



Breakthrough Atlanta

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jen Sarginson – (404) 262-3032 or
jennifer.sarginson@lovet.org

BREAKTHROUGH ATLANTA RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE WHITEHEAD FOUNDATION

ATLANTA, GA (April 25, 2017) - Breakthrough Atlanta (BTA) is proud to announce that it is the recipient of a \$325,000 grant from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation. The grant will be used to purchase two 40-passenger buses and two 14-passenger buses to transport students to and from the wide range of metro Atlanta public schools that Breakthrough Atlanta serves.

BTA, in its twenty-first year, is hosted at The Lovett School and Atlanta Youth Academy with a mission to put Atlanta public school students on a 6-year pathway to college. BTA is pleased to be included with important organizations that received funding from Whitehead including The Atlanta Speech School and Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) who are dramatically improving outcomes for Atlanta's students.

"Transportation plays a major role in Breakthrough Atlanta operations," said Breakthrough Atlanta's Executive Director Monica Rodgers. "Our students come from 61 zip codes across Atlanta and often don't have the resources to get to and from our teaching sites. Breakthrough is truly grateful for the generosity of The Whitehead Foundation. We hope to reach even more students across Atlanta now that we have a larger fleet of buses," Rodgers said.

Breakthrough Atlanta is currently engaged in a fundraising campaign to raise \$3.7 million. Funds raised will go towards financial stability and growth, data collection & analysis, and strategic programming, which includes: transportation, curriculum investments, college relations & tours, and teaching fellow recruitment.

"We have a commitment to our students and their families to ensure that Breakthrough Atlanta will continue to transform students' lives and provide an entry into the education profession for teacher interns for years to come. Our board is grateful for The Whitehead Foundation's belief in our work, and we're hopeful their support will inspire others to join us in our mission to place promising students from metro Atlanta's middle schools on a six-year path to college," said Breakthrough Atlanta Advisory Board President Pinney Allen.

About Breakthrough Atlanta

Breakthrough Atlanta's (BTA) programs help middle and high school students develop the academic skills and study habits to enroll and succeed in college--and, ultimately, in life.

BTA celebrated its inaugural summer in 1996 on the campus of The Lovett School. Its mission is two-fold: to provide an academically intense pathway to college for motivated metro Atlanta public school students to encourage academic success; and to provide an intensive hands-on teacher training experience (internship) for high school and college students, inspiring a new generation of teachers.

Breakthrough Atlanta is a member of a thriving national network called Breakthrough Collaborative. There are 33 Breakthrough sites in the U.S. and 1 in Hong Kong. Breakthrough Atlanta students come from metro Atlanta public schools and represent more than 60 zip codes. More than 85% of BTA students go to college.
www.breakthroughatlanta.org.

###