



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2018

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Breakthrough Greater Boston Celebrates Opening of New Somerville Campus

Over 200 students, families, and Somerville community leaders gathered for the official opening.

SOMERVILLE, June 25, 2018 – Breakthrough Greater Boston, a renowned nonprofit dedicated to preparing under-resourced students for success in college and to training the next generation of teachers, celebrated the opening of its new Somerville Campus with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, June 21st at its partner school, the Albert F. Argenziano.

Students shared their hopes and vision for their next six years at Breakthrough. "I want to be a doctor and I know Breakthrough will help me achieve my goals. Plus, I know they will write me a good recommendation for medical school," said Jholet, a student at the Albert F. Argenziano school. Nestor of East Somerville Community School shared, "I'm in Breakthrough because I want to get homework help, get ready for college - and to go camping!"

The event featured remarks from Somerville Mayor Curtatone, Somerville Superintendent of Schools Mary Skipper, Breakthrough Greater Boston Executive Director Elissa Spelman, Site Director Jennie McDonald-Brown, and Breakthrough's Lead Somerville Founding Partner, Biogen Foundation. Over 200 people attended, including the inaugural class of 51 students and their families, members of the Somerville School Committee and other elected officials, Somerville school partners, community leaders, and Breakthrough supporters such as our board and faculty.

The evening's remarks celebrated students and expressed excitement for Breakthrough's impact. Speaking to the inaugural class, Curtatone said, "We are so excited about this launch point for your future and for Somerville's future." Superintendent Skipper added, "Breakthrough ensures that students have every opportunity to go on to college." Chris Barr of the Biogen Foundation remarked, "Breakthrough has a 26-year track record of success, strong partnerships, and is aligned with Somerville Public Schools."

After over 25 years in Cambridge and five years in Boston, the ribbon cutting officially marks the program's expansion into Somerville. Breakthrough will now run three campuses throughout the Greater Boston area for the first time. The Summer Program will begin July 2nd, with 51 students and 15 Teaching Fellows in Somerville. A new class of rising 7th graders will be added each

year. Once all three sites are fully enrolled, Breakthrough will reach as many as 900 low-income middle and high school students and train 200 aspiring teachers annually.

On this special occasion, Executive Director Elissa Spelman reflected on the work of many that enabled the launch of Breakthrough's important in Somerville. "Thank you to the city of Somerville and the Somerville Public Schools for believing in the power of Breakthrough, for welcoming us warmly into your community and for committing so fully to partnership," said Spelman. "This is a day that has existed in so many people's minds for a long, long time."

For more information on Breakthrough Greater Boston, please visit <http://breakthroughgreaterboston.org>.

About Breakthrough Greater Boston

Breakthrough Greater Boston transforms education for students and teachers in Boston, Cambridge and Somerville. Through six years of intensive, out-of-school time programming, Breakthrough changes students' academic trajectories and supports them along the path to four-year college graduation. Simultaneously, we build careers in education through an unparalleled teacher training program for college students that features competitive national recruitment, research-based training, and daily coaching from master teachers. Breakthrough's unique Students Teaching Students model inspires college students to become the next generation of educators and students to become college graduates. Visit breakthroughgreaterboston.org to learn more.