



Dear Breakthrough Families,

I am so excited to share with you all an update about our new **Alumni Success Program** launching this fall.

As you may know, the mission of Breakthrough Public Schools (BPS) is to **develop a growing network of distinctive school options that prepare Cleveland area students for success in life**. Since its founding in 2010, Breakthrough — and its incredible teachers and leaders — has focused primarily on those distinctive school options, aiming to provide the highest quality education to K-8 students. However, we have also always been interested in better understanding our students' longer-term outcomes, beyond their time at Breakthrough, to ensure the **"success in life"** component of our mission can be thoroughly achieved on behalf of our graduates.

Over the last few years, former board member and Alumni Relations leader — Eric Baumgartner — has been laying the groundwork for a more ambitious undertaking in service of all Breakthrough alumni. Working in partnership with people from throughout the organization, the foundational work has included an intensive effort to find and reconnect with all our Breakthrough alumni, design a robust alumni database and web portal, build relationships with local high schools and colleges, and explore partnerships with local employers and aligned community organizations (e.g. College Now and Say Yes Cleveland).

We are thrilled to announce that this foundational effort has brought additional interest and new funding to Breakthrough, and **a full, groundbreaking Alumni Success Program will launch this fall in support of all our graduates**. A Steering Committee composed of Friends of Breakthrough board and staff, Breakthrough board and staff, and Breakthrough Alumni all supported the efforts to develop a strategy and vision for making this new program a reality. **We are truly thrilled about what this resulting program will mean for our Breakthrough graduates.**

This coming year, the new team will be led by former Senior Director of Research and Evaluation from the KIPP Foundation, Danielle Eisenberg, as the Interim Chief Alumni Success Officer. Operating within Friends of Breakthrough, the new Alumni Success team will partner closely with Breakthrough staff to align support and transition activities as students become 8th grade graduates and enter the Alumni phase of their relationship with Breakthrough.

I am thrilled that we will soon be able to extend our support of Breakthrough graduates on their life's journey from age 14 through 24, and from Breakthrough through high school, college or certificate training, and employment. When we say we are committed to our scholars' long-term success, we truly mean it. We hope you experience this as yet another way our schools deliver on behalf of our scholars, families, and communities.

Please stay tuned for more updates from Danielle as this program rolls out this fall.

Wishing you all the very best,

Alan