



Dear Breakthrough Students, Families and Supporters,

It is with a heavy heart that I announce my departure at the end of August, from Breakthrough San Juan Capistrano to pursue my master's degree in education. After five years and six summers, I seek a deeper learning in the field of education and the opportunity to teach again in the classroom. It has been my privilege to learn, teach and grow in this community and to build a strong and vibrant Breakthrough program here.

As a teacher in Breakthrough Austin in 2005, I remember falling in love with the program. I soon met St. Margaret's Headmaster Marcus Hurlbut and learned about his clear and passionate vision and experience in launching Breakthrough programs. As a result, I eagerly accepted the challenge of creating a Breakthrough program in San Juan Capistrano in the spring of 2006 because of his vision and the tremendous support the St. Margaret's community offered – welcoming, helpful, caring. Thank you for partaking in this venture; I leave the program knowing you are all committed to its success.

From 22 students, six teachers, and a few volunteers participating in our inaugural summer program in 2006 to 82 students, 19 teachers, countless volunteers, five junior teachers, four professional mentor teachers, and five staff members today, clearly much has been accomplished! Our first class of students is entering its senior year in high school and our youngest class is set to begin a rigorous middle school program in June that will span the next six years, including three intensive summer programs. It is an important time in the life of the program and we are gaining strides towards our ambitious goals of our students being the first in their families to graduate from college and encouraging talented high school and college students to pursue careers in education.

I want to offer my sincere appreciation for your tireless participation, your faithful support and the many ways you have contributed to the success of Breakthrough SJC and our students. You have inspired me to strive to give better than my best because our students deserve excellence. Please continue to support our students through Breakthrough SJC. I often think about the world that they will lead and I eagerly await their amazing accomplishments and contributions to our society.

Breakthrough SJC is on its way to even greater achievements under the new leadership of Jesus Montoya, a dedicated educator in our San Juan Capistrano community and longtime supporter of Breakthrough. He comes to Breakthrough having worked with the program over the last five years through his work in the Capistrano Unified School District and as an advocate of education for all students. We are very fortunate to have him join the program.

Breakthrough connects to my life's passion of providing access to education to under-represented communities in higher education and I anticipate continuing this work in the future. Breakthrough SJC will always hold a special place in my heart and I am forever changed by your involvement and partnership.

I close with an empowering statistic that I think of every day in my work: "Students who are the first in their families to go to college, end poverty in their family lines forever" (US Department of Education).

Best wishes and thank you for your generous support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diosia R. Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Diosia R. Adams
Founding Director