

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



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.

Visit breakthroughgreaterboston.org/volunteer or call Josh at 617-349-6647 to learn more about this and other ways to get involved.

SAVE THE DATE



SAVE THE DATE!
THE BREAKTHROUGH GALA
Tuesday, May 1, 2018 6:00 PM
The Cyclorama at Boston Center for the Arts
539 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02116

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

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News for BTGB Supporters Winter 2018



The Breakthrough Bulletin

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Breakthrough Enters Boston Public Schools' New Opportunity Portfolio

Boston Public Schools (BPS) launched the Boston Opportunity Portfolio this fall, a new and significant strategy to grow partnerships with exceptional programs, with the ultimate aim of increasing equitable access to quality learning opportunities in the city. Over 180 programs applied to be a part of the Portfolio, and we are pleased to be one of sixty programs recognized for our college access work in Boston. Breakthrough has also been admitted to the 5th Quarter Portfolio, an additional strategy for identifying and increasing equitable access to quality summer learning opportunities for BPS students.

BPS used a comprehensive vetting and assessment process to identify exceptional organizations that collaborate with BPS, factoring in organizational quality, organizational health, and the quality of the relationship with schools and staff. In addition, BPS selected Breakthrough because of our proven results in guiding students along the path to college, and our commitment to equitable practices throughout the program.

Now that BPS has identified Opportunity Portfolio programs, BPS will strategically support these programs. Portfolio programs will be eligible for additional funding and will gain additional access to BPS facilities and resources. BPS will promote Portfolio programs to schools, students, and families, and offer information sharing and professional development opportunities to partners. Breakthrough is thrilled to continue deepening our partnership with the Boston Public Schools.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Partners Create Student Experiences

Breakthrough students participated in a number of new creative and career-exposure experiences this fall thanks to SAP, Boston Pulse, and Novartis!

At the SAP Social Innovation Series, BTGB students attended an innovation workshop where students proposed ways to promote health and wellness within their school. Anaya, Alia, Anisa, and Lamisa pitched the winning idea of promoting more physical movement through convertible desks in classrooms, winning a \$1,000 grant.

Thanks to Boston Pulse, interested BTGB students joined a poetry class held after school at Breakthrough throughout the fall, where students wrote and performed poems about their life experiences.

Students also attended a Lab Bootcamp series at Novartis, where they conducted an experiment to identify patients for a hypothetical clinical trial of a new asthma medication with the help of professional chemists at Novartis's laboratories.

We are thrilled to offer these unique experiences to our students with our partners' help.



BTGB at Novartis' Lab Bootcamp

BREAKTHROUGH NEWS

Keynote Focuses on Caring Kids

On December, the 10th annual Breakthroughs in Education brought together community leaders passionate about educational equity to hear an inspiring keynote.

This year's event featured Richard Weissbourd, Ed.D. from Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Making Caring Common Project. He discussed his current work with college admissions offices to decrease the intense achievement pressure and shift attention to real demonstrations of ethics and community involvement, in order to help change what students, families and schools care about.

Breakthrough honored Alexandria Real Estate Equities with the Breakthroughs in the Community Award. Executive Vice President Tom Andrews accepted the award on their behalf. Breakthrough also recognized two BTGB Teachers, John Quinn and Linda Mindaye (Cambridge Rindge and Latin Class of 2015), for the Elizabeth D. Hodder Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Breakthroughs in Education

TEACHER AND STAFF NEWS

Two Alumni Forge Paths in Education

Missy Matteis and Val Eisenson, two educators who made their start at Breakthrough, continue to engage deeply with Breakthrough and to support each other's growing careers. After teaching for two years in Mattapan, Missy is pursuing a master's degree in Language and Literacy from Harvard Graduate School of Education. "From working at Breakthrough, Val and I were great friends and knew how to best support each other as teachers. It was amazing to have her in my life during my first two years of teaching, and now as a great friend."

Val and Missy's impact extends far beyond their first summer at BTGB. Val, who teaches math at Bridge Academy at Chelsea High School (a newcomer program for recent immigrants), said, "As a member of Breakthrough's Associate Board, I see the incredible importance of our relationships with businesses and families." As an Instructional Coach at Breakthrough, Missy trains, evaluates, and supports Teaching Fellows. "I know how difficult it is to build your confidence as a teacher and I love being there to support the fellows," said Missy. We are proud to celebrate our alumni's continuing impact.



Missy Matteis and Val Eisenson at Celebration

A Special Thanks to Our Platinum Partners



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