

# Summerbridge, Through Their Eyes



Entering my first summer as a teacher with Summerbridge Pittsburgh, I thought it might be something that I did for one, maybe two summers. I had no idea that Summerbridge would play such a significant role in my life. Since my first summer in 1994, I have taught and served as assistant director for three other programs. My time with Summerbridge/Breakthrough was filled with amazing young people trying to make a difference and inspirational adolescents who transcended the crowded classrooms and lowered expectations that surrounded them. Nearly 15 years have passed since I taught at Summerbridge Pittsburgh, and I still have love for the teachers and students of my Summerbridge team, nicknamed “The Bridge Bulldogs.”

As I work toward my Masters in Ethics and Public Policy, I am ready to spend the rest of my life ensuring that all children have an opportunity to earn a strong education, and I know that Breakthrough is working to make that happen, not only for students in Pittsburgh, but students all over the world.

## **Cornell Woolridge**

**Math teacher, Summerbridge Pittsburgh (1994 & 1995)**

In middle school, Summerbridge gave me many opportunities not only to continue in the summer and show me how school can be fun, but it also set me up for success in the future. Because I performed well in Summerbridge, I was invited to attend Sewickley Academy’s Open House. Sewickley Academy is known nationwide for producing students who go on to great universities. Summerbridge was the stepping stone which got me to the tremendous school I am now attending; Summerbridge got me to the next step in my quest for higher education. Next year I will be attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, one of the premier colleges in the nation. It all started with Summerbridge teaching me valuable lessons, and helping me along the way.



## **Michael Fullmore II**

**Summerbridge student  
Sewickley Academy Class of 2009**



My Summerbridge Pittsburgh experience is primarily a source of inspiration for me. It encouraged my passion for education and community development, and I now see myself making them a central part of my future. I am a design student and my thesis next year will be based in design for education and community development. Most importantly, the students’ ability to face the challenges we gave them with open hearts and minds, to do ridiculous and crazy things when we asked them to (and even when we didn’t), and to laugh despite everything they have been through, has motivated me to give my all, even after the summer’s end.

## **Brenda Gonzalez**

**Wellness teacher, Summerbridge Pittsburgh (2008)  
Sewickley Academy Class of 2006**