

SUPPORT BREAKTHROUGH

Opportunities for Involvement

Have an hour a week? Apply to be an **Academic Mentor!** You will mentor a student to improve academic performance, study skills, organization, and self-confidence.

Interested in supporting juniors and seniors with the college application process? In just 1-2 hours per week, a **College Access Coach** provides support on college interviews, essay writing, and managing all the steps of the admissions process. Training will be provided.

Visit breakthroughgreaterboston.org/volunteer or call Jennifer at 617-349-6647 for these and other ways to get involved.

SAVE THE DATE



We welcome you to celebrate this milestone in Breakthrough's history with us!

Thursday, April 27, 2017
6 p.m.

The Cyclorama at Boston Center for the Arts
539 Tremont Street
Boston MA 02116

For sponsorship, hosting, and ticket inquiries, please contact Elissa Spelman at 617-349-6647 or espelman@btgbmail.org and visit www.breakthroughgreaterboston.org/events.

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News for BTGB Supporters Winter 2017



The Breakthrough Bulletin

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Importance of Out-of-School Time Discussed at Breakthroughs in Education

More than 150 Greater Boston educators, elected and school officials, and Breakthrough supporters gathered at Google for the 9th annual Breakthroughs in Education event, focused on the importance of out-of-school time learning and Breakthrough's impact in the field. The event raised over \$115,000 to support Breakthrough's work toward educational equity.

The keynote speaker was Paul Reville, Founding Director of Harvard's Education Redesign Lab and former Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Reville shared ways in which the current educational system is inaccessible for many students, as well as his insights on scaling strategies and approaches for a "new engine" of education to better serve all students. One such engine that he identified is out-of-school time learning. Breakthrough is an exemplar, providing academic enrichment in the summer and after school to highly motivated low-income students, closing the opportunity gap. That night, Breakthrough released its summer learning report, highlighting that, on average, students make as much as six months academic gains during our six-week Summer Program.

Paul Reville delivering his keynote address to the Breakthrough community.



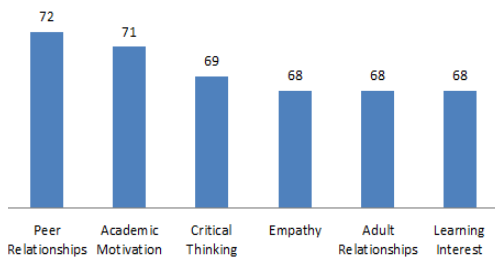
10th grader, Angelique Joseph, presents the Annual Hodder Award for Excellence in Teaching to one of her Breakthrough teachers, Christian Miranda.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Social Emotional Learning with PEAR

Breakthrough Greater Boston is proud to partner with the PEAR Institute (Programs in Education, Afterschool, and Resiliency); a joint initiative of Harvard University and McLean Hospital. Working with PEAR, we have begun assessing students' social emotional development and offering groups to build social emotional skills. This summer, we piloted "Photo Justice" crafted to strengthen empathy through a photographic exploration of our community. On November 9th, PEAR Founder and Director, Dr. Gil Noam, shared some of the latest research on SEL with an intimate group of Breakthrough partners and friends. We look forward to continuing to support our students' holistic development thanks to partnerships like this one!

% of Students Who Experienced Growth in these Areas



A Special Thanks to Our Anniversary Partners



STUDENT NEWS

New Pilot Program for Rising Seniors

Breakthrough proudly launched the College Prep Institute this past summer, through which 15 rising high school seniors enthusiastically participated in an intensive, week-long series of workshops and experiential opportunities to get them ready for college. Introducing the College Prep Institute allowed BTGB to go deeper with students before the start of the school year, providing them with structured time to work on key components of college applications in a space where they received frequent feedback and guidance. They also participated in mock college interviews, college visits, individualized counseling sessions to analyze college lists, and a workshop on financial aid and scholarships.

A Day in the Life at CPI: Wednesday, August 17
 9 - 10am: Financial Aid 101 with uAspire
 10 - 11am: Essay Workshop #2: What's My Story?
 11 - 12pm: Work Time & Peer Review Sessions
 12 - 12:30pm: Special Lunch Provided by EY
 12:30 - 1:15pm: Essay Workshop #3:
 Adding Facts and Details
 1:15 - 2:30pm: Work Time & Individual Conferences



Breakthrough students on a college visit at Northeastern University.

TEACHER AND STAFF NEWS

Breakthrough Strengthened By Fellows



This school year, the Breakthrough team is strengthened by the addition of four fellows who will be completing a year of service with us. **We asked each of them to share an area of their work about which they are excited. Here is what they said:**

"Helping high school students research and apply to meaningful summer opportunities, as part of the new Summer Enrichment and Opportunities Program!" **Rafaella Pontes, Student Support Coordinator, AmeriCorps Massachusetts Promise Fellowship**

"The opportunity to engage with students outside of class time and educate individuals on how to get involved in our wonderful program!" **Nicole Eduwensuyi, Student Support Coordinator, AmeriCorps Massachusetts Promise Fellowship**

"Student and family interview days! I finally get to meet the families whom I've been communicating with over the phone." **Yeji Kim, Family Engagement Specialist, LifeTogether**

"The opportunity to increase organizational visibility during such a monumental year in Breakthrough history, the 25th anniversary!" **Emily Abdelmaseh, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Boston Cares AmeriCorps VISTA Project**