Welcome

MISSION

1
To prepare motivated middle and high school students with limited educational opportunities for success in rigorous college-preparatory high school programs and entry into four-year colleges.

2
To prepare outstanding high school and college students to enter careers in education.

OUR

WITH GRATITUDE

Dear Breakthrough Community,

2017 was a pivotal year of growth and transition at Breakthrough Silicon Valley. We chose “community” as the theme for this report because you — our community — made 2017 an exceptional year, and we are deeply grateful. You came together and mobilized and, as a result, our work supporting nearly 500 future first-generation college students, and more than 50 aspiring young educators never skipped a beat. In fact, we grew stronger.

The results of our work together speak for themselves: 100% of our Class of 2017 began college last fall with a full 85% at four-year universities. Our alumni continue to thrive in college, 98% have earned a college degree or are on track to graduate within six years. Meanwhile, 88% of our summer teaching fellows were inspired to pursue a career in education after their Breakthrough teaching experience.

At Breakthrough, community means active participation. It means working together towards our shared vision of educational equity, and it means digging deep for young people who deserve better options. Breakthrough’s community is our strength and our heart. Our community is you.

We are deeply grateful for the many ways you supported our work in 2017. Here are just a few:

• From after-school tutoring to mock interviews and application reading sessions, our dedicated corps of volunteers devoted over 3,000 hours of service.
• San Jose Unified and Franklin-McKinley School Districts reaffirmed their support, including deeper integration of Breakthrough services with school resources.
• Santa Clara University once again hosted our middle school summer program, giving our students an unparalleled opportunity to learn and grow on an iconic college campus.
• Together, we shattered our fundraising goal at our annual Are You Smarter Than a Breakthrough Student? event which provides essential support for our programs.

In 2018, we are deepening partnerships with organizations like The Tech Museum of Innovation and Santa Clara University to expand opportunities for our students; collaborating with the Sobrato Family Foundation to examine ways to fine-tune our work and focus our impact; and formulating a new strategic vision to guide our decision-making.

We hope this report inspires you to learn more about how you can support Breakthrough through your talents, your networks, and your generosity. Thank you for joining with us to create life-changing opportunities for our students and aspiring young educators.

In partnership,

John Hiester
Executive Director
March - Adopted “Safe Haven” policy, in coordination with our school district partners, to support all students and families regardless of nationality, birthplace, or immigration status.

March/April - Conducted first-ever alumni survey with impressive results: 98% of our alumni have earned a bachelor’s degree or are on track to graduate in six years.

May - Welcomed John Hiester to the role of executive director.

June/July - Launched summer programs, hosting over 210 middle schoolers at Santa Clara University and Silver Creek High School, in addition to over 100 high school students at Notre Dame High School and Bellarmine College Prep.

July - Piloted a high school Computer Science Academy focused on web-based game development, sponsored by a generous grant from LinkedIn.

October - Raised over $340,000 at seventh annual Are You Smarter Than a Breakthrough Student? benefit, surpassing fundraising goal.

November - Convened the founding board of the BSV Alumni Association, led by college graduates of our program.

December - Selected as a Mercury News Wish Book featured organization.

2017 Highlights

2017 Annual Program Growth Rate Over the Past Five Years

19.5% annual program growth rate over the past five years

2012 - 203 students

2017 - 487 students

Our Results

98% of Class of 2017 received an offer to a four-year college or university

85% chose to attend a four-year institution

15% chose to start at a two-year college (primarily for financial reasons)

$839,511 total financial aid awarded

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

176 of 177 applicable alumni responded from classes 2011-2016

Student Demographics

487 students served in 2017

92% first generation in family to attend college

77% receive free or reduced-price lunch

89% live in a distressed neighborhood

74% live in a household where English is not the primary language

* First alumni survey, Spring 2017
176 of 177 applicable alumni responded from classes 2011-2016

2017 Highlights
Here, there are bonds... It helps push them.

Pramod Gadde began volunteering in college. “I want to give all kids an equal chance,” he says. “Volunteering is a chance to give back.” His introduction to Breakthrough Silicon Valley came at our STEM Challenge last summer, when he volunteered to coach students through an engineering design challenge.

A principal data scientist at Appzen, Pramod earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from UCLA in 2011, and a master’s degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 2013. STEM Challenge piqued his interest, and he soon decided to volunteer on a regular basis as a math tutor. Now, he heads to Breakthrough once a week after work to tutor a student needing support in algebra.

For Pramod, what sets Breakthrough apart is the depth of support. “It’s just more,” he says, simply. “Here, there are bonds. And the coolest aspect is that students are in this since after sixth grade, so they have a group of friends who all want to do something. It helps push them.”

Over the months, Pramod watched his student’s steady improvement. He witnessed the power of one-on-one support. “At first, she didn’t want to try things in case she was wrong. She’s more confident now – and her test scores are improving, too.” At Breakthrough, Pramod’s work levels the playing field. He’s giving hard-working students an equal chance.

Flash forward to the year 2020. There’s little doubt where we’ll find Nohely Peraza: teaching in her very own classroom. That career goal took root last summer as Nohely taught writing in Breakthrough Silicon Valley’s intensive six-week middle school summer program. She first heard about Breakthrough from her high school English teacher. “If you want to be a teacher,” he said, “Breakthrough is the best program. You’ll get the experience because you’ll actually be a teacher.” Nohely couldn’t agree more. “Breakthrough has been one of the best experiences of my life. I got to see firsthand how what I say, what I do, can have a big impact.”

Like most of her students, Nohely will be the first in her family to graduate from college. She’s majoring in English at Williams College. As a first-generation college student, Nohely understands the power of our students-teaching-students model. “Even on the first day, my students were asking questions like ‘What’s it like to be the first in your family to go to college?’ It means a lot when you hear about college from someone whose background is similar to yours.”

Armed with many hours of teaching experience and confidence built upon personal growth, Nohely feels ready for her future classroom. “Breakthrough has solidified my desire to be a teacher. And now I know I have what it takes!”

“Even on the first day, my students were asking me... ‘What’s it like to go to college?’ It means a lot when you hear about college from someone whose background is similar to yours.”

Nohely Peraza
Breakthrough Teaching Fellow
WILLIAMS COLLEGE

“Here, there are bonds... It helps push them.”

Pramod Gadde
Volunteer Breakthrough Tutor
PRINCIPAL DATA SCIENTIST, APPZEN

Volunteer Spotlight 5
VOLUNTEERS
FUEL OUR COMMUNITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total volunteers</th>
<th>Total volunteer hours</th>
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<td>510</td>
<td>3,137</td>
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</table>

80 TUTORS & 1,096 HOURS in subjects like geometry, algebra II, pre-calculus, AP calculus, AP statistics, biology, chemistry, english and AP history

204 mock interviews with 78 sophomores conducted by Silicon Valley professionals

263 student backpacks & 60 teacher bags filled with school supplies by Google employees

165 hours spent by volunteer committee prepping for annual “Are You Smarter than a Breakthrough Student?” benefit event

Companies that volunteered with Breakthrough in 2017:
- Adobe Systems
- Applied Materials
- AppZen
- Aruba Networks
- Bank of America
- CEFCU
- Cisco
- Deloitte
- eBay
- EY
- Fetch Robotics
- Google
- Hewlett Packard Enterprise
- IBM
- LinkedIn
- Lockheed Martin
- Microsoft
- Nutanix
- PwC
- Silicon Valley Bank
- Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant
- Symantec
- Technology Credit Union
- Terapade
- Texas Instruments
- VMware
- Xilinx

“I love finding out how things work. At Breakthrough, everyone shares ideas. Maybe you’re missing something, and someone says something that helps you think about it another way. Together, it becomes an amazing idea!”

That’s how middle school student, Alexa, sees STEM at Breakthrough Silicon Valley. At Breakthrough, we weave hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math throughout our six-year curriculum – in laboratory experiments, math problem-solving exercises, computer coding, engineering projects, and more. Each is carefully tailored to provide our first-generation-to-college students crucial exposure to STEM experiences they often lack in everyday life.

Our approach meshes our expertise supporting first-gen students with partners who bring expertise in STEM disciplines. At our summer STEM Challenge, for instance, tech professionals joined students for an engineering design competition and career discussion. And in our Computer Science Academy, sponsored in part by LinkedIn, we partnered with online learning provider Globaloria to teach high school students the basics of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. During informal lunchtime chats, professionals from companies like Apple, Fetch Robotics, LinkedIn, Microsoft, and Netflix shared stories about their journey into STEM, including their educational pathway and successes, as well as the lessons learned from the failures.

In our middle school program, Alexa and her classmates collaborated on hands-on engineering projects like building a catapult. On top of academic skills and STEM competencies, our curriculum emphasizes critical soft skills like communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. As Alexa knows, learning how things work is not only fun, it opens doors to new ways of thinking and exciting possibilities for the future. “I like science,” she says with a smile. “I want to be something in life, someone that changes the world!”

“Our approach is to partner with STEM experts, supplementing that expertise with our extensive experience working with first-generation-to-college students.”
Alexa loves science and history. “I’m interested in lots of things,” she says. “I plan to go to college — and study more math, too.” As an eighth grade student at Breakthrough Silicon Valley, she’s building a vision for the future. Without Breakthrough, her story might have been different. At school, her classmates rarely share her enthusiasm for learning. And in her world, resources are often in short supply.

“When I got into Breakthrough, I knew it was a door opening,” she says. Surrounded by hard-working friends and staff committed to supporting her unique needs, she’s inspired to do her best. “Breakthrough kids want the same things I do,” she explains. “And if you need help, Breakthrough offers it. Because of Breakthrough, I raised my math grade to a B+!”

Alexa is building skills in math, science, and writing, plus learning strategies like time management and goal setting. She’s building skills for success in school — and life. “I used to be really shy in school,” she recalls. “Now, I raise my hand. I feel prepared.”

Alexa worked hard in our six-week summer program at Santa Clara University. She honed her math skills and as a future first-generation-to-college student, got a glimpse of college life for the very first time. “We aren’t just learning about college here — we’re learning about everything that comes with college,” she beams. “Breakthrough will help me choose the right school and help me get in.”

“My name is Claudia Aguilera, an immigrant who arrived in this country when I was 7 years old, fleeing from the war in my country, El Salvador. As parents, we may all have the same dream: that our children be happy and that they reach their educational goals. In our case, I want to share that that dream has come true.”

“It has been a team; Breakthrough, as the name says, means ‘open doors’ and those doors are to success. And open doors to all those dreams that are possible. Thanks to Breakthrough for being part of our success. We are now a proud and grateful family for all your help and support.”

A FAMILY’S DREAM, REALIZED.
Daniel Bi – BSV 2012

BA - Molecular Biology, Chemistry minor
San Jose State University - 2018

Next step: Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine
Future goals: family medicine or emergency room doctor

Daniel Bi is on his way to realizing his dreams. Since graduating from San Jose State University, he’s been busy gaining practical experience as an emergency medical technician with Falck Northern California and as a clinical volunteer at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. Soon, an exciting new chapter begins as he joins the Class of 2022 at Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine where he will earn a Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine.

“My earning an advanced degree means the world to my family. They wanted to do so in Vietnam, but due to the war, they had to emigrate. Their lack of ability with English and different access to opportunity made it hard for them in the U.S.”

Giselle Ozuna – BSV 2013

BA - Theology, Political Science minor
University of California, Riverside - 2017

Next step: building experience at The Silicon Valley Organization
Future goals: a job in the mayor’s office

Giselle Ozuna developed a passion for public policy in college. She learned to advocate for others as a student government representative. Eye-opening internships - at the California Department of Housing and Community Development in Sacramento and the National Fair Housing Alliance in Washington, D.C. – further cemented her interest. Eventually, she plans to earn a master’s degree, but for now, she’s busy meeting with elected officials in the community and gaining valuable experience in her job as a public policy associate.

“Breakthrough is the reason I was able to attend UC Riverside. And Breakthrough taught me to help the community. It’s a ripple effect—you help one person, they help the next.”

Ramón García-Gomez – BSV 2014

BA Candidate - Philosophy, Politics and Economics
University of Pennsylvania - 2018

Next step: management consulting at PwC in New York City
Future goals: Master of Business Administration

College opened doors for Ramón García Gomez: a trip to Rwanda; the opportunity to conduct research, and write a thesis; a leadership role in the university’s Latino community; and career exposure via summer internships. Ramón says at Penn, he thrived on “the joy of learning for the sake of learning,” and he looks forward to eventually heading back to the classroom to earn an MBA. Recently, he ran his first marathon and launched a fundraiser around the race benefiting Breakthrough Silicon Valley which raised over $500.

“Having a Penn degree will not only help me, it will propel my community forward by setting an example that success at an Ivy League school is possible for the children of immigrants who come from modest backgrounds.”

Arizona State University, Arizona State University - 2017

Next step: building experience at The Silicon Valley Organization
Future goals: a job in the mayor’s office

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College Destinations: Our Alumni
This year, Johnson entered the rigorous International Baccalaureate program at his school. “I wanted to challenge myself,” he says. Chemistry is his favorite subject and his toughest. Surrounded by motivated peers at Breakthrough, he stays focused and aims high. “They’re a support family – always pushing me to do the things I want to do. At Breakthrough, I can dream bigger.”

On top of academic skills and college readiness, Johnson is building social-emotional skills like self-advocacy and self-awareness. When chemistry grew challenging, he started a study group and attended tutoring sessions. And when he needed help organizing his class notes, he turned to Breakthrough. With weekly one-on-one coaching, he developed a system ready for the demands of junior year. Such personal support, he says, would not have been available anywhere else.

Johnson looks ahead to a career in medicine. UCLA is his dream school, and he’s learning about other options, too. His future is bright, wherever his journey takes him. “Breakthrough is the pathway to my dreams,” he says.

“I’ve always wanted to achieve big things in life, and with the help of Breakthrough, I’m accomplishing the steps to get there.” That’s how Johnson, a high school junior, sums up Breakthrough Silicon Valley’s impact. “As one of the first in my family going to college, before Breakthrough, I didn’t really know what to do.”

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because of its terrific programs, amazing staff,
mock interview workshops
Volunteers at Breakthrough resume review workshops and
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and Sribalan Santhanam
Vidya Rajagopalan
Soon Y Poh
So Yong Park and Brian Byun
and Diana Darcy
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Lillian Willrow
Jane Woodall
Julia Xiong
Laura Ziffer
Based on donations received February 2017 through January 2018. While we work hard to ensure the accuracy of all information presented, we sincerely apologize if we have made any errors or omissions.

“It is remarkable to see the determination these young people show in the face of the considerable challenges they deal with. I’m happy to play a small role in helping them achieve their goals.”

Gerald and Connie Watanabe
Susan Watanabe and
James Konopka
Diane Westgate
Kim Bing Wu
Kerei Yuen

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ANNE VOIGTS AND TROY FOSTER
Voigts - Partner, King and Spalding LLP
Foster - Partner, Perkins Coie LLP

Volunteers at Breakthrough resume review workshops and mock interview workshops

“We support Breakthrough Silicon Valley because of its terrific programs, amazing staff, and the incredible students who participate in its programs. We learn as much (if not more) from the students than they do from us.”

Supporters 14

Supporters 15
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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  
Globaloria  
Google  
Hillbrook School  
Kehillah High School  
KIPP Bay Area Schools  
Luis Valdez Leadership Academy  
Making Waves Foundation  
Notre Dame High School  
Presentation High School  
RAFT: Resource Area for Teaching  
San Jose State University - Child and Adolescent Development  
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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<td>VP, HR Legal and Employment Litigation at Applied Materials, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Nash Vaughn</td>
<td>Community Volunteer</td>
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Breakthrough Silicon Valley is deeply grateful to the following individuals who completed their board service in 2018: Michelle Cole, Jim French, and Sherice Torres.

**Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>John Hiester</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dora Beyer</td>
<td>High School Program Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tina Bricelio</td>
<td>Director of Admissions and Middle School Programs</td>
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<td>Karen Camacho</td>
<td>Middle School Program Coordinator</td>
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<td>Andrea Garcia</td>
<td>High School Program Coordinator</td>
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<td>Stephanie Ledezma</td>
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<td>Encore Fellow, Interim Executive Director</td>
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<td>David Tarula-Chavez</td>
<td>Middle School Program Manager</td>
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<td>Bryan Tomlinson</td>
<td>College Counseling Manager</td>
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<td>Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Franklin-McKinley School District</td>
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<td>Edwin Avarca</td>
<td>Assistant Director, Summit Public Schools</td>
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<td>Wendy Savinar</td>
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<td>Mark Silver</td>
<td>Head of School, Hillbrook School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariel Morris Spector</td>
<td>Director of Curriculum and Programming, Breakthrough Silicon Valley</td>
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**Breakthrough Silicon Valley**

Thank you to the following individuals for their support and contributions:

- Greg Murphy, Chief Executive Officer at Zenreach, Inc.
- Carla Robbins Silver, Executive Director at Leadership + Design
- Dan Shaw, Vice President at Casco Financial
- Elena Marimo Berk, Founder of the Creekside School
- Shannon Hunt-Scott, President of the Scott Foundation
- Christine Kennedy, Legal Consultant
- Greg Leung, Technology Executive
- Courtney Monk, Manager of Data Science at Chegg Inc.
- Eric Piiziali, Director of Revenue Operations at Adobe Systems Incorporated
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- Sharon Timoner, VP, HR Legal and Employment Litigation at Applied Materials, Inc.
- Maria Nash Vaughn, Community Volunteer

Jenny Uribe  
College Counselor  
Barbara Watanabe  
Director of Strategic Partnerships
COME BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Breakthrough Silicon Valley

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