

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Breakthrough
COLLABORATIVE

GAP FOUNDATION NAMES BREAKTHROUGH COLLABORATIVE A NATIONAL PARTNER FOR SECOND YEAR

SAN FRANCISCO, CA -- Gap Foundation and the Breakthrough Collaborative announced today the second year of a growing national partnership to empower underserved youth.

Bobbi Silten, Chief Foundation Officer of Gap Inc., said, "Today's grant award of \$250,000 is Gap Foundation's second highest grant of the year and marks the second year of a growing national partnership between Gap Foundation and the Breakthrough Collaborative."

Gap Foundation seeks to empower underserved youth through employment by funding programs that give young people a chance to explore career opportunities, learn job-readiness skills, and receive paid internships. Through the skills learned from work, Gap Foundation seeks to equip youth for success in adult life.

As a result of today's grant, underserved 15-18-year-old students in 27 cities will have opportunities to explore careers in teaching, develop employment skills, and receive stipends partially subsidized by Gap Foundation, as they serve as teachers and leaders at Breakthrough affiliates. These young people will receive outstanding training, professional experience, and leadership development through their internships at Breakthrough, providing a foundation for future opportunities and skill development for lifelong success. They will also serve as role models to younger underserved students who are developing the academic skills they need for success in college and career.

Breakthrough Collaborative closes the achievement gap through an innovative program that launches middle-school students on the road to college and career; and inspires outstanding low-income college and high-school students who work in the program to pursue careers in education. Every year, Breakthrough sites across the United States match 2700 high-achieving, underserved middle-school students with 770 talented college and high-school students who serve as their teachers, mentors, and role models.

Frequently named one of the country's "Top Ten Internships" by *The Princeton Review*, Breakthrough Collaborative annually provides 770 college and high-school students across the country with intensive training, support, and mentoring through full-time summer internships as teachers for underserved, motivated middle-school students.

Beth Porter, National Executive Director, said, "Breakthrough Collaborative is thrilled to become one of Gap Foundation's top national partners. We will use this generous grant to increase the number of former Breakthrough middle-school students who return to the program as teachers, to provide funding for affiliates to recruit and hire local underserved 15-18-year-old teachers, and to expand a national Teacher-Training Initiative."

Breakthrough Collaborative 545 Sansome Street Suite 700 San Francisco, CA 94111

For 30 years, Breakthrough Collaborative has prepared academically motivated, underserved middle-school students to enter and succeed in college-preparatory high-school programs while recruiting, training, and inspiring outstanding college and high-school students to pursue careers in education.

For more information, please contact Madeleine Clarke, Director of Development, at mclarke@breakthroughcollaborative.org or (415) 442-0600 x114; cell (510) 334-1859.

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