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Breakthrough Fort Worth Hosts Fancy Meal at the Fort Worth Club

FORT WORTH, TEXAS—Thursday, June 22, is a big day for ninth-graders in the Breakthrough Fort Worth Program. These students will participate in a celebratory luncheon that raises money for their program, which teaches underserved youth with high academic potential how to establish goals for college and prepare to successfully reach their objectives. Fancy Meal 2017 takes place Thursday, June 22, at 11:30 a.m. at the Fort Worth Club. Edgar T. Araiza, MD, a 2003 graduate of Fort Worth Country Day and Breakthrough program alumnus, is the keynote speaker.

Following graduation from FWCD, Araiza earned a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and biology from Austin College. He attended medical school at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, graduating in 2012. He completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Kansas City and his fellowship as an orthopaedic trauma assistant instructor/senior fellow at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is devoted to improving education and training in orthopedics with international medical mission groups. Since 2007, he has traveled to Piste, Yucatán, Mexico; Botosani, Romania; and Tanzania, Africa, working with the people in these countries, performing evaluations, executing clinic procedures and practicing surgical skills.

“I am passionate about the arts, including pottery and photography,” Dr. Araiza said. “In high school and college, I worked with ceramics, pottery sculpture, wood-work and occasional bronze casting. Orthopedic surgery affords me the opportunity to continue this passion for art through the treatment of the injured body.”

While a college student, Dr. Araiza gave back to the program that gave so much to him, serving as a science teacher intern with Breakthrough National in Fort Worth. He worked more than 600 hours in the summer of 2006, teaching Electrical Physics, Anatomy and Physiology, and Ceramics to rising eighth-graders. As a mentor, he also started a campaign for students to speak out against the use of drugs and alcohol in their schools and helped qualified students apply and interview for private and magnet high school programs.

“Breakthrough Fort Worth exposed me to a world of unlimited opportunity I previously thought was unavailable to me,” Dr. Araiza said.

For Executive Director Joe Breedlove, Araiza exemplifies the true Breakthrough spirit. “As a student, Edgar was dedicated through the entire program—so much so that he became a teacher assistant, a Breakthrough teacher for three years and was the first person in his family to attend college,” Breedlove said. “The thing I vividly remember about Edgar was he told me in eighth grade that he was going to be a doctor and that Breakthrough was going to help him get there. Edgar embodies what Breakthrough students strive to be: young people who choose to make a difference.”

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About Fancy Meal
Breakthrough Fort Worth has a comprehensive focus that integrates both academic and leadership education for its students. The program’s annual Fancy Meal luncheon serves as both a fundraising event and an experiential classroom where Breakthrough students learn to interact with prominent community members and exercise good etiquette and social skills. Since 2003, business and community leaders have made Fancy Meal a real-world leadership learning activity for more than 500 underrepresented Breakthrough Fort Worth students and their student-teaching fellows. The community members who attend are the students’ role models for the day, as they introduce them to their first professional-level social setting and conversations. This mentorship provides a vital learning experience for students, and the money raised from the community ensures the supplies and student teachers they need to fulfill the six-week summer program. Prior to the luncheon, students participate in a Mock Fancy Meal and shop for their luncheon outfits in the FWCD-sponsored Breakthrough Boutique.

About Breakthrough Fort Worth
Established on the Fort Worth Country Day campus in 1992 as Summerbridge, a summer-only academic program serving 40 underserved seventh- and eighth-graders from Fort Worth ISD, today’s Breakthrough Fort Worth program has evolved into a progressive six-year academic and leadership development series with year-round programming for 260 students with high academic potential in grades 7-12. The program helps students establish goals for college and prepare to successfully reach their objectives through an intensive summer program that supplements their regular school courses with interactive classes, workshops and activities that are designed to increase academic knowledge, develop strong study habits, build character-driven leadership and social skills, as well as provides meaningful guidance through the college admission process. The program’s unique students-teaching-students model offers a hands-on immersion in classroom leadership and professional-level training experience that inspires its high school and college student teaching fellows to pursue careers in education.

It is affiliated with a nationwide network of 25 self-supporting sites known as the Breakthrough Collaborative. Collectively, the network works through the founding offices in San Francisco to provide a cooperative, connective resource for sharing programming, ideas, curriculum and a renowned nationwide teaching internship program. The FWCD site was initiated under the collaborative’s early host school structure, which is standard for the majority of sites because high-quality independent college-preparatory programs like Fort Worth Country Day make the perfect facilitator for Breakthrough’s core purpose of preparing students for college achievement. As host, FWCD ensures full site support, including all facility needs, governance and guidance for programming.

To learn more about Breakthrough Fort Worth on the Fort Worth Country Day campus, visit www.fwcd.org/breakthrough.

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For more than 50 years, Fort Worth Country Day has inspired the passion to learn, the courage to lead and the commitment to serve through a program that fosters the intellectual, physical, emotional and ethical development of its students. Offering a comprehensive college-preparatory curriculum to students in grades K-12, Fort Worth Country Day focuses on the 3A’s—academics, arts and athletics—bringing balance to students’ experiences, which gives them opportunities to explore multiple interests and thrive in a compassionate community that promotes integrity, kindness, courage, respect, responsibility and scholarship. FWCD has the distinction of being the only Texas Malone Family Foundation School; the North Texas site for the Duke University Talent Identification Program; the only K-12, non-university host site for a Duke TIP Scholar Weekend; and a founding school of the Malone Schools Online Network through Stanford University Online High School. To learn more about Fort Worth Country Day, visit fwcd.org.