



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM BREAKTHROUGH'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

2024 has been a year of leadership change at Breakthrough as we welcomed our new Executive Director. Through all of Breakthrough's transitions, one thing has remained constant—Breakthrough Cincinnati is committed to our dual mission of **college access for talented students and filling the teacher pipeline in Greater Cincinnati.**

Fast forward to today and we couldn't be more proud of what Breakthrough Cincinnati has accomplished and excited for what is to come. In Summer 2024, 220 students joined us along with 68 Teaching Fellows for an energetic, fun-filled and effective summer program. Our scholars and our Teaching Fellows grew academically, bonded with one another and showed all of us what it means to be part of the Breakthrough community.

Despite our success, there is still more work to do. College matriculation rates across Greater Cincinnati vary widely; in Hamilton County the average college matriculation rate among districts with a high percentage of students in the Breakthrough target is only 35% compared to 53% statewide. And the need for qualified, diverse teachers persists! Breakthrough Cincinnati is uniquely positioned to address both of these issues. With our dedicated staff, supportive families and a program that works, we're energized about the role that we will play to address these issues.

In the next year, we look forward to growing our student body and increasing our year round engagement. Longer term, we are charting the course for Breakthrough in the coming years. Please remain connected with us as we dream of a greater Cincinnati where all students have access to college and are taught by dedicated, qualified teachers.



Rhonda M. Starghill
BTC Executive Director



Jane Garvey
BTC Board Chair

 **Thank you for being Breakthrough!** 

OUR MISSION

At Breakthrough Cincinnati, we believe in the power of education! We engage and energize underrepresented motivated students to enter college with confidence through academic, social, leadership, and college/career exploration. Spearheaded by our 'near-peer' Teaching Fellows, we provide aspiring educators with tangible experience to prepare them for their future classrooms.



2024 OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

220

Students Served in
Signature Summer
Scholars Program



3

ACT Prep
Sessions



5

Super Saturdays



53

Tutoring Hours



68

Teaching Fellows
prepared at
the Summer
Scholars Program



18,495

AmeriCorps Hours Served



71%

of students achieve college
matriculation (over the past 5 years)



78%

of summer scholars
developed new
academic skills

80%

of TFs grew their
love of teaching



101

Generous Donors!



WHO WE SERVE

Breakthrough Cincinnati recruits talented middle school students who identify with at least two indicators:



First Generation College Student



Single Parent Household



Low Income



Person of Color



English Language Learner

These groups of individuals are historically underrepresented in higher education. And a college degree can change the trajectory for our students and families. Studies show that individuals who graduate from college not only have higher incomes over the course of their lives, but demonstrate better health outcomes, mental well-being and more.

“The best part of Breakthrough was meeting new people, learning new things and getting pushed to do my best or being better than my best. Without all the things Breakthrough did for me I wouldn't have gotten out of my comfort zone and talked to new people.”

Mikaela, 9th Grade

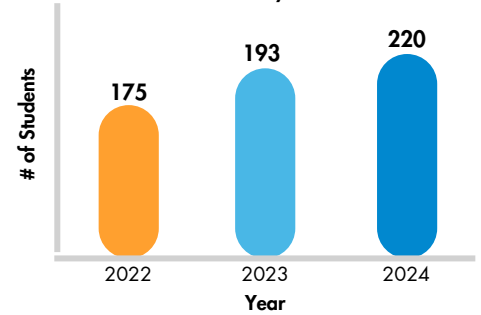
“Breakthrough is a great way to gain experience in the classroom with the support of your IC and other Teaching Fellows. The relationships you will make with other TFs and students will create lasting connections.”

Mira, Teaching Fellow

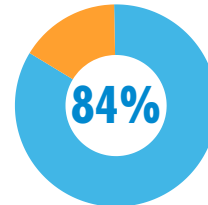


2024 BREAKTHROUGH STUDENTS

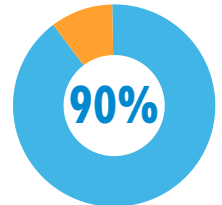
Total Students By the Year



80 different Greater Cincinnati schools are represented



of students ascribe to 2 or more indicators of underrepresented students



of students returned to Breakthrough from 2023

HOW WE SERVE



Breakthrough Cincinnati is a year round program that encourage talented students to consider college while inspiring the next generation of college students. There are four components to our program:

- **Summer Scholars** is a tuition-free, academically rich summer program where students take english, math, history, science as well as electives in foreign language, life skills and more!
- **School Year Program** features monthly "Super Saturdays" where students explore college and career possibilities, ranging from what it's like to be an engineer, to college visits to community service.
- **Tutoring** is our on-demand weekly tutoring that spans across an array of subjects and grade levels throughout the school year.
- **College Bound Program** provides year round workshops like ACT Prep, financing college, and the opportunity to spend a week on campus at the University of Cincinnati.



A key component of our model is the 'near peer' Teaching Fellows. We recruit high school and college-aged students to serve as teachers during our summer program and as mentors and tutors throughout the school year. Our Teaching Fellows are provided a training ground to 'try out' teaching and determine whether a career in education is right for them. We put an emphasis on recruiting BIPOC and male fellows, who are in demand within the teaching profession.

2024 TEACHING FELLOWS

Of our 68 Teaching Fellows:

- 24% were male
- 65% were persons of color
- 45% came from universities local to Greater Cincinnati



Ms. Emily's social studies class nurtured innovation skills by creating inventions.



8th grade students toured Northern Kentucky University's campus and medical simulation lab.

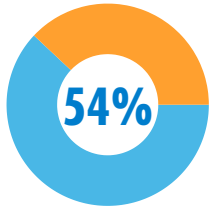


7th practiced their public speaking skills and created a podcast at Cincinnati Public Radio.

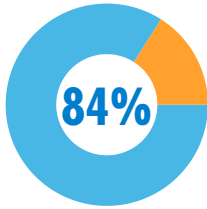


OUR IMPACT

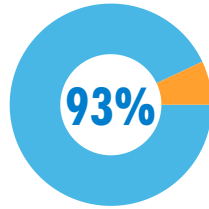
BREAKTHROUGH TEACHING FELLOWS¹



of Teaching Fellows indicated an interest in pursuing a career in education

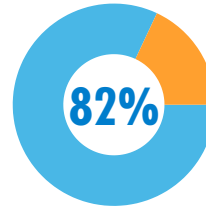


of our summer staff expressed confidence in their teaching or management

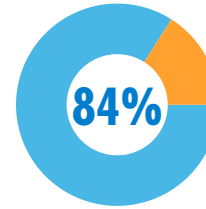


of our Teaching Fellows rated their experience positively

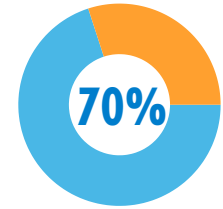
BREAKTHROUGH STUDENTS



of students reported developing new skills to help them academically



of students want to attend college after they graduate



of students to demonstrated academic growth²

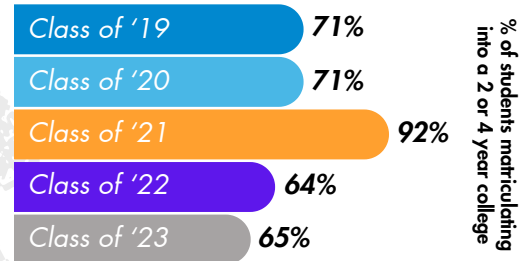
“Breakthrough Cincinnati opened my eyes to the cultural responsiveness students require in the classroom and how pivotal representation is. Breakthrough showed me that I belong in the classroom.”



DeAndre "Dre" Williams,

Current Teacher at McGuffey Montessori School
Breakthrough Cincinnati Teaching Fellow (2017, 2018)
Breakthrough Dean of Students (2019, 2020)

Long term, we want to see our students matriculate into college. Matriculation is measured by Breakthrough Collaborative with National Clearinghouse Data:

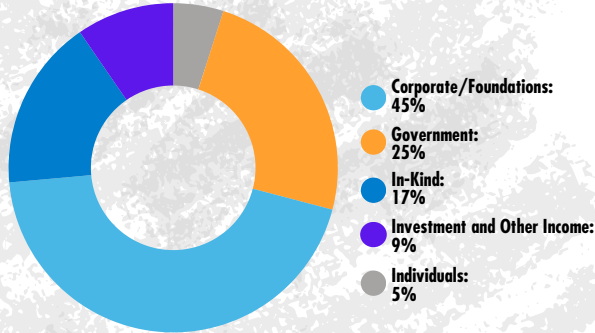


OUR FINANCIALS

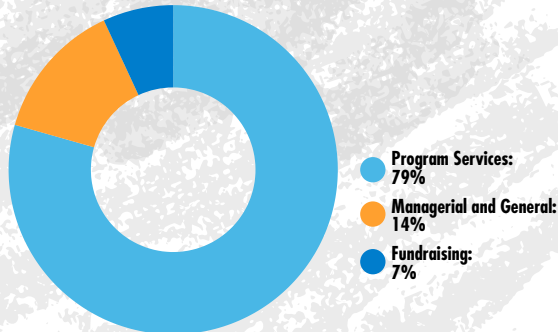
Breakthrough Cincinnati relies on a mix of government, private foundation, individual and in-kind resources to provide our program tuition-free to our students. We welcome continued support of our mission.



2023 Revenue



2023 Expenses



Net Assets as of December 31, 2023: \$999,418

Revenue	2023	2022
Contributions and Grants	\$1,017,369	\$710,718
In-kind Contributions	\$232,576	\$162,045
Special Events, net of direct expenses	\$0	\$9,011
Investment Earnings (net)	\$122,450	(\$165,003)
Total	\$1,372,395	\$716,771

Expenses	2023	2022
Program Services	\$1,117,085	\$582,544
Management and General	\$192,504	\$220,425
Fundraising	\$97,308	\$57,610
Total	\$1,406,897	\$860,579



SPARK OPPORTUNITY TODAY



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STAFF

Rhonda Starghill
Tiffany Dolder-Holland, PhD
Elana Elmore
Kyla Givens
Carly Luebbers
Shelana Martin
Paul Williams

Thank you to the following past board and staff members who served last fiscal year:



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Adrienne James, EdD
Rico Rice
Janice Walker, PhD
Lance White

STAFF

Cady Short-Thompson, PhD
Layla Fuller
Blair Kramer
Sam Milazzo
Joshua Scott

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