

# Excel Center strives to remove barriers

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The Excel Center in Noblesville is a second chance high school for adults trying to earn their high school diploma.

“Everyone who comes to school here did not find traditional high school successful,” said Steve Dillon, the director of the center.



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Students can take a variety of courses and earn college credit through the center, which opened in August 2015, joining 11 other Indiana locations.

Dillon has worked as an educator in Hamilton County for more than 40 years and was a leader at Hamilton Heights Schools during Ryan White’s time as a student.

Ryan White was a teenager who contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion in the 1980s. He transferred to Hamilton Heights Schools in Cicero after being

dismissed from his previous school due to public fear of the disease.

Dillon embraced White and took part in a movement to educate Hamilton Heights students and parents on the disease and worked to create a positive learning environment for White and the other students.

“Helping a student get an education is more than just math, science, social studies and English. Students have barriers,” Dillon said. “There’s a whole other side other than the academics. No matter how bright the students, there’s always another

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