In the winter of 2016-17,

Breakthrough Collaborative reached out to over 5,000 teaching fellows in the years after their Breakthrough experiences via an alumni survey. In addition to providing a platform for connection, the alumni survey seeks to document the trajectories of teaching fellows following their Breakthrough experiences and to identify the impact of the summer residency on participants’ educational and occupational choices.
Each year, Breakthrough actively recruits college students from around the country to be teaching fellows – teachers, mentors, and role models. They represent a variety of fields of study and many come from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in the field of education. Survey respondents reflected the following geographic, academic, and demographic diversity.

**GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY**

**NEARLY 300 COLLEGES REPRESENTED**
**43 STATES & DC REPRESENTED**

**MOST REPRESENTED COLLEGES**
- UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, TEXAS
- WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, CONNECTICUT
- BROWN UNIVERSITY, RHODE ISLAND
- POMONA COLLEGE, CALIFORNIA
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA
- UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA
- NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, ILLINOIS
- STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA
- RICE UNIVERSITY, TEXAS
- YALE UNIVERSITY, CONNECTICUT

**ACADEMIC DIVERSITY**

**Top Undergraduate Majors**

- **24%** Education
- **9%** Biology
- **5%** Ethnic or Gender Studies
- **8%** Mathematics
- **4%** Physical Sciences
- **4%** Interdisciplinary Studies
- **15%** English
- **8%** Foreign Languages
- **4%** Communications or Journalism
- **4%** Interdisciplinary Studies

Copyright © Breakthrough Collaborative 2018
Even though my time as a Breakthrough teacher was several years ago, I think about my experience nearly every day. Breakthrough introduced me to amazing people who care passionately about the lives of children and families.

ALISSA HARASHA
BREAKTHROUGH MIAMI, 2009
Though teaching fellows carry their leadership skills into a variety of professional and academic pursuits, the impact of Breakthrough is clear.

### Employment Status

- **49%** Employed Full-Time
- **51%** Student or Other

### Have taught

55%

An additional 21% have worked in education. An additional 14% have worked in the nonprofit or public sector.

### Alumni reported that their Breakthrough Summer...

- **78%** Influenced their career choice
- **87%** Increased their interest in education
- **91%** Increased their readiness for professional employment
- **94%** Increased their interest in advocacy or work with underserved students

### Because of their Breakthrough Summer Experience, Alumni reported that they had a better understanding of the demands of teaching, their interest in teaching increased, and increased confidence in their ability to be an effective teacher.

- **86%**
- **87%**
- **96%**

An additional 21% have worked in education. An additional 14% have worked in the nonprofit or public sector.

### 63%

Of teaching fellow alumni are socially engaged outside of their studies or employment. They volunteer, serve on boards, and donate money to educational and social causes they care about.
Spotlight: Breakthrough Alumni in the Classroom

Teaching fellows receive over 100 hours of teaching and leadership training each summer and 75 hours of lead classroom experience. Survey results show that many teaching fellow alumni build off of their summer residency experiences and pursue careers in education.

Roles in Education

- **72%** K-12 Teachers
- **10%** Other Education Roles
- **9%** K-12 Schools/District, Non-Teaching Roles
- **6%** Education Service Providers
- **4%** Higher Education

I first learned about growth mindset through Breakthrough, and I credit it with all the risks and chances I’ve taken to get me where I am today. Breakthrough helped me look my insecurities in the face and take ownership of them. It made me confident in myself and my ability to lead others. It strengthened my convictions and made me want to change the world.

CLARA SHELTON
BREAKTHROUGH CENTRAL TEXAS, 2013

OVER 40% OF TEACHING FELLOW ALUMNI WHO HAVE BECOME K-12 TEACHERS HAVE MULTIPLE BREAKTHROUGH EXPERIENCES, INCLUDING 5% WHO WERE BREAKTHROUGH STUDENTS THEMSELVES.

WHERE ARE ALUMNI CURRENTLY TEACHING?

60%
Work in High-Need Schools

- 96% Work in Public Schools
- 89% Work in Urban Settings

Copyright © Breakthrough Collaborative 2018
JULIA ANGELES
SITE Summerbridge San Francisco • PATHWAY Stanford Teacher Education Program (STEP) • WHAT IS SHE DOING NOW? Julia is a second-year high school French teacher. As the sole member of her school’s French department, she teaches over 125 students at all levels, from French 1 through AP.

“I was actually a middle school student at Summerbridge San Francisco, Breakthrough’s founding site. Breakthrough was where I first felt truly cared for as a student. In high school and college, the choice to volunteer in the after-school program and then to be a summer teaching fellow was a no-brainer. I wanted to give back to my community and help students start to understand their potential, just like Breakthrough had done for me. I ultimately taught four summers at Summerbridge San Francisco. In addition to learning how to plan engaging, culturally-relevant lessons, my experience showed me that I could be a leader. I felt exceptionally prepared to enter the teaching profession.”

JESSIE WELCOMER
SITE Breakthrough San Francisco • PATHWAY Teach for America (TFA) • WHAT IS SHE DOING NOW? Jessie is a third-year fifth-grade teacher at a public school in Richmond, California. She serves on her school’s instructional leadership team and is a TFA Rising Leaders Fellow.

“The summer after my junior year I worked at Breakthrough San Francisco teaching science. I had taken an environmental education course the previous semester and wanted to see what working in the [education] sector was like. I came away from the summer passionate about working in education and improving outcomes for marginalized students. In college, I studied environmental science and public policy, and I thought that I wanted to focus my career on environmental policy. Breakthrough equipped me with skills and resources to shift my career trajectory. Working with such motivated and capable mentors helped me see what kind of leader I wanted to be. Three years into teaching, I’m still at my original Teach for America placement site. I’m proud of the work I’m doing in my classroom and in my larger school community, and I credit Breakthrough with helping guide me here.”

ADITYA KADU
SITE Breakthrough Fort Worth • PATHWAY Teach for America (TFA) • WHAT IS HE DOING NOW? Aditya recently completed his MBA and MA in Education at Stanford University. He works as a consultant for McKinsey and Company.

“Breakthrough led me to three years of full-time teaching in the classroom, which led to my desire to have and make change at a system-wide level. This is one of the reasons I’m in consulting now. I hope to one day start an education company that fights inequity at a systems level. Breakthrough played an integral part in shaping my passion for education equity and showed me that I can play a meaningful role in helping to give all kids a fair chance at a bright future.”
As a pioneer in education reform, Breakthrough is more than an organization. We are a nationwide movement, tackling the achievement gap with a groundbreaking approach. Through our summer and school-year programs, we increase academic opportunity for highly motivated, underserved middle- and high-school students, putting them on the path to college. We are also the largest pre-service teacher-training program in the country, providing best-in-class pre-service training for more than 1,000 undergraduate teaching fellows each year. As part of our commitment to developing the next generation of teachers, we offer leadership residencies for professional educators, who support our teaching fellows as instructional coaches.

We serve our constituencies across a collaborative network of 24 affiliates throughout the U.S. and one in Hong Kong, reaching more than 5,000 students each summer. Since our founding nearly 40 years ago, we have served more than 40,000 students and teachers. To learn more, visit www.breakthroughcollaborative.org.