



University of Illinois
College of Education



OCCRL

Project Profile

BREAKING THROUGH

COMMUNITY COLLEGES DESIGNATED AS “LEADERSHIP COLLEGE SITES”

Central New Mexico Community College,
Albuquerque

<http://www.cnm.edu/>

Community College of Denver, Denver

<http://www.ccd.edu/>

Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland

<http://www.tri-c.edu/>

Durham Technical Community College,
Durham

<http://www.durhamtech.edu/>

Owensboro Community & Technical College,
Owensboro

<http://www.octc.kctcs.edu/>

Portland Community College, Portland

<http://www.pcc.edu/>

Southeast Arkansas College, Pine Bluff

<https://www.seark.edu/>

South Texas College

<http://www.southtexascollege.edu/>

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

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Overview

The Breaking Through (BT) initiative promotes an expanded and enhanced role for community colleges in providing access to college for low-skilled adults. BT integrates adult education, developmental/remedial education, professional-technical education (PTE), and career planning and preparation in community colleges geographically distributed throughout the U. S. Through the creation of a variety of models, BT envisions new, sequential curriculum and instruction to assist low-skilled adults to progress through adult basic education (ABE) and/or developmental/remedial education to college credit PTE course work that leads to family wage-sustaining careers.

Goals

- Evaluate how well pathway programs address four high leverage strategies:
 - Integrated institutional structures and services
 - Labor market payoffs
 - Accelerating the pace of learning
 - Comprehensive supports
- Identify how BT (and, specifically, peer learning) enabled community colleges to restructure their colleges to accommodate low-skilled adults’ progress towards degree attainment
- Assess student participants’ characteristics, participation and outcomes

Products

- (2010). 2010 Follow-Up of Community College of Denver FastStart Program. Bragg, D. D., Baker E D., & Puryear M.
- Evaluation Reports - Bragg, D., & Barnett, E. (December 2008, September 2009, and March 2010)
- Site reports (Community College of Denver, Portland Community College)
- Policy brief (2009), *Lessons Learned from Breaking Through* - <http://occril.illinois.edu/node/384>
- Policy brief (2008), *Promising Breakthroughs* - <http://occril.illinois.edu/publications/inbrief/2008/spring>

Funders

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For more information

Visit http://occril.illinois.edu/projects/breaking_through for more information and links to the released products.

