission since 2014. This support has helped BTSV serve more students and to offer more critical services, such as individualized college admissions counseling and extended summer opportunities for all of our high school students!

Throughout 2018 Breakthrough was proud to participate in the first cohort of the Sobrato Impact Lab, a new initiative by the Foundation to support 10 select organizations to accelerate their efforts in measuring and evaluating the impact of their work.

John Hiester, Executive Director, **Breakthrough Silicon Valley states,** "At Breakthrough we see the results of our work every day in the success of our students, but we must learn what is driving this success."



We constantly strive to know what's working so we can do more of it, what's not working so we can make adjustments, and what gaps in support might we need to address. The Sobrato Impact Lab has provided a valuable arena for learning and reflecting on what we do best, learning from peer organizations, and working closely with a coach to determine how we might measure and enhance our impact across six years of programming.

The Impact Lab experience is already paying dividends. We developed an "Impact Model" which provides a framework that aligns all of our programs around four core elements-college access, academic support, developing collegegoing mindsets, and family engagement. In addition, we created tools for measuring our impact in each of these core elements.

Two of our core values at Breakthrough are "Commitment to Excellence" and "Continuous Assessment." Thanks to our participation in the Sobrato Impact Lab we are more prepared now than ever to live-out these values and ensure that we will make the biggest difference possible for our students, their families, and our teaching fellows.



### Savina Ann Vargas **BTSV 2012** B.A. Psychology, UC Merced, 2016

Saving is teaching 6th grade Math and Science, and working on getting her teaching credential. In the future, she aims to go back to school and get three more degrees-M.A. in Education, M.A. in Counseling, and a Ph.D.

After graduating high school, Savina headed straight to college. Despite facing significant challenges in her first year, she made it her goal to graduate within four years to prove that she could beat the odds as a first-generation student. Joining an amazing fraternity set She's currently epitomizing Breakthrough's dual mission by working as an educator at a charter school in East San Jose.

"I have two pieces of advice for current Breakthrough students. One being do not be afraid to ask for help, whether it is with academics or life. There are people out there who want you to do better and to be the best version. of you. My second piece of advice is to not let people define you. It does class status etc. What matters is how you make your mark in the world."

### **Ricardo Lopez Borrayo BTSV 2013**

M.S. Quantitative Economics, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, 2018

professional life and his personal life.

# **COLLEGE DESTINATIONS: OUR ALUMNI**

### Tommy S. Heng **BTSV 2018**

B.S. Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2022

Tommy is busy at MIT developing an educational tool for middle schoo high school students to learn how to program digital assistants like Amazon' Alexa. In the future, he hopes to investigate all the avenues that college has opened for him-whether it is a career in software development, continuing on to do research, or working in education after graduation.

College has been a time of self-discovery for Tommy–providing him with the opportunity to try many new experiences with new friends and to develop new skills. Tommy credits Breakthrough with providing the support he needed to choose the right college for him. He notes that all the college application workshops and the guidance provided by Breakthrough staff helped him get to where he is now.

"At Breakthrough, I think the most important thing Learned was that teachers are people too. During high school and college students. I eventually realized that all teachers, not just the student teachers at the summer program, are human, and that I can talk to them like I would anyone else I meet. This realization helped me start-my path down improving my self-advocacy."

### Colleges that said "Yes" to the class of 2018!



)ur Alumni | **11** |

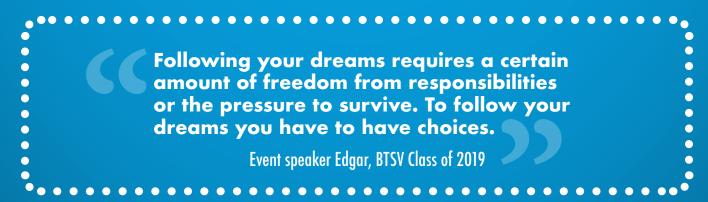
## **REMEMBERING ARE YOU SMARTER 2018**





Over 280 guests came together at the Computer History Museum on October 18, 2018 to raise critical funds and to celebrate and recognize Breakthrough students—their motivation, effort, and success in their schools, careers, and lives. Success made possible, not only by their hard work and determination, but also by the broader Breakthrough Silicon Valley community of donors, board members, and volunteers who support them to achieve their dreams!

The evening raised more than \$500,000 to help Breakthrough continue to deliver high-level programming and provide bright, motivated students with the choices and opportunities they deserve.





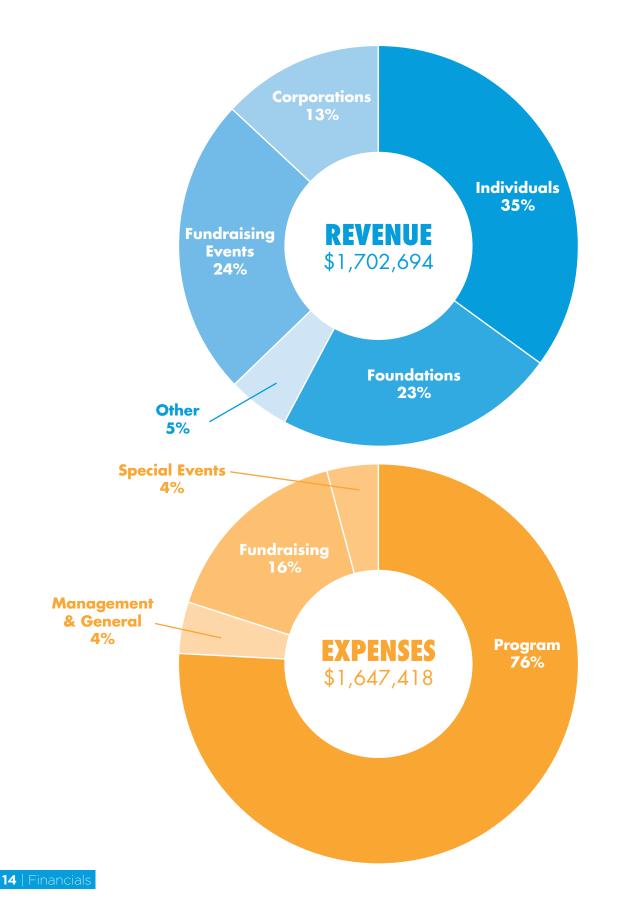
Breakthrough students and alumni took the stage to share their personal journeys, trials, and triumphs.

> The room was abuzz with energy and excitement as guests played riveting rounds of trivia.

Are You Smarter Event | 13

# **FINANCIALS**

Audited financial data for fiscal year 2019. (February 2018 – January 2019)



# **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS**

### Valedictorian (\$50,000+)

Anonymous Applied Materials Elena Marimo Berk Michelle Cale and Duncan Greatwood Intrepid Philanthropy Foundation Quest Foundation Sobrato Family Foundation Webb Family Foundation Yellow Chair Foundation

### Salututorian (\$20,000-\$49,999)

Adobe Systems California Department of Education The Campbell Foundation Generous Hearts Foundation William and Charlene Glikbara Family Foundation Mary Anderson Harrison Foundation Jonathan Heiliger and Germaine Yokoyama-Heiliger Susan Newman and Mike Dixon Nicholas B. Ottaway Foundation Matt and Allison Railo Amy Rao and Harry Plant Roger Rosner and Rowena Dodson

**Co-founder, Yellow Chair Foundation** 

The Scott Foundation, Shannon Hunt-Scott and Kevin Scott Leo M. Shortino Family Foundation Westly Foundation Randall A. Wolf Family Foundation

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

Anonymous Mark and Sandra Asher BelleJAR Foundation City of San Jose Davidson Family Foundation Marnie Elizaga and Salman Ullah lim and Lin French Wanda and Lance Ginner Vlado and Cipora Herman Christine and Dave Kennedy Rita Lane and Norma Fries Lockheed Martin Melanie and Eric Piziali leff and Veronica Polini Mark Rabkin and Kristing Holst-Rabkin Mercury News Wish Book Fund Michael and Kathy Scandling Silicon Valley Bank

I have supported Breakthrough for years because I am inspired by the Breakthrough students who are pursuing and achieving their college dreams. Those students teach us so much about determination, and I have seen Breakthrough's program strive to continuously improve to support these students. I also deeply care about Breakthrough's dual mission to provide an entry point for bright, dedicated college students to enter careers in teaching. I have felt the benefit personally, in my own life, of powerful teachers and I want that same opportunity for all students.

Case and Lisa Swenson, Swenson Foundation Technology Credit Union Sherice and Angel Torres Brian and Carol Underwood Maria and Issac Vaughn Diana Walsh and John Walker Wells Farao Western Digital Foundation Steve and Marcia Wright

### Magna Cum Laude (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Mitra Ahani and Dave Tollner April and Andrew Bosworth Joanna and Ben Boyer Ellen and Sean Dempsey Jennifer and Leonard Dulski Sally and Tom Edsall Chad Fentress and Laura Pelco Google Tracy and Kim Hailey Hillbrook School Judy and Robert Huret Laura and Scott Kupor Phil Kurjan and Noel Butler Tom and Patti Larkins Greg and Victor Leung Jane Machin and Jeremy Doig Kelly and Phil Mahoney Doug and Christine Merritt Courtney and Ashby Monk Greg Murphy and See-Ming Phan Nadyne Orona

Vidya Rajagopalan and Sribalan Santhanam Dan Rosensweig Amber and Dan Shaw Holly and Stacey Smith Josh and Jennifer Stein Texas Instruments Sharon Timoner and Chris Sobczvn MUFG Union Bank Foundation Tania and Jon Wilcox

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

Steve Adams Catrin and Jonas Anckarman Apple Corporation Avid Bank Kathleen Bennett and Thomas Malloy Bodhi Tree Concerts North Rachel and IP Bolen Iris and Charles Bombelyn Key and Robb Brock Sara and Scott Brown David Bruni and Marita Quint California Bank of Commerce Joanne Chambers William H. Cilker Family Foundation Peter Costigan and Janet Murray Allvce Diehl Ilsa Dohmen Scott and Amory Donahue Christy and Peter Doyle East Side Union High School District Alison Edwards Alison Elliott and Steven Blank Shirley and Marc Feldman John and Kim Fillmore Freva Forstall Kenna and Mark French lon and Krista Gieselman Gilead Sciences, Inc. Sharyl and Troy Givens Asit and Lisa Goel loan and David Hadden Douglas Hansen DeAndra Hicks John and Kate Hiester David and Pamela Hornik Christing Lai and Ron Ho Nancy Lane Jean and Charlie Leeming Sujatha Mandava and Ramana Devarapalli Mary McGrath Ruth Ann McNees James Morris and Robin Appel Hollie and Joe Nettemeyer, Jr. Shawn O'Connor and Simon Teo

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### **Distinction (\$250-\$999)**

Brian Adams Pamela and Pierre Anderson-Brule Brian Berg and Joyce Avery Madonna Bolano loel and Amber Booker Nan Borreson Drs. Lee Anna and David Botkin Breakthrough Collaborative Tom Brown and Susan Moore Brown Susan Campbell Catering for all Occasions Martha Chamberlain Isabelle Cole Juan and Lupe Cruz Brad Day and Aleida Hernandez Kevin and Beth Dean Bill Del Biaggio, Sr. Susan Dunavan eBay Deborah Faryniarz **Frey Foundation** 

Laura Frey and Erico Gomes Anand Gangadharan James Glenn Rupa Chandra Gupta Georae Hamma Michael and Eran Hammer Todd Harris Ana Homavoun Joan Karlin and Paul Resnick Kiran and Ramaneek Khanna lane Kroeten Erika and Keith Krugh Sarah Levoy and Andrew Kalinovsky Alisa and Steve Lewis Elizabeth and Andrew McBride Iram Mirza and lawad Nasrullah Sara Moked Mike Neil David Nettemeyer Elan Nguyen Renee Niemi Phillip Fisher Oaden Krish Padmanabhan Akshay Pai PayPal Giving Fund Amanda Peiffer Soon Y Poh Pratima Rao Lauren and John Salata Drs. Laura and Loy Seitel Anthony Shortland and Yinkwan Chen Rohit Shrawaai Pravin Soni and Amy Wurtzburger Duane Starr Valori Stitt Vera Sudiono Julia and Chris Sullivan Symantec Corporation Karen and David Toste William Trenchard Katie Weber and Nate Mueller Megan Wessling Diane Westgate Jonathan and Cynthia Wilcox Brian Yick and Robin Laws Taotao Zhang



Janikke Klem Vice President, Community and **Government Relations Technology Credit Union** 

### Honors (\$100-\$249)

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these students and BTSV!

Bonnie Keet Julie Lata Louise Lee Ben Lemke Karen Leshner Yvonne Leyba Lingua Franca NYC Eden and losh

Susan Nace Kaari Peterson Sara Reed

Adelina Rodriguez Harold and Sean Harold Donald Roaers Mike and Marnie Rohde Theresa Rutledge Drew and Megan Seman Elisabeth Martin Sesek and Edward Sesek Lisa and Glenn Solomon Andrea Somerville Madeline Stone Suzi Sutherland Lauren Tina Susan Tjoflat and Erik Panu Alison and Frank Van Diggelen Ian Van Wert Kyle Vandenberg

Based on donations received February 2018 through January 2019. While we work hard to ensure the accuracy of all information presented, we sincerely apologize if we have made any errors or omissions.

Tech CU focuses its time and resources to helping grow the next generation of tech talent right here in our community. We see the need for diversity and educating our local kids to be the leaders of Silicon Valley in the years to come. Breakthrough Silicon Valley is making sure these highly motivated students are getting the opportunity to thrive in this innovation economy through education, support, and a network of alumni and professionals. We could not be more proud to partner with

Peter Levin and Lisa Voge-Levin Maisel Matterport Mig and Richard Mosher Paul and Mary Murphy Christing and Charles Pak Richard and Catherine Robbins Baxter and Margaret Roberson

Emily Vernon Anne and Aleks Vranicic YourCause

### Merit (Up to \$99)

Susan and Bob Adams Mona Aguilar Geraldeen Berkman Ricardo Lopez Borrayo Nancy Brown Melissa Canela Bobby and Dana Carollo Leon Choi John Chun and Barbara Watanabe Meghan Colwell Gregory Donnelly Carol Edelman Niki and Scott Friedman Givina Assistant Mary and John Grebenkemper Leslee and Carl Guardino Tom Han Kathryn Hayes Daniel Hinojosa Joe Karp Jia Liu Abby Longcore Diana Louly Leigh-Anne and Mark Marcellin Montana Miller Meredith Muller Kristi Nakano John Newcomb Frankie Nix Byron Osborne Nancy Ozawa Lillian Sangeeta Patil Joao Vasconcelos Pinheiro Sarah Rosston Jessica Sidhu Diana Southern Malcolm Stewart Elissa Vanaver Narissa Vania Debra Winston Rhonda Winters Kin Bing Wu and Yue Wu-Jamison

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AJ Tutoring Archbishop Mitty High School Bellarmine College Preparatory Beyond 12 Braven The Breakthrough Collaborative The Computer History Museum Eastside College Preparatory School East Side Union High School District Elevate Tutoring Franklin-McKinley School District Google Hillbrook School Kehillah Jewish High School KIPP Bay Area Schools Luis Valdez Leadership Academy Making Waves Foundation Notre Dame High School Presentation High School Proto RAFT: Resource Area for Teaching San Jose State University - Department of Child and Adolescent Development San Jose Unified School District Santa Clara University -Office of the President; Office of Child Studies, Future Teacher's Project; Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education: School of Education and Counseling Psychology Stanford Graduate School of Education -Policy, Organization, and Leadership Studies Program Students Rising Above Teach for America The Tech Museum of Innovation - Tech Challenge Urban Teachers Valley Christian High School

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Sherice Torres Marketing Director, Google

Maria Nash Vaughn Community Volunteer

Breakthrough Silicon Valley is deeply grateful to the following individuals who completed their Board service in 2019: Rogelio Ruiz, Sharon Timoner, and Maria Nash Vaughn.

2018 Staff John Hiester **Executive Director** 

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Dora Bever Senior Coordinator of Student Success

Ting Briceño Director of Admissions and Middle School Programs

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### Mark Silver

Head of School Hillbrook School

### Ariel Morris Spector

Director of Curriculum and Programming Breakthrough Silicon Valley



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

# ONLY ONE IN TEN LOW-INCOME YOUNG ADULTS GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE. LET'S CHANGE THAT.



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