

EDITION #1



**QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER**



# WELCOME

to our first edition of the

# EMERGING LEADERS NEWSLETTER

Thank you for taking the time to check out our first newsletter, a publication intended to connect you to the Emerging Leaders (EL) group, dedicated to engaging Cleveland's young professionals in support of educational equity.

If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of the Emerging Leaders network and would like to stay informed about future publications, events, and networking opportunities, stay subscribed to this newsletter simply by [completing our membership form.](#)

Our group is made up of Friends of Breakthrough Schools Board members, Breakthrough Alumni, and emerging leaders passionate about supporting education in the city of Cleveland.

We look forward to keeping you updated on upcoming and past events and new ways to get involved with our community.

# WHAT IS EL?

## OUR MISSION

Working in partnership with the Friends of Breakthrough Board of Directors, the Emerging Leaders group is dedicated to engaging Cleveland's young professionals in support of educational equity. This dynamic group increases community involvement with Breakthrough Public Schools by raising awareness of the network's mission, organizing volunteer initiatives, and hosting events that bring together like-minded professionals passionate about making a lasting impact in urban education.

## EL MIGHT BE RIGHT FOR YOU IF YOU ARE...

-  Age 18 and up – there's no upper limit!
-  In the early to middle stages of your professional journey
-  Eager to learn and grow with guidance from experienced community leaders
-  Passionate about educational equity and the belief that every child can succeed—no matter their zip code
-  Committed to the idea that education is the great equalizer

## YOU SHOULD JOIN EL IF YOU WANT TO...

-  Make a direct, meaningful impact on the lives of Breakthrough students and alumni
-  Build relationships and gain insights from Friends of Breakthrough Board members and other community leaders
-  Grow your network by connecting with professionals who share your passion for educational equity
-  Amplify awareness of Breakthrough Public Schools and support key fundraising and advocacy events
-  Develop leadership skills while advancing a cause that transforms lives and communities

# WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN

## MEMBERSHIP TIERS & BENEFITS

### **SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP** ✨

#### **FREE MEMBERSHIP WITH COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM**

- Quarterly updates on Emerging Leaders (EL) initiatives and events
- Access to volunteer opportunities
- Networking opportunities with:
  - Fellow emerging leaders from diverse backgrounds
  - Members of the Friends of Breakthrough Schools Board
- 20% discount on all Emerging Leader pay-per-event registrations (excludes BASH)
- Exclusive rate for the annual Breakthrough BASH on Friday, April 24, 2026: \$200/person (Must be a registered Emerging Leader)

**BECOME A MEMBER**

### **LEADERSHIP MEMBERSHIP** ✨

#### **\$150 MINIMUM ANNUAL DONATION**

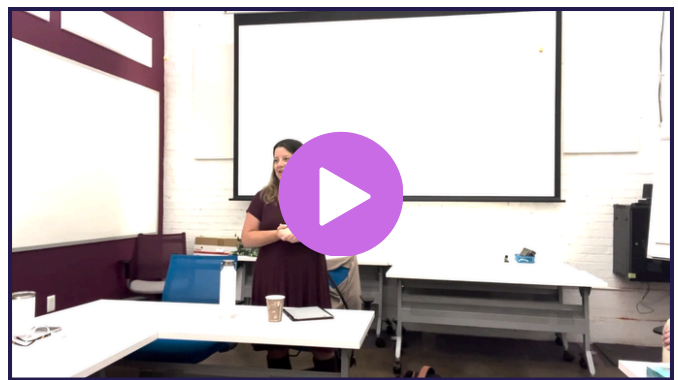
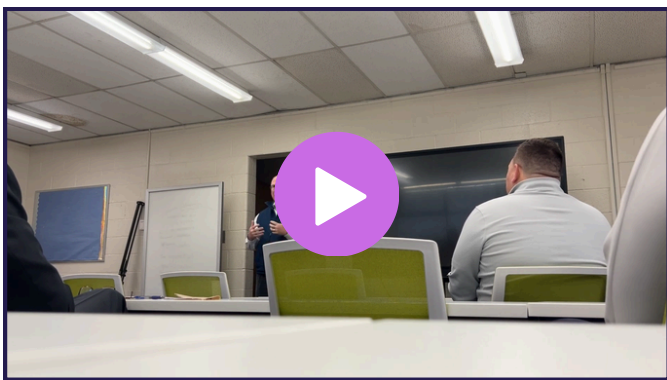
- Includes all Social Membership Benefits, plus:
  - Exclusive Emerging Leaders polo shirt as a thank-you gift
  - Free admission to EL-hosted social, networking, and programming events
  - Opportunity to take on a leadership role within EL

**BECOME A LEADER**

# EVENTS RECAP

## PROFESSIONAL BREAKTHROUGHS: SPEAKER SERIES

Thank you to our featured speakers Bill Koehler, Retired, Former CEO at Team NEO, and Megan Mayhugh, Founder and Managing Director of People Architects - and Friends of Breakthrough Board Member, for sharing their time and talent with our Emerging Leaders. Missed the chats? Check out the sessions below!



## TRIVIA HAPPY HOUR

The energy was infectious! From bursts of laughter over tricky questions to collaborative team huddles, the night was focused on letting loose and enjoying the process. This event successfully blended a stimulating mental workout with a genuine chance to build your professional and social circle within the community.

Thank you to everyone who made this evening a success. Keep an eye out for our future events—we look forward to continuing to host gatherings where Emerging Leaders can connect, learn, and have a blast!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 4** Cocktails and Professional Developments speaker series with Susan Chiancone

**March 18** Emerging Leaders: Leadership Meeting (virtual)

**April 24** Breakthrough BASH (special ticket pricing for all registered members of the Emerging Leaders)

**July 27** Swing for the Stars Golf Outing

## SCHOOL TOURS

**4.8** Breakthrough Woodland Hills

**5.14** Breakthrough Midtown

**STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR EMERGING LEADERS CALENDAR.**

## GUEST SPEAKER **Susan Chiancone**



Susan Chiancone is an accomplished financial executive with over 30 years of experience in finance, operations, and leadership across Corporate Retail, Service Industries, Real Estate, Construction, and Not-for-Profit sectors. Known for driving company stabilization and growth, Susan has a proven track record of implementing crucial strategies like financial analysis, forecasting, budgeting, and strategic planning. Her expertise in Debt & Equity Financing, Loan Restructure & Workout, and Private Equity raises has been instrumental in successfully managing and repositioning national real estate portfolios and guiding aggressive national new store growth programs. Susan's strong executive management experience makes her a key resource for any organization seeking to maximize operational flexibility, streamline financial processes, and achieve strategic expansion.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

#### Executive Financial Leadership:

Over three decades of experience across diverse sectors, including Corporate Retail, Real Estate, and Not-for-Profit.

#### Strategic Growth & Finance:

Specialized in driving company stabilization, Private Equity raises, and Debt & Equity Financing.

#### Portfolio Management:

Successfully managed and repositioned national real estate portfolios and guided national expansion programs.

#### Board Leadership:

Serves on the Friends of Breakthrough Schools Board, Gilmour Academy Board of Trustees, & Gilmour Academy Corporation - Treasurer.

#### Educational/Professional Engagement:

FOB Alumni & Engagement committee, FOB Mentor, Gilmour Academy Finance Committee Chair, Coach / Mentor for CFOs, Mentors MBA & college students.

# LEADERSHIP TEAM CONTACTS



## Aurora Kitko

EL CHAIR

HCM Sales Consultant  
isolved HCM

Friends of Breakthrough Schools Board of Directors  
[LinkedIn](#)

I support Breakthrough because all kids deserve their hierarchy of needs met and an equitable education, no matter their location, background, or socioeconomic status and the best way to be a part of the solution is to get involved in your community.

I'm grateful to be a conduit between the EL board and the FOB board to ensure that the most impactful people can join our team to serve our mission of fundraising and advocacy.

### Fun fact:

I speak three languages, I've lived on three different continents, and I've lived in three different states.

## Lauren Andrews

AVP, LOB Risk Specialist Sr.  
PNC Bank  
[LinkedIn](#)

## Mac Lagor

Corporate Development Manager  
TransTech  
[LinkedIn](#)

## HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT EL?

Reach out to Karen Solomon at [ksolomon@breakthroughschools.org](mailto:ksolomon@breakthroughschools.org)

## Taylor Bowen

Product Manager  
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## Cooper Mead

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## Celeste Kamasa Scott

Breakthrough Class of 2011  
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## Aaron Scott

IT Support Specialist  
RL Canning  
[LinkedIn](#)

**VISIT THE  
WEBSITE**

**BECOME A  
MEMBER**



**THANK YOU!**