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BREAKTHROUGH COLLABORATIVE AND TEACH FOR AMERICA PARTNER TO INCREASE TEACHING TALENT PIPELINE

Partnership to Increase the Number of Top College Graduates Joining the Movement for Educational Excellence and Equity

SAN FRANCISCO, April 20, 2011— Breakthrough Collaborative and Teach For America announced today a new partnership to increase the pipeline of top talent entering the teaching profession and becoming lifelong leaders in the movement for educational excellence and equity. The two organizations will leverage Breakthrough Collaborative’s network of committed volunteers to increase awareness among college students about the opportunity to teach full-time as a Teach For America corps member upon graduation.

A national nonprofit with more than 30 locations, Breakthrough Collaborative is devoted to preparing high-achieving middle-school students, most of whom are people of color and from low-income families, to enter and succeed in college-preparatory high school programs. Breakthrough also recruits and trains outstanding high school and college students to become Breakthrough teachers and build an interest in careers as educators.

Teach For America is the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong leaders in expanding educational opportunity. Teach For America actively recruits at over 350 colleges and universities nationwide and has trained over 28,000 teachers throughout its 20 year history.

“So many Breakthrough Collaborative alumni have been phenomenal Teach For America teachers because of their deep commitment to closing the achievement gap between students in low-income communities and their more affluent peers,” said Josh Griggs, vice president of admissions at Teach For America. “We are very excited about this partnership and believe it will inspire even more talented Breakthrough graduates to continue their commitment to educational equity by applying to become Teach For America corps members.”

“Teach For America and Breakthrough Collaborative have been informal partners for years,” said Beth Porter, executive director at Breakthrough Collaborative. “It’s exciting to formalize our partnership and provide more concrete support to our alumni who plan to enter the teaching profession, Through partnerships like this we envision a day when all interested Breakthrough

alumni find a pathway to continue their commitment to eliminating the achievement gap that they develop at Breakthrough.”

More than 200 Breakthrough Collaborative alumni have joined Teach For America in the last three years alone. Kristol Roberts taught through Breakthrough Collaborative as an undergraduate at Lynchburg College. Inspired by that experience, she went on to apply to Teach For America and was selected to be part of the organization’s St. Louis corps where she taught special education.

“Seeing what I was able to achieve with my students in one summer,” said Kristol, “fueled my belief that the impact I could make in two years would be even more powerful.”

A growing body of rigorous research demonstrates the impact Teach For America corps members are having as effective classroom teachers. In three recent state studies of teacher pathways—including the [latest one, in Tennessee](#)—researchers found that Teach For America teachers outperformed their peers. These studies follow a 2009 Urban Institute study that found corps members have a positive effect on student achievement relative to other teachers, including experienced teachers, traditionally prepared teachers, and those fully certified in their field. This partnership will position Breakthrough Collaborative as an important pipeline of applicants to Teach For America for years to come.

About Breakthrough Collaborative

At more than 30 locations across the nation and abroad, [Breakthrough Collaborative](#) launches motivated middle-school students on the path to college and prepares older students for careers in education. A national nonprofit, Breakthrough Collaborative is devoted to preparing high-achieving middle-school students, most of whom are of color and from low-income families, to enter and succeed in college-preparatory high school programs. Breakthrough also recruits and trains outstanding high school and college students to become Breakthrough teachers and build an interest in careers as educators.

About Teach For America

Teach For America is the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong leaders in expanding educational opportunity. Today, more than 8,200 corps members are teaching in 39 regions across the country while 20,000 Teach For America alumni continue working from inside and outside the field of education for the fundamental changes necessary to ensure educational excellence and equity. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org.

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