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## **SUMMERBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE CHANGES ITS NAME TO BREAKTHROUGH CAMBRIDGE**

October 1, 2008 – Summerbridge Cambridge has changed its name to Breakthrough Cambridge to reflect the identity of its national non-profit headquarters located in the San Francisco Bay Area. .

Founded in San Francisco as Summerbridge in 1978, the program was created to prepare low-income, middle-school students to apply to college-preparatory high schools through an intensive summer program conducted at one of the most prestigious schools in the Bay Area. Based on the unprecedented success of the San Francisco program, additional Summerbridge sites were developed throughout the country, including Summerbridge Cambridge, established in 1992. In 1991, Breakthrough Collaborative was founded to oversee the growth, support and development of local sites. Today, Breakthrough is a national education program consisting of 34 sites throughout the country.

“It is important to identify our site with the name that reflects our national identity and the benefits associated with the national brand,” said Alison Glastein, Executive Director of Breakthrough Cambridge. “Additionally, the new name better reflects the year-round nature of our program. We offer an intensive six-week summer session, school year programming, after-school tutoring, college access support, and customized educational advocacy throughout the academic year. The word “Breakthrough” defines our mission beautifully because of the breakthroughs in education that our students and teachers achieve every day.”

Breakthrough Cambridge, like its cohort sites across the country, dramatically increases educational opportunities for high-potential, disadvantaged middle school and high school students. Nationally, 90% of Breakthrough’s students are of color; 75% are the first in their families to attend college and 68% qualify for free or reduced-priced lunch programs.

Key to Breakthrough's success is its "students teaching students" model in which the organization recruits college and high school students to teach its middle school students. Ultimately these student teachers become much more than teachers; they are role models and mentors. Based on Breakthrough sites across the country, 72% of them pursue careers in education. This year, two Breakthrough teachers were named Rhodes Scholars and Breakthrough was bestowed with Johns Hopkins University's "Excellence in Summer Learning Award." Annually, Breakthrough serves more than 2,500 middle school students across the country and employs 700 college and high school students as middle school teachers in its 34 sites.

On December 4, Breakthrough Cambridge will celebrate its new name at a reception hosted by supporters Richard and Nancy Friedman at the Charles Hotel. The evening features remarks by Harvard Dean of Admissions William Fitzsimmons, a long-time member of the Breakthrough Cambridge Board of Directors. Dean Fitzsimmons will engage guests in a conversation about college access and urban education.

For more information, visit the all-new Breakthrough Cambridge website, donated by Agency3 of Lexington, at [www.breakthroughcambridge.org](http://www.breakthroughcambridge.org), or call the office at (617) 349-6647. .