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Adults Earn High School Diploma, Prove Second Chances Exist

The Excel Center recognizes the Class of 2017 June 8 & 9

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.--The Excel Center®, Goodwill's tuition-free high school for adults, will recognize its graduating Class of 2017, Thursday, June 8, and Friday, June 9. Excel Center graduates have not only met state standards for a Core 40 high school diploma but also earned college credit and/or an industry-recognized certification -- all at no cost.

Students who attend The Excel Center overcome barriers to education -- at times, these current barriers are greater than the challenges that prevented them from completing high school originally. The Excel Center offers resources such as free childcare, transportation assistance, extended hours and year-round classes to help students reach their graduation goal.

The mother of two young children, Magi Wachtel, 21, enrolled in The Excel Center Shelbyville with very few high school credits. She originally left school after the passing of her father and a medical complication that resulted in her having to re-learn how to walk and talk. Wachtel tried other online programs, but they didn't work for her needs.

"The other programs I tried didn't work for me because there wasn't much interaction with teachers," Wachtel said. "It wasn't personal or engaging, and I couldn't get the support. At Excel, I get the support I need."

Wachtel was able to use resources offered at The Excel Center to achieve her goal of graduating from high school. Next month, Wachtel will graduate as a Certified Business Professional and continue the process of earning a Clinical Medical Assistant Certification. Following graduation, she will begin an externship with Major Health Partners.

"The biggest thing that made me interested was the child drop-in center," Wachtel said. "As a single mom with a 4-month old and a 2-year old at the time, I really needed that support."

The community is invited to celebrate Wachtel and other graduates for their accomplishments. For additional information about the graduation ceremonies for the 11 Excel Center locations in central Indiana, visit excelcenter.org.

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The Excel Center is operated by Goodwill Education Initiatives, Inc. (GEI), the not-for-profit charter school operator created by Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana. The school provides licensed teachers and online support; a drop-in center with free childcare; transportation assistance and a flexible and supportive environment that gives each student a realistic path for their educational success and career.