BREAKTHROUGH
San Juan Capistrano

# 2018-2019 IMPACT REPORT

*transforming the lives of young people and breaking the cycle of poverty through the power of education from middle school through college graduation*

**breakthroughsjc.org** **October 2019**

# A NOTE FROM ALEX

In August 2018 I officially became the new Director of Breakthrough San Juan Capistrano. I was nervous to step into the role where I was preceded by several incredible leaders who, over 13 years, took a program serving 22 middle school students and expanded the scope and size of the program. Today, we serve 280 students from 7th grade through college and cover a breadth of programming to support a student's journey to become the first in their family to graduate college. I learned quickly that I wasn't stepping into the Director position alone. During my first year an entire community guided, mentored and supported me to continue advancing our vision– to break the cycle of poverty and transform the lives of young people through the power of education.

This experience highlighted the very core of Breakthrough- that people make Breakthrough. WE all influence the transformation that transpires. In our 13th year, we continue to actualize that vision and impact.

Every year we strive to meet new milestones and this year we was no different. Highlights include:

- Highest number of new student applications (80) and acceptances (50).
- Largest single student cohort: an incoming class of high school freshmen (50).
- Highest number of community and student volunteers (280) who gave approximately 4,000 hours of their time and talent to advance our vision.
- Most students served in one year (230) and during the summer program (134).
- First year supporting our college students through a year of college.
- Highest percentage of Breakthrough college students who served as summer teaching fellows (37%)

These milestones, only demonstrate a small part of the countless ways our program impacts, and was impacted by, the community we serve. Whether you are a middle school tutor, college mentor, Spanish intern, part of the parents of Breakthrough (POB), a supporter or organizational partner, among countless others- thank you! I couldn't have completed a year as the Director of Breakthrough without you, nor could we have achieved the many accomplishments throughout this report without you.

As we began putting together this year's impact report, I returned to the Breakthrough Affirmation, a set of phrases that all middle school students say together before heading to class. The affirmation, beyond any data or anecdotes, grounds us in the "why" behind Breakthrough. Keep it in mind as you read on.

Warmest regards,

Alex Serr

Director of Breakthrough SJC



We are Breakthrough.
We strive for excellence in all that we do.
We persist toward a lifetime of opportunity, even when the going gets tough.
We find joy, courage, and power in taking risks and learning together.
We are grateful for the gift of today!

# THIS YEAR: MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Spotlight: Matias Oliveras

Matias was one of the 80 students who applied to join Breakthrough last fall. After submitting a 30 page application, attending an interview, turning in transcripts and teacher recommendation forms- he became 1 of the 50 new students admitted to the program. He made a commitment to the journey of becoming the first in his family to graduate college. In his speech at the end of summer celebration, he shared that, "*my parents did not have an opportunity like this one. My parents were poor and did not have the money to go to college and start a career. My family gave me a better opportunity to be in a program like Breakthrough and have U.S. schooling by travelling all the way from Mexico and Peru. I feel lucky that I am in this program because it will help me succeed in school and it will make my family proud."* During the first weeks of the summer program he expressed how challenging it was- getting out of his comfort zone to do cheers, play games and more. But, he took on the challenge. Taking risks to learn and grow. It culminated in his giving the 7th grade student speech to over 400 students and families at our end of summer celebration! He illustrates what many students experience in the summer program.



## Data Snapshot

**37%**

of summer teaching fellows were Breakthrough college students

**134**

7th - 9th grade students attended the summer program. A 65% increase since 2014

**90%**

of middle school students received a 3.5gpa or higher

**98%**

of student surveyed strongly agree that participating in Breakthrough will help them achieve their academic goals.

*Breakthrough has made it certain for me that I want to pursue a career in education. It has supported my intellectual and spiritual growth by fostering an environment where I can learn from mistakes and build positive, meaningful rapport with students.*

*-Francisco G., BT Teaching Fellow & Graduate Student at UCLA School of Education*

# THIS YEAR:
# HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE

## Spotlight: Samantha Jimenez



Samantha "Sammie" Jimenez, an incoming sophomore at Chapman University studying Business Administration and minoring in Latinx Studies has been a Breakthrough student since she was in 7th grade and was one of this summer's teaching fellows. Teaching 7th grade math, she often reminded her students that she sat in their very seats only a few years before. With aspirations of someday leading a Fortune 500 company, she is a consummate role model for younger Breakthrough students. Now, that Breakthrough supports our students in college, we're excited to continue supporting students like Sammie on their journeys to become college graduates and in preparing them for their career aspirations afterwards.

## Data Snapshot

**81%**

of high school students received a 3.0 unweighted (UW) GPA or higher; 72% have a 3.2 UW GPA or higher

**170**

college applications were submitted with 99 acceptances

**88%**

of the class of 2019 were accepted to a four-year university/college

**100%**

of the class of 2019 applied for financial aid (FAFSA/CA Dream Act)

**26**

college freshmen were supported through their 1st year of college

## 2019 Colleges Acceptances:

UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Merced, University of Redlands, Cal State Fullerton, Claremont McKenna College, American University, Macalester College, St. Edwards, Dominican University, UC Irvine, Trinity University, San Jose State University, Chapman University,Cal State San Marcos, Cal Lutheran, Agnes Scott College, St. Olaf College, UC San Diego, UC Riverside, Whitter College, St. Mary's College, College of the Holy Cross, among others.

# THIS YEAR: 2017 FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

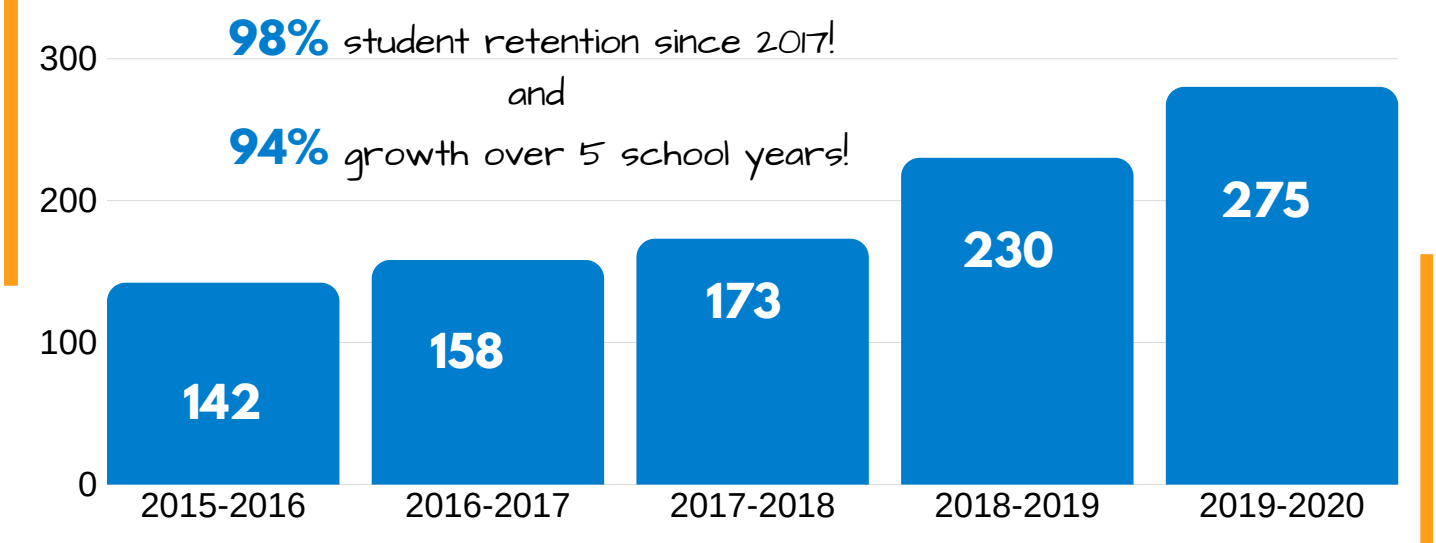
## Spotlight: Qunsia Daniel, Breakthrough SJC Assistant Director for Middle & Early High School

Breakthrough SJC not only serves more students then ever before but we've also expanded our scope to support them until college graduation, in order to best support them we expanded our full-time staff from two to three.



Education has been a lifelong love for native Georgian, Qunsia. Her genuine passion for learning stemmed from her own family's voracious support of reading and writing which led her to pursue her BS in Secondary Education – English from Northwestern University. While there, she was introduced to various non-profit collaboratives in the Evanston community. Her involvement led her to apply to Breakthrough Collaborative's Summer Teaching Fellowship where she served Breakthrough San Juan Capistrano for two summers. Upon graduation, she joined the Jacksonville Corps Region of Teach For America. There she taught high school English and served beyond her two year commitment. In efforts to continue the work in achieving educational equity, she has also served as staff for Teach For America's Florida Regional Institute as a Corps Member Advisor and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Facilitator. She is excited to join the Breakthrough San Juan team to support students in their highest academic endeavors and beyond!

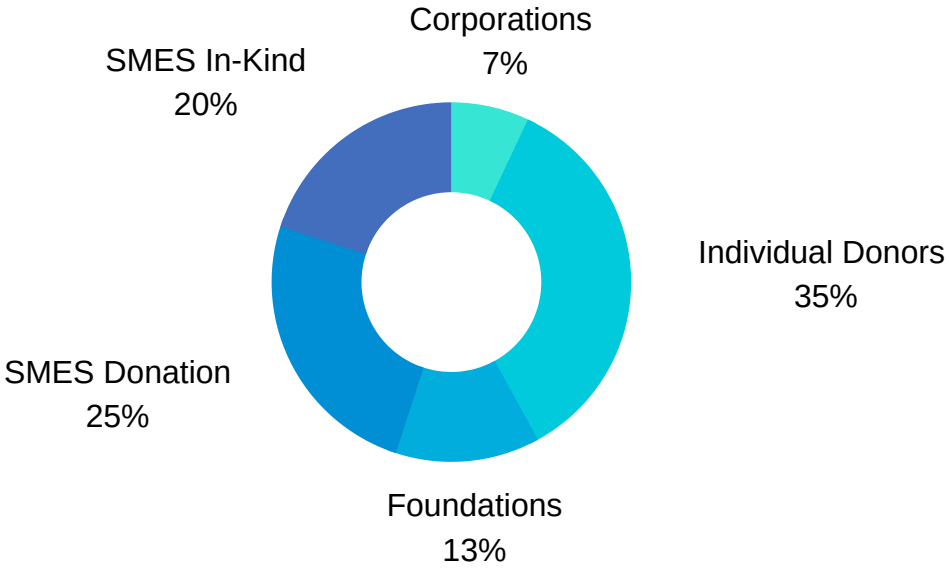
### Program Growth: Total Students Supported



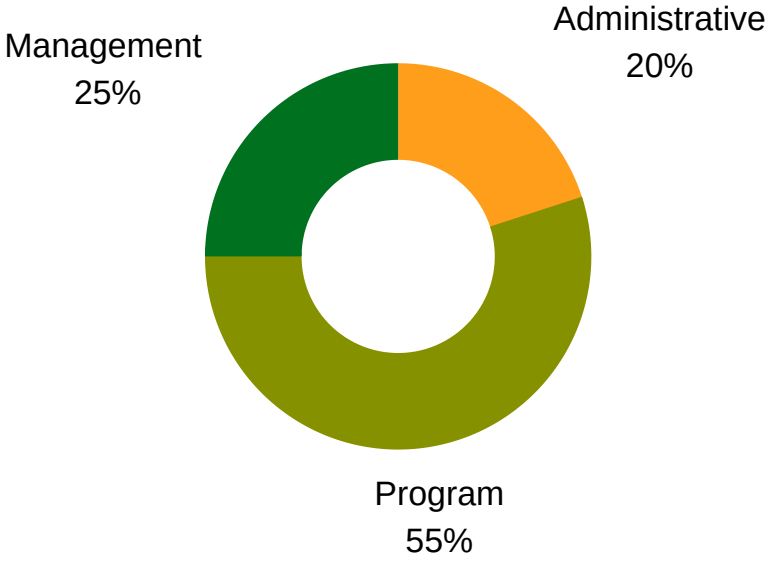
# INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABLITY

Breakthrough San Juan Capistrano students benefit directly from the generosity of those who support the program. Approximately 55 percent of Breakthrough SJC's budget is supported by gifts and grants from individuals, businesses and foundations, while the remainder of the program's operating expenses, overhead and salaries are supported by St. Margaret's Episcopal School. Below are un-audited and general financial data for 2018 fiscal year. (July 1 through June 30)

## 2018-2019 Revenue




## 2018-2019 Expenses




## 2018-2019 Snapshot

**$568,218**

total fundraised from individuals, corporations and foundations between July 2018 and June 2019

**$700,000**

in endowment, with additional $100,000 pledged

**59**

individual donors contributed $470,000 in gifts to program and the endowment

**90%**

annual individual donor retention



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Spotlight: A Note from Dr. Geeta Grover, Breakthrough College Mentor, Donor & Advisory Board Member

Dr. Grover is a dedicated member of the Breakthrough community, serving as one of the thirty-one college mentors, who support our seniors through eighteen months of the college admissions process.



*Dr. Grover and her mentee July*

**Below is a note from her:**

*As both a parent and a pediatrician, I believe that every child deserves to succeed and achieve their highest potential. For the last 3 years, BT SJC has given me the opportunity to work with under-resourced, highly-motivated, bright young students. BT SJC's emphasis on individualized, long-term mentor-mentee relationships has given me the privilege to learn, at a very personal level, about the lives and challenges of these talented young people and the equally committed families who support them. The endless grit and optimism of all the young people I have had the opportunity to work with thus far are truly inspirational. It has been my joy to guide these talented young people not only through the application process to college, but then to remain connected with them once in college as they begin their journey's to actualize their dreams.*

We thank Dr. Grover and the countless other community members to help advance our mission!

## 2018-2019 Highlights

### "Best Local" Nonprofit!

Breakthrough honored as "2018 Best Local Nonprofit" by Capistrano Dispatch

### Giving Tuesday

$12,000 was raised in less than 24 hours to fly Breakthrough college students home for the holidays

### New Partnership!

With the UCI Paul Merage School of Business Center for Investment & Wealth Management's residential financial literacy program for teens: LIFEvest

### National Board Trustee

Breakthrough Director Alex Serna nominated to serve as a trustee on the Breakthrough Collaborative's National Board

# TO OUR COMMUNITY: THANK YOU!



## 2018-2019 COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

### St. Margaret's Leadership Team

**Will Moseley**, Head of School
**Ryan Dahlem**, Assistant Head of School for Strategic Initiatives
**Victor Cota,** Director of Equity & Inclusion
**Anne Dahlem**, Director of Communications
**David Bush**, Chief Financial and Operating Officer
**Jonathan Tufo**, Director of Advancement
**Dr. Jeneen Graham,** Upper School Principal

### Advisory Board

**Gila Jones**, CUSD Board Trustee & Board President
**Jim Reardon**, CUSD Board Trustee
**Stacey Nicholas**, President, Opus Foundation
**Amy Fulford**, St. Margaret's Parent & College Mentor
**Gretchen Scott,** St. Margaret's Parent & College Mentor
**Dr. Geeta Grover,** UC Irvine Pediatrician & College Mentor
**Greg Silver**, President of GMU Geotechnical & College Mentor
**Nicole Watson**, Associate Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club of Capistrano Valley
**Enrique Loya**, Breakthrough and St. Margaret's Parent
**Claire Frahm,** St. Margaret's Assistant to the Head of School

### Organizational Partners

St. Margaret's Episcopal School
Breakthrough Collaborative
AmeriCorps VISTA
Capistrano Unified School District
Marco Forester Middle School
San Juan Hills High School
Dana Point High School
Capistrano Valley High School
Boys & Girls Club of Capistrano Valley
University of California, Irvine School of Ed
Global Girls GLOW
Great Opportunities
Ocean Institute
CHEC Family Resource Center
UNIDOs

### Foundation Partners

Brethern Community Foundation
Connelly Family Foundation
J. Stanely & Mary W. Johnson Family Foundation
Nicholas Endowment
Samueli Foundation

### Corporate Partners

Ball Park Pizza
Basanti Indian Restaurant
California First National Bank
GMU Geotechnical, Inc.
Nektar Juice Bar
Ocean Honda of San Juan Capistrano
Printing OC
Rancho Mission Viejo Community Development
Thinque Prep
Ricardo's Place
Sundried Tomato

# TO OUR COMMUNITY: THANK YOU!

## Teaching Fellows, Junior Teachers and Summer Staff

Karina Aldana • Luis Almanza • Katie Bain • Kaelyn Casazza • Zaenia Chavez • Yerit De la Rosa • Jaime Del Rio •Marie Finman • Jacqueline Flores • Edlin Garcia • Francisco Gaspar • Carol Haro • Jane Hawthorne • Pablo Jimenez • Samantha Jimenez • Giselle Lagunas • Linda Lazaro • Emma Lee • Henry Lutz • Marycarmen Montanez • Aide Najera • Luke Norquist • Citali Perez • Coral Ramos • Xavier Richardson • Brian Salgado • Chris Shimizu • Tania Solano • Laura Tellez • Marisha Thomas • Natasha Tirpak • Emmanuel Torres • Melissa Torres • Ariana Vargas • Julyanna Vazquez • Blair Wood

## Homestay Famlies

The Blount Family • The Cowan Family • The Jones Family • The Linaweaver Family • The Mendez Family • The Miller Family • The Nash Family • The Scott Family • The Shams Family

## Summer Guest Presenters

Aja Smith • Alexis Chamberlin • Amanda Spiegelberg • Arianna Barrios • Edan Bryant • Johanna Figueroa • Kimmy Richardson • Laura Kephart • Megan Yoo Schneider • Dr. Nikki Ford • Dr. Rolando Ruiz

## 2018-2019 College Mentors

Ryan Dahlem • Marisha Thomas • Michelle Wallick • Gretchen Scott • Sonia Remick • Greg Silver • Ada Rudolph • Kia Westhead • Tupper Spring • Sara Sullivan • Laura Shirangi • Jeff Jablonski • Maureen Aitken • Josiah Edwards • Dawn Karahailos • Amy Fulford • Mohan Phansalkar • Geeta Grover • Tina Catalano • Traci Cole • Rolando Ruiz

## Summer Student Volunteers

Samantha Haft • Amelia Parker • Whitney Dean Anthony Constantino • Italivi Diaz • Cameron Shirangi • Alex D'Amaro • Alex Shen • Angel Sotelo • Diana Acero • Alejandro Menchaca Brooke Baker • Victor Ponce • Megan Armbrust • Emily Bush • Alex Garcia • Jessica Martinez Carson C de Baca • Zoe Shor • Brenda Galvan Christopher Agapito • Katherine Rafla • Mary Rodrigo • Leila Sapra • Anyssa Patirupananda Nick Stevens • Jackson Adelman • Salvador Amezcua • Raul Rojas • Emmanuel Velazquez Jonathan Muniz • Julia Finman • Claudia Rodriguez • Rey Cano • Mireya Reyes • Cami Cassinelli • Nate Mouchawar • Corinne Hunnicutt • Owen Young • Jackson Glassman • Madeline Yi • Maile McKeown • David Wang • Brenda Galvan • Angel Sotelo • Yaretzi Gonzalez • Andrew McKeown • Keana Boessler • Marina Esquivel-Cisneros • Sanjana Narang • Daniel Fernandez • Linda Galvan • Camila Leyva • Grace Baek • Daniel Munoz • Nathan Boessler • Jane (Celeste) Taylor • Tommy Colglazier • Yuke Zhang • Olivia Heim • Skyla Cui • Nathaniel Kang • Daniela Flores • Aldo Ruiz • Erik Calzado • Jacob Orellana • Carissa Mercado • Thomson Liu • Natasha Yousefi • Catalina Morales • Brisa Salgado • Jack Manor • Kimberly Carrillo • Lauryn Wilson • Christine Kao • Antonio Fabian • Emma Chang • Esmeralda Chávez • Israel Bautista • Laila Cruz • Omar Peralta

# TO OUR COMMUNITY: THANK YOU!

## High School Tutors

Carson C de Baca • Nicole Ryu • Alexis Kieckhafer Ashkaan Mahjoob • Layla Shakerin • Romina Sahafi Nadia Farjami • Kevin Guo • Jackie Guo • Quinn Novick • Sally Fales • Eli Bernstein • Gilbert Chung Samantha Haft • Nick Fournier • Aidan Rooney • Grant Kinsey • Evan and Fiona Lee • Katrina Botros Natalie Yee • Jack Manor • Alex Liang • Amelia Parker • Serena Carson • Charlie Bienert • Hannah Everett • Megan Short • Paige Debie • Andrew McIntosh • Sara Mahmood • Andrew Victor • Sonali Madisetti • Simon Wang • Alex Wang

## Middle School Tutors

Edlin Garcia • Carson C de Baca • Emmanuel Torres Nadia Farjami • Quinn Novick • Sally Fales • Jessica Martinez • Eli Bernstein • Olivia Heim • Samantha Haft Nick Fournier • Aidan Rooney • Evan Lee • Claudia Rodriguez • Mireya Reyes • Amelia Parker • Angie Soto • Brenda Galvan • Kimberly Carrillo • Jonathan Muniz • Esmeralda Chavez • Giovanni Reyes • Hannah Everett • Megan Short • Daniela Flores • Lizbeth Policarpo • Paige Debie • Edgar Arteaga Andrew McIntosh • Linda Galván • Sara Mahmood Diana Acero • Italivi Diaz • Emmanuel Torres • Giovanni Reyes

## Spanish Language Translation Interns

Ibeth Cibrian• Karla Sanchez • Ivan Granados • Aldo Ruiz Emmanuel Velazquez • Arianna Barrera • Marilyn Molina • Ibeth Cibrian • Angela Mendoza Ortega • Angela Soto • Ulises Ramirez Ruiz • Amy Fabian • Samantha Cruz • Julyanna Vazquez • Claudia Rodriguez • Alejandro Menchaca • Alfonso Bahena

## Parent's of Breakthrough (POB)

Alma Aguirre • Alma Diaz • Ana Sanchez • Bridgette Ochoa • Carmen Ortega • Claudia Riley • Custodia Hernandez • Daniel Uribe • Divina Jimenez • Evelia Lagunas • Gabriela Galvan • Guadalupe Jaime Guadalupe Robles • Jacqueline Arivizu • Jessica Leyva • Mrs. Arevalo • Mrs. Rubio • Juana Muniz Karina Velez • Lidia Ramirez • Mrs. Lecona • Margarita Valencia • Maria Granados • Maria Maldonado • Maria Navanjo • Maria Peralta • Martha Méndez • Martha Salgado • Mercedes Mendez • Mrs. Tellez • Mrs. Desiderio • Norma Santiago • Patricia Ponce Patty Gutierrez • Polina Larionova • Rosa Ruiz Mrs. Guzman • Silvia Gonzalez • Susana Mendez Susana Cervantes • Yesenia Rosales

## 2018-2019 AmeriCorps VISTAs

**Emma Lee**, Community Coordinator
**Linda Lazaro**, Volunteer Coordinator

## UCI Research Team

**Dr. Stephanie Reich,** Associate Professor, UCI School of Education
**Jennifer Rose Renick**, PhD student in the UCI School of Education

## Special Project Volunteers

Natasha Yousefi • Anthea Chade • Elizabeth Novick • Aviva Dobrenky

***Special thanks to Amy Fulford for helping edit this report!***

# TO OUR COMMUNITY: THANK YOU!

## Individual Supporters

Adrienne and David Adelman
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Jolanta and Arminas Wagner
Kia and Paul Westhead
Mindy and Eric Zaidins

# JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

## DONATE

monetary funds or gifts in-kind by visiting our donation page: http://smes.org/breakthrough-sjc or emailing Alex with questions

## VOLUNTEER

and serve as a middle or high school tutor or summer student volunteer by emailing Qunsia

## HOST

Host a summer teaching fellow in your home by emailing Alex

## SUBSCRIBE

if you'd like stay updated on our program, get details into programming and follow our journey, subscribe to our monthly newsletter: http://bit.ly/2ICtQPK

## TEACH

apply to be a summer 2020 teaching fellow by visiting: https://www.breakthroughcollaborative.org/apply-teacher/

## PARTNER

if you're a local business, university, corporation or community-based organization that would like to collaborate with Breakthrough SJC email Alex

## FOLLOW

get a glimpse into our daily happenings by following our Instagram: @breakthroughsanjuan

## MENTOR

high school students in our College Mentor Program by contacting Sam


**Alex Serna, Director**
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**Samantha Geary, Assistant Director for College Access & Completion**
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**Qunsia Daniel, Assistant Director for Middle and Early High School**
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