

For Immediate Release
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Indiana Charter School Board Approves Four New Excel Center Locations

The Excel Center will offer opportunities for hundreds of adults in Muncie, Marion, Columbus and Bloomington

Indianapolis, Ind. – The Indiana Charter School Board approved four additional charters for The Excel Center®, Goodwill’s high school for adults, on June 7 at a public hearing. These additional sites will serve an estimated 20,000 high school dropouts in their projected locations, which include Muncie, Marion, Columbus and Bloomington.

The Excel Center offers adults the opportunity to earn a Core 40 diploma, allowing students to pick up right where they left off in school, and provides support and resources for students to meet their goals. With expedited curriculum and flexible scheduling, students can graduate quickly and prepare for postsecondary pathways. The Excel Center also offers students free on-site child care, transportation assistance and opportunities to earn college credits and industry-recognized certifications -- all at no cost.

The Excel Center in Muncie is expected to open in fall 2018 and the remaining schools would open within the following four successive years. Each of the proposed communities presents ample need for the educational opportunities provided by The Excel Center. In each community, there are thousands of adults who lack a high school diploma, making them unprepared to compete in the workforce and, in many cases, unable to secure jobs that offer a livable wage and continued career growth.

The Excel Center offers the opportunity to become skilled and productive members of the workforce by providing free industry-recognized certification courses. Even for students who desire to continue into postsecondary education, The Excel Center serves a unique role in helping students prepare for the next stage.

“We are excited to provide alternative education and employment opportunities to families all across the state,” said Betsy Delgado, Vice President of Mission and Education at Goodwill. “The Excel Center is focused on helping adults earn their high school diploma, increase their independence and reach their potential.”

Since 2010, over 2,700 students have graduated from The Excel Center’s current 11 central Indiana locations, more than 3,500 industry-recognized certifications have been earned and 96% of students graduated with postsecondary credits. According to Center for Evaluation and Education Policy, the average annualized wage increase an Excel Center student receives as a result of graduating is \$4,549.

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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.