

JUST ONE THING

Title: The Power & Impact of Students Teaching-Students

Company/Organization: Breakthrough Manchester

Type of Organization: Nonprofit

Number of Employees: <100

Category: Nonprofit

Challenge or Opportunity: BTM supports students from marginalized communities (1st generation college student, BIPOC, Free & Reduced Lunch eligible, live with non-traditional head of household, English as 2nd language) on path to & through college. Despite being bright & talented, BTM students are at risk of not continuing to college. Achievement disparities due to opportunity gaps make it challenging. BTM is also addressing the teacher shortage & inspiring emerging college-aged leaders as educational equity advocates.

Approach or Solution: BTM's 6-week summer program for academic enrichment packed with opportunities & summer camp fun is our foundation. Our students-teaching-students model is the power of this program with middle schoolers being taught & mentored by college-aged Teaching Fellows. The Teaching Fellowship prepares future educators through training from professional educators & hands-on classroom experience introducing educational career pathways & placement opportunities.

Impact: 100% of BTM alumni pursue higher education (98% attend 4-year colleges). Natalia, a BTM alumna was admitted to her dream school, Providence College, in 2020, but the financial aid package was not viable. Empowered with self-advocacy skills learned at BTM, she presented her case & is now a proud graduate of Providence College! Since 2020, 23 Teaching Fellows have graduated from college and are pursuing careers in education! BTM is advancing educational equity & strengthening the teacher pipeline.