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For Immediate Release

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McClelland Scholar Goes from High School Dropout to College Graduate
Nearly \$60,000 in Goodwill Scholarships Provide Critical Boost to Local Students

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana will award 22 employees, graduates and program participants with nearly \$60,000 in scholarships provided to help them overcome barriers to pursuing a higher education. Gloria Turner, a McClelland Scholar, was a third-generation single mother and high school dropout, but has since become the first in her family to graduate from college, earning a two-year degree from Ivy Tech in 2017.

“Earning a 4.0 GPA and Pharmacy Technician Certification at The Excel Center, Goodwill’s high school for adults, encouraged me to go to college, which was far beyond what I had initially set out to accomplish,” Turner said.

She is now employed at The Excel Center® and plans to triple major in political science, social work and business administration at IUPUI beginning in 2018. As a McClelland Scholar, Turner received a \$3,000 scholarship that can be used to cover the costs of any barrier to her postsecondary education, including transportation, books and materials, housing costs or child care.

“I want to inspire others who are facing barriers and support them by paying it forward like Goodwill did with me,” Turner said.

The McClelland Scholars Program honors Jim McClelland, Goodwill’s retired president and CEO.

“Jim believed education is one of the most important tools available to combating poverty and worked to create innovative and transformative educational initiatives at Goodwill,” said Kent A. Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill. “The endowment raised to support the McClelland Scholars allows Goodwill to continue his important work.”

To qualify, students must demonstrate a dedication to pursuing a degree or credential, have significant financial need and a significant barrier to education that can be mitigated through a monetary award, and be nominated by someone they work with at Goodwill.

Goodwill will recognize all of its award recipients at its annual scholarship reception on Thursday, July 20, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Indianapolis Metropolitan High School. The event is open to the public. RSVP at goodwillindy.org/scholarawards. Contact 317-524-4265 with questions.

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About Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana

Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana changes lives every day by empowering people to increase their independence and reach their potential through education, health and employment. The organization

serves 39 Indiana counties and operates more than 70 retail locations, as well as charter schools for adults and youth, a maternal-child health program, a child care center and more.