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Breakthrough Collaborative Enhances Core Curriculum To Accelerate Learning for Middle School Students
Update Made Possible Through A Grant From All Points North Foundation

Breakthrough Collaborative, one of the nation’s largest out-of-school academic mentoring programs for under-resourced youth, will update its core curriculum in four subject areas-Literature, Writing, Mathematics, and Science-among three grade levels, rising 7th through rising 9th. Each subject will be reviewed for quality, updated to reflect topical, relatable references, improved in terms of pacing and alignment, and expanded to include additional rigorous material for students. These changes will be crafted by a panel of experienced professional educators.

The project has been designed to inspire students and accelerate learning for thousands of middle-school students who participate in Breakthrough programs around the country. The update has been made possible through a grant from All Points North Foundation (APNF).

“These improvements will more deeply engage our students, all of whom have made a personal commitment to long-term goals of college and career success” said Elissa Vanaver, national executive director of Breakthrough Collaborative. “At the same time, we’re putting better tools in the hands of teaching fellows and instructional coaches to help them achieve their full potential as leaders, teachers and agents of change in their communities.”

APNF supports evidence-based programs like Breakthrough Collaborative that measurably improve public middle-school education and teacher training, as part of its mission to improve communities through equal access to opportunity for all citizens. Founded in 2011 by a Boston-based family that believes each individual deserves a “true North,” a path toward achievement, APNF also funds projects that promote solar energy education.

Executive Director of APNF Laura Staich said, “We see a clear need to bring change to our education system, which does not always address the challenges faced by our underserved populations. Breakthrough Collaborative’s mission to improve learning among middle school students aligns with our view that investing in our nation’s most precious resource, our youth, can contribute to youth development and build more resilient communities.”

Breakthrough Collaborative, founded in San Francisco in 1978, has pioneered the development of Students-Teaching-Students and Teachers-Training-Teachers—two uniquely collaborative program models that boost the potential of underserved students and aspiring college students to learn, teach, and lead. The Collaborative is comprised of 25 local affiliates across the country, serving more than 8,000 middle- and high-school students year-round and providing summer fellowships for 1,000 outstanding college undergrads annually.