

# **BREAKTHROUGH GENERATION: TRAINING YOUNG POLICY INNOVATORS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

**Most progressive organizations use young people to raise money.**

**The Breakthrough Institute empowers them to solve today's greatest challenges.**

## **THE MISSION**

Breakthrough Generation is the young leaders initiative of the Breakthrough Institute, a paradigm-shifting think tank committed to rejuvenating progressive thought for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Breakthrough Generation was founded in 2007 in response to the fact that most progressive and environmental organizations use young people for fundraising and organizing, but very rarely for their ideas. Breakthrough views today's young intellectuals as the key to achieving progress on many of the greatest challenges facing the world in the coming decades, from managing climate change and ensuring clean and affordable energy access for all to restoring a proactive role for government and securing our nation's economic future. Each summer, Breakthrough Institute offers paid and highly competitive fellowships to up to ten of the top young analysts, writers, and thought leaders from around the world.

## **THE PROGRAM**

Breakthrough Generation offers an intensive multidisciplinary curriculum in the following key areas: Energy & Climate, Conservation, and Economics. These programs facilitate engaging discussions, close interaction with policy experts, and high-level research projects to prepare young leaders for successful careers in public policy and related fields. Fellows spend ten weeks at Breakthrough's office in Oakland, CA, where they participate in an intensive policy training "bootcamp," and produce policy white papers, memos, and reports that are widely disseminated to federal policymakers and the media.

Breakthrough Fellows have published in the *Harvard Law & Policy Review*, *Businessweek*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Huffington Post*, and *Forbes* and their reports have been featured in the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Time Magazine*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and other major media outlets, as well as Congressional testimony and Washington D.C. briefings



## LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES

Breakthrough Generation fellows routinely characterize their experience in the program as life changing and credit the program for both jumpstarting their careers and fueling their passions. Program alumni have gone on to become policy leaders at federal agencies, innovative policy organizations, and some of the world's top graduate schools:



**Rachel Barge (2008)**

- **Hometown:** Mendota Heights, Minnesota
- **College:** B.A., Conservation and Resource Studies, University of California at Berkeley
- **Now:** Udall Scholar, Founder of Campus InPower, and Associate at Greenstart, a cleantech startup accelerator in San Francisco



**Yael Borofsky (2009)**

- **Hometown:** Philadelphia, PA
- **School:** B.S., Human Development, Cornell University
- **Now:** Associate Editor, *Breakthrough Journal*, Breakthrough Institute



**Devon Swezey (2009)**

- **Hometown:** Boulder, CO
- **School:** B.A., International Relations, Stanford University
- **Now:** Project Director, Breakthrough Institute



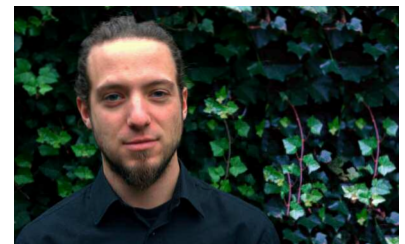
**Alisha Fowler (2008)**

- **Hometown:** Newtown, PA
- **School:** B.A., Geoscience and Environmental Studies, Hamilton College
- **Now:** Fundraising and Marketing Manager, Alliance for Climate Education



**Leigh Ewbank (2009)**

- **Hometown:** Melbourne, Australia
- **School:** B.A., Social Science—Environment, from RMIT University
- **Now:** Director of Communications for Beyond Zero Emissions, an Australian climate change policy organization



**Jerome Roos (2010)**

- **Hometown:** Utrecht, the Netherlands
- **School:** MSc, International Political Economy from London School of Economics and Sciences-Po, Paris
- **Now:** Writer, *Breakthrough Europe* blog, PhD candidate at the European University Institute, Florence, Italy

*"Breakthrough Generation is a unique and exceptional program that turns out highly talented policy analysts. I am impressed by the caliber of their young policy fellows and recently hired one for my full time staff."*

– Rob Atkinson,

President, Information Technology  
and Innovation Foundation



### **Matt Stepp (2010)**

- **Hometown:** Philadelphia, PA
- **School:** M.A., Science, Technology, and Public Policy from Rochester Institute of Technology
- **Now:** Clean Energy Policy Analyst at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation



### **Linus Blomqvist (2011)**

- **Hometown:** Gothenburg, Sweden
- **School:** B.A., Geography and Management, University of Cambridge
- **Now:** Policy Associate, Breakthrough Institute



### **Alexandra Tweedie (2010)**

- **Hometown:** San Francisco, CA
- **School:** M.S., Environmental Studies from University of Colorado at Boulder
- **Now:** Presidential Management Fellow, Program Analyst, Office of the CFO, Department of Energy



### **Jeff Kessler (2011)**

- **Hometown:** Denver, CO
- **School:** M.S., Chemical Engineering, University of Colorado at Boulder
- **Now:** PhD Candidate in Transportation, Technology, and Policy at University of California at Davis

*"The Breakthrough Generation fellowship may be the single most positive influence on my young adult life."*

– Danny Spitzberg,

MS, Sociology,  
Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison

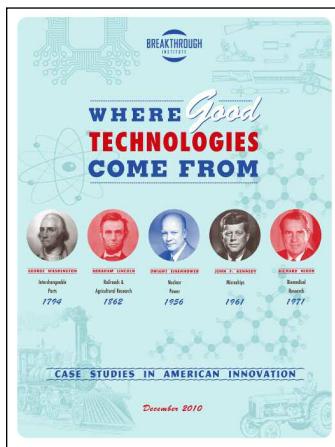
*"An amazing opportunity to get to know people with a serious and pragmatic commitment to real, meaningful change."*

– Jerome Roos,

MSc, London School of Economics.  
PhD Candidate,  
European University Institute,  
Florence, Italy.

## HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH

The intellect, creativity, and dedicated research of Breakthrough Generation fellows has been instrumental in refining Breakthrough's policy agenda and has had a major impact on national policy debates. Breakthrough Generation fellows have written and produced a number of widely read and highly regarded papers on energy and economic policy:

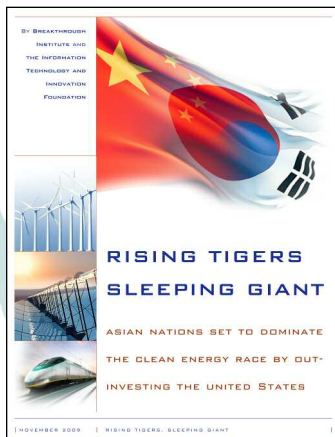


### WHERE GOOD TECHNOLOGIES COME FROM: Case Studies in American Innovation

(December 2010)

Documents how the history of American innovation is one of active partnership between the public and private sectors, a partnership that has been key to developing breakthrough technologies that have driven generations of economic prosperity. *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and *Atlantic Magazine* each featured the report, and President Obama cited a number of its case studies in his 2011 State of the Union Address.

<http://bit.ly/AmericanInnovation>

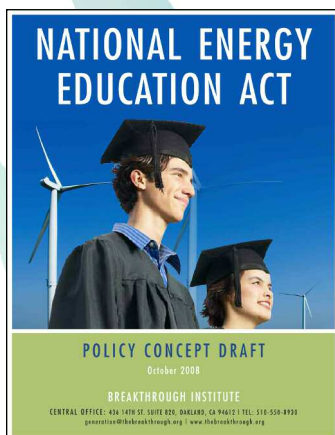


### RISING TIGERS, SLEEPING GIANT

(November 2009)

The first comprehensive assessment of the competitive position of the United States in the global clean energy race. The report was unveiled at a briefing hosted by the staff of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and was widely cited in the press, including the *New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *Financial Times*, and *Wall Street Journal*.

<http://bit.ly/RisingTigersReport>



### NATIONAL ENERGY EDUCATION ACT

(July 2008)

Proposes a public investment initiative to train a new generation of innovators in strategic energy-related fields—akin to the National Defense Education Act that trained scientists and engineers to win the space race and subsequently build the Internet Revolution. The proposal was featured in op-eds published by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Baltimore Sun* and influenced the development of President Obama's RE-ENERGYSE energy education initiative.

<http://bit.ly/EnergyEducation>