



1993

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

25 YEARS

Breakthrough
Cincinnati

2017



Dear valued members of the Breakthrough Cincinnati family,

It all started in 1992 when a pair of tenacious education advocates, William Hopple Jr. and Odessa Hooker, noticed a gap in Cincinnati. There was a shortage of opportunities for underserved youth to access the high-quality educational experiences needed to prepare for success in high school and college. Through extensive research they found the Summerbridge model, which had been operating successfully in San Francisco since the 1970's. They brought the model back to Cincinnati, and leveraged the necessary resources to spur the Cincinnati program's founding. On the page to the right, you can see Bill and Odessa's original vision for a program that boosted academic opportunity, attracted talent to the teaching profession, and broke down barriers. The times may have changed, but the goals for this important organization have not.

Now, twenty-five years later we give thanks for the vision and ingenuity of those two, and all involved, who pulled together the resources and extraordinary energy to start something that has become a formative experience for so many Cincinnati youth.

Former students and Teaching Fellows describe a sense of belonging in the program, the feeling of being with people who truly "get you." Many choked up when describing the impact on their lives and one even said, "I'd give anything to go back and do it all again."

Breakthrough Cincinnati has existed for these 25 years on the backs of ferociously dedicated individuals. It is with great thanks for your courage, your involvement, and your enduring support. This report is for you.



Julie Witten
Executive Director



Bill and Odessa

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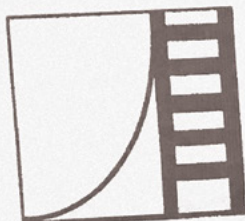
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Our goals withstand
the test of time

25
YEARS



SUMMERBRIDGE
CINCINNATI

COORDINATORS

Mrs. Odessa W. Hooker
3906 Wess Park Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45217
513/751-6039

Mr. Wm. H. Hopple Jr.
3685 Traskwood Circle
Cincinnati, OH 45208
513/321-3685

FAX: 513/561-1035

A RATIONALE FOR SUMMERBRIDGE CINCINNATI '93

12/09/91

SUMMERBRIDGE GOALS

- 1) To prepare diverse groups of students in public and parochial grades 4-8 to succeed in academic public and parochial middle schools & high schools
- 2) To encourage and prepare talented public, parochial, and independent high school students and college students to enter teaching careers by experiencing teaching and leadership opportunities in Summerbridge programs

WHAT KEY ELEMENTS OF EDUCATION DOES THE SUMMERBRIDGE EXPERIENCE ADDRESS?

- Our need to value and model diversity
- Our need to value and model a multicultural society
- Our need to help youth address the challenges of the "isms"
 - sexism, racism, classism, agism
- Our need to effect change in teaching and learning
- Our need to "empower" students and staff by
 - learning new skills
 - gaining self-confidence and self-esteem
 - feeling "ownership" in their learning & teaching
- Our need to "listen" to others, older & younger
- Our need to learn to give "support" to others, older & younger

THE VALUE OF SUMMERBRIDGE TO THE COMMUNITY?

Students Teaching Students Since 93'



Testimonials from students, parents, and teaching fellows.



Sommer Linnere



Student
1992,1993

Parent
2014-Present

"I remember my summers well. Everyone was there to learn. That was so different from how I felt in school, where I was surrounded by kids who really didn't want to be there."

"When I think of Breakthrough, I think of the word 'empowerment,'" Sommer concluded. The fact that the program is free to participants, that the staff are giving so much of their time to the kids, that type of energy, dedication and love, you don't see that every day."

[Read more of Sommer's Story](http://breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories)
breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories

Jena Bradley



Student
2001, 2002
Teaching Fellow
2007-2009

Jelecia Hoskins



Student /Teaching Fellow
1990s
Parent
2015-Present

“It was easier for us kids to connect with the teachers since they were closer in age to us.” Later, when I was a Teaching Fellow, I rode the bus to Walnut Hills with one of my summer students-- I remember thinking that was really cool to me at the time that we had all these shared experiences.”

“I see how Breakthrough Cincinnati today instills social and emotional skills. It’s a place that is really positive, safe, empowering and fun. Kids don’t have enough of that these days.”

[Read more of Jena’s Story](https://breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories)

breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories

“Breakthrough Cincinnati has impacted my daughter Naima tremendously. Not only has her participation in the program boosted her confidence, each summer she has been able to enter school feeling beyond prepared for the upcoming school year.”

“When Naima started Breakthrough our family was in the middle of a tremendous event that changed our lives forever. This was extremely difficult for Naima. Breakthrough Cincinnati was the consistent happy thought for her. The staff was very responsive and spent extra time and care when Naima had rough days. As a mom, I am forever grateful that she had a team of supporters that were there for her.”

[Read more of Jelecia’s Story](https://breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories)

breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories

P.G. Sittenfeld



Teaching Fellow
2001-2002

Board Member
2011-2017

“When I dropped in on classes during summer program Visiting Days last year, I’d marvel at how exceptional the Teaching Fellows were. And to see how the students were so excited to learn, it reinforced to me how important Breakthrough Cincinnati is to this community.”

“While I chose public service rather than a career in teaching, my time working at Breakthrough taught me so much about servant leadership. Lessons about listening, helping others, and making a difference in big and small ways which I’ve tried to put into practice ever since.”

[Read more of P.G.’s Story](http://breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories)
breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories

Andy Jenigar



**Teaching Fellow/
Instructional Coach**
2014-2016

“For anyone who is interested in education as a career, and in helping young people succeed, Breakthrough is the place. Hands on experience, and a chance to make a real difference in kids’ lives.”

“While I loved being in the classroom, some of my most meaningful time with the BTC students was when we were just ‘hanging out’ at recess or lunch. Or when I taught a dance elective, helping the students gain confidence through their performances.”

[Read more of Andy’s Story](http://breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories)
breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories

Laine Kolesar



Teaching Fellow
2012, 2013, 2015

“There’s a certain freedom felt by the teachers and the students to learn together, but it’s that same freedom that challenges everyone to be their best.”

“I missed my students so much! I had to come back in 2015 to be with them for their last year. They grew so much and I was so proud of them.”

“I was pushed to my limits, in a good way. Breakthrough Cincinnati is the best, most supportive, community that I have ever been a part of.”

[Read more of Laine’s Story](http://breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories)
breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories

Tshiunza Dan Kalubi



Teaching Fellow
1999-2006

“I don’t know how many of those kids had a black male teacher and I felt that responsibility to be there for them. I was able to be a good example for these students. I saw myself as being there to help them think about their future”

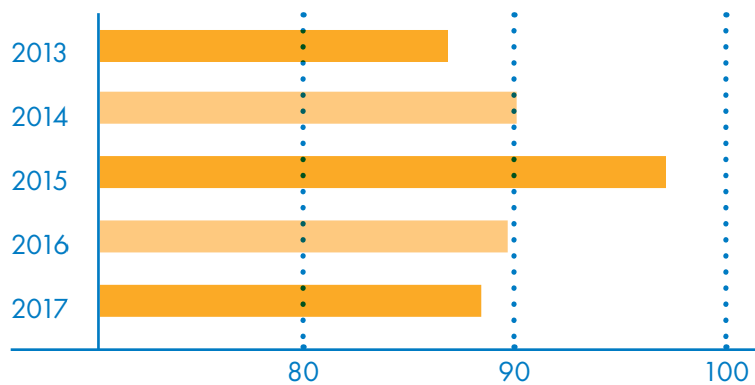
“I may not have become a teacher, but not a day goes by that I don’t put into practice some of the leadership skills I learned at Summerbridge.”

[Read more of Dan's Story](http://breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories)
breakthroughcincinnati.org/stories

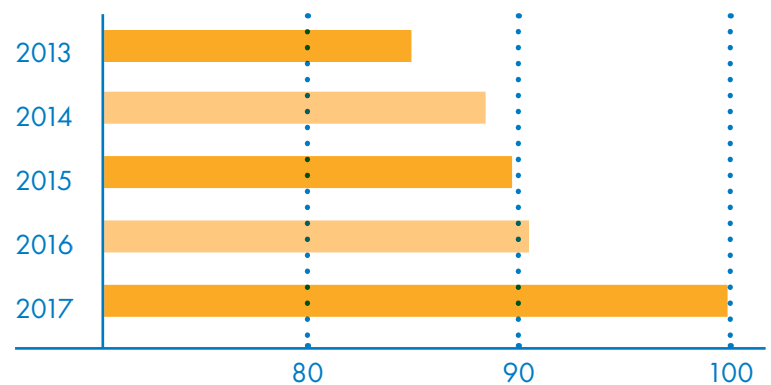
2017 Results

Breakthrough Cincinnati is committed to outcome measurement and a culture of continuous improvement. The following four outcomes have been measured over time by the organization to show the impact of the program on the students served. Trends, both positive and negative, are consistently analyzed by the staff. Where necessary, best practice that has led to success is replicated and plans for improvement are created to address areas of improvement.

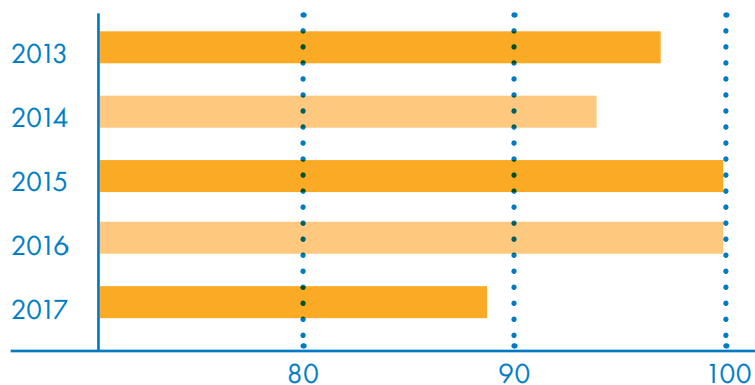
Annual Retention Rate



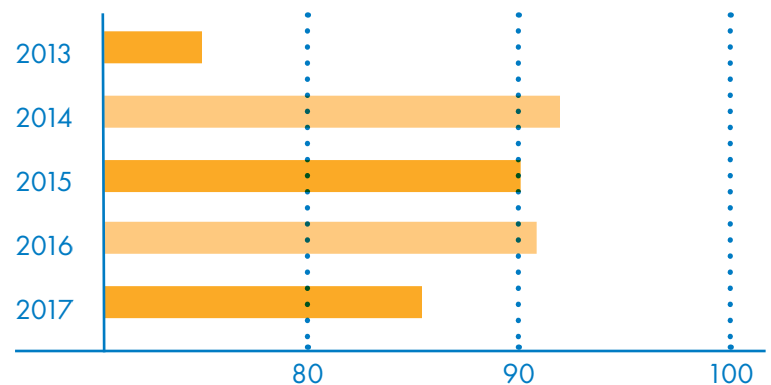
Enrollment in College Preparatory High Schools



On-time High School Graduation



Enrollment in College

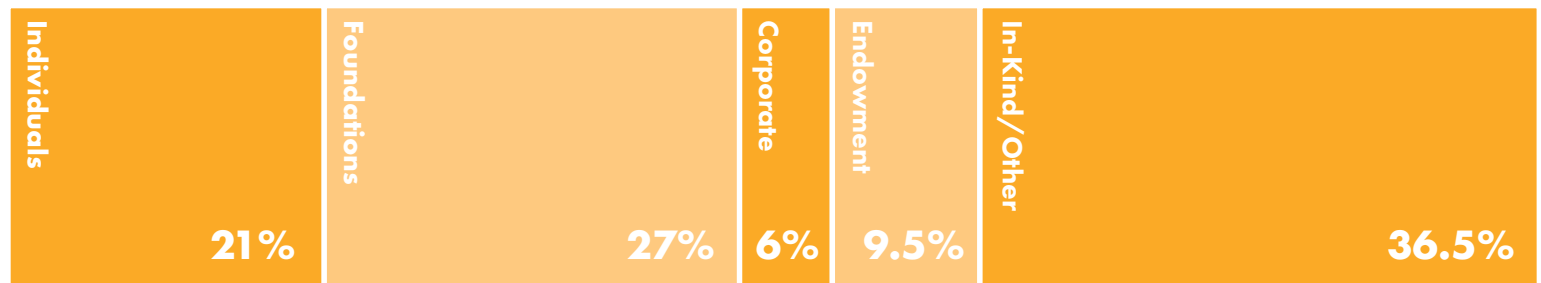


“Breakthrough Cincinnati’s impact will be felt for generations to come. Students’ academic trajectory is stabilized and accelerated, sending them ahead with 21st century skills and the confidence to succeed in their chosen path. In 2018, our organization will be deepening our program evaluation framework to better understand, and isolate, the unique impact that the Breakthrough program has on students.”

-Julie Witten, Executive Director

Revenue and Cash †

\$454,515,44



Expenses

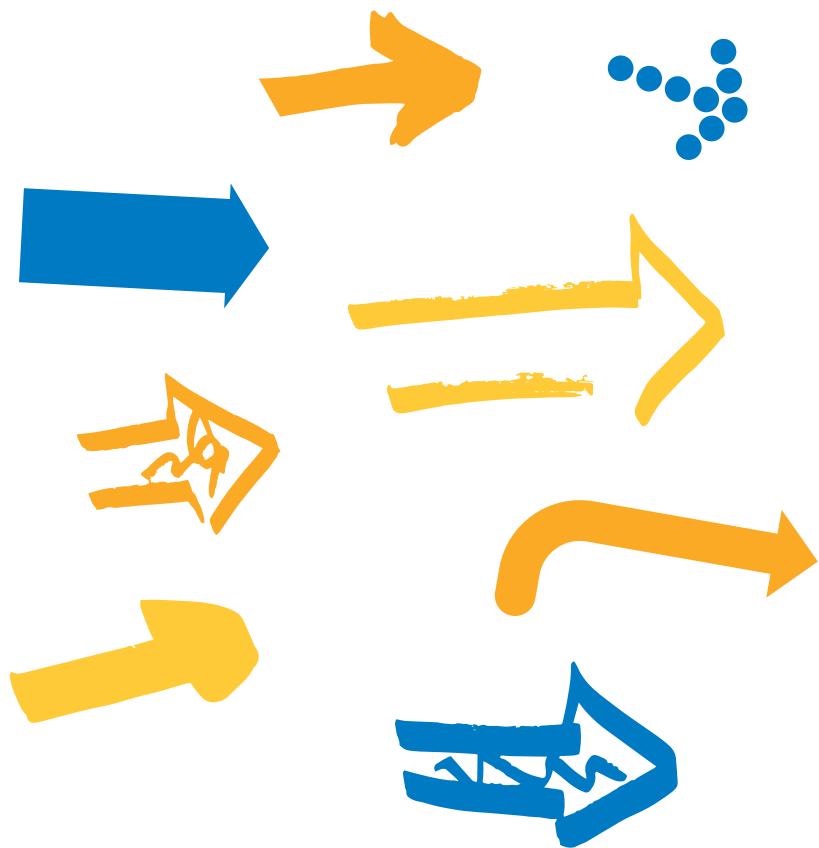
\$454,515,44



† In 2017 the organization accessed a line of credit during a time of leadership transition.

2017 Support/Partners

From the early days when a determined William Hopple, Jr. engaged friends and community stakeholders in the founding of the organization until now, Breakthrough Cincinnati has been bolstered by its supporters. The Board of Trustees and staff extend a heartfelt thank you to these individuals, companies, foundations, and organizations for inspiring today's students and tomorrow's teachers through these generous contributions.



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Thank you to all of our partners that generously support the work of Breakthrough Cincinnati. This list includes corporations, foundations, and organizations who provide generously to the program.

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25 YEARS

**Breakthrough
Cincinnati**

Save The Date!

**25th Anniversary Celebration
Honoring the Hopple Family**

**Friday, November 16th from 6-8 PM
The Mercantile Library**



**Breakthrough
Cincinnati**

Breakthrough Cincinnati provides a rigorous four-year college-preparatory summer learning program for high-need and high-potential middle school students and inspires and trains college students as the next generation of teachers.

6905 Given Road
Cincinnati, OH 45243

www.breakthroughcincinnati.org
www.facebook.com/btcincinnati

Our future is bright and we invite you to be a part of it!

Stay Connected

Attend a Visitors Day, follow the action on Facebook, or join a LinkedIn group. More opportunities are being developed to give back through volunteerism, professional mentoring and more!

Would you like to invest in the future?

Consider making a gift online at breakthroughcincinnati.org/support