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For Immediate Release

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The Excel Center Awarded Grant from Lumina Foundation

Goodwill's high school for adults receives a \$200,000 grant to increase postsecondary learning opportunities

INDIANAPOLIS – Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana has received a \$200,000 grant from Lumina Foundation. These funds will enable The Excel Center, Goodwill's high school for adults, to connect industry-recognized certifications to continued postsecondary learning opportunities for students.

The Excel Center allows students to pick up right where they left off in high school, providing support and resources to meet their goals. The Excel Center offers students dual-credit courses and industry-recognized certification opportunities -- all at no cost.

"Currently, there are 85,000 jobs in Indiana unfilled because employers can't find the people equipped with the skills they need," said Goodwill President & CEO Kent A. Kramer. "With this grant, The Excel Center can empower adult students to increase their postsecondary educational attainment and competitiveness in the marketplace."

In addition to 12 locations in central and southern Indiana, The Excel Center has expanded nationally with schools in Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas and Washington D.C. By mapping national industry-recognized credentials offered at any Excel Center nationwide with postsecondary course competencies, adult students can broaden their educational and employment pathways.

"We are pleased to work with Goodwill on closing the existing skills gap across the nation," said _____. "Lumina helps to design and build accessible, responsive and accountable higher education systems through partnerships such The Excel Center, which supports adults who are working towards self-sufficiency."

Lumina awards grants through a competitive application and review process. To date, through the integration of industry-recognized certification training and dual-credit requirements, The Excel Center has positioned graduates for careers that offer better-than-average wages. Nearly 100% of Excel Center graduates earn a college or career credential, and 80% of graduates report being employed or enrolled in college one year after earning their diploma.

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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.

About Lumina Foundation

Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation in Indianapolis committed to making opportunities for learning beyond high school available to all. We envision a system that is easy to navigate, delivers fair results, and meets the nation's need for talent through a broad range of credentials. The Foundation's goal is to prepare people for informed citizenship and for success in a global economy.