



February 13, 2009

Dear Friend of Breakthrough Long Island,

Over the last decade, Breakthrough Long Island has served a great number of students and families throughout Nassau County. These students are bright, motivated students of color from low-income communities. Half of these students are the first in their family to go to college. All have the desire to pursue academic excellence and to enter exceptional, selective college programs.

Breakthrough Long Island promised to pave the way for these students to enter college. They began their journey at Breakthrough Long Island's summer academic enrichment program. Students rode school buses for two hours a day for six weeks during their summer vacation. They completed two hours of homework every night. By dedicating their summer to academic skill-building and hard work, they were closer to achieving their goals when they returned to school in the fall.

As the country has entered a tough economic period, so have nonprofit organizations. After eighteen years, Friends Academy can no longer sustain the program because of unprecedented budget challenges facing the School next year. Unfortunately for Breakthrough students and families, the news is sudden and the effect immediate.

There has been a national effort to exercise every possible option to save the program. But, given the timing and the economy, we could not find the money to keep the program operational in time to guarantee students a program this summer. However, we cannot let external economic forces reduce the chances for these students' success – not after all their hard work and commitment to achieve their college-bound future.

We are therefore appealing to you to partner with us in finding other paths and programs for our ambitious and committed students. We ask with the knowledge that Breakthrough Long Island is a rare tuition-free program. Other summer learning programs charge tuition, and many of Breakthrough families cannot afford the cost.

By raising a total of \$85,000 we can provide \$1,000 scholarships for each of these students to join another summer learning opportunities. We hope to give them the chance to continue their studies and pursue their dreams. Your gift and your ability to spread the word and share this request with others who are committed to assisting the students of Breakthrough Long Island will help move each student another summer closer to college. [Donate here](#) Select **Long Island** as the regional location you'd like to support and follow the prompts to complete your donation.

Closing the doors to Breakthrough Long Island must not close the doors to college for our kids.

Thank you for your generosity.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Beth Porter at bporter@breakthroughcollaborative.org.