



Contact: Dieu Ho, Executive Director  
Tel: 505-795-7517  
Email: [dho@sfprep.org](mailto:dho@sfprep.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ANONYMOUS DONOR DONATES \$2.5 MILLION TO BREAKTHROUGH SANTA FE FOR GAP SCHOLARSHIP AND 529 SAVINGS PROGRAM**

Santa Fe, NM - Breakthrough Santa Fe, a college access organization that supports low-income and first-generation-to-college students in the Santa Fe area, announced today that it has received a \$2.5 million anonymous donation to fund the Breakthrough College Bound Gap Scholarship for high school seniors and 529 College Savings Plans for incoming high school students.

The Breakthrough College Bound Gap Scholarship will cover up to \$8,000 in remaining costs for Breakthrough Santa Fe students who will be attending a four-year in-state university. "Even with the Opportunity and Lottery state scholarships, we are still seeing students struggle to pay for room and board," said Breakthrough Santa Fe Executive Director, Dieu Ho. "This generous donation removes yet another barrier for our first-generation students to pursue their bachelor's degree." The scholarship is renewable for up to four years as long as students remain in good academic standing.

Breakthrough Santa Fe also plans to open 529 College Savings Plans for each incoming high school student, starting each account with \$1,000 and covering overhead costs. Research has consistently shown that awarding college savings accounts to low-income students can help bolster their postsecondary enrollment and credential attainment. "The 529 Savings Plans will aid in many facets of Breakthrough's program, including recruitment, retention, and ultimately our goal of enrolling every Breakthrough student in some postsecondary program," said Ho. The 529 program aims to combine the high-touch programming of Breakthrough Santa Fe with the added family engagement of 529 plans.

Breakthrough Santa Fe, hosted at Santa Fe Preparatory School, selects academically talented and motivated students from communities that have historically been excluded from higher education and supports them on their path to college. Students are enrolled in the program from 7th to 12th grade and participate in a six-week summer school program, supplemented by academic tutoring, mentorship, and individualized college counseling through the school year.

"We are honored and grateful to have received this anonymous donation," said Ho. "These two programs will not only expand upon an already robust college access foundation but will also deepen the impact of Breakthrough within our community." ###