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For Immediate Release

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Over 300 Adults Graduate from High School Feb. 14 & 15

Goodwill's Excel Center continues to support individuals who wish to earn a diploma.

INDIANAPOLIS – The Excel Center®, a unique high school that provides adults the opportunity to earn a Core 40 diploma tuition-free, will celebrate over 300 graduates at its winter graduation ceremonies on February 14 and 15. Since opening its first location in 2010, The Excel Center has seen consistent growth, including the expansion to 14 locations throughout central and southern Indiana.

“Our graduates have sacrificed so much for this moment,” said Betsy Delgado, Vice President of Mission and Education at Goodwill. “The Excel Center demonstrates a two-generation approach to education, as students and their families begin to see dreams realized.”

The Excel Center allows students to pick up where they left off in school, providing support and resources 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 on-site child care, transportation assistance, dual-credit courses and industry-recognized certification opportunities — all at no cost.

“I was embraced by every single staff member at The Excel Center,” said Keanna Murphy, a graduate who will be participating in February’s commencement. “Even if I slacked off, my teachers did not take it easy on me. They made sure I stayed on track to graduate.”

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, over 12% of Hoosier adults lack a high school diploma and maintain a 15% unemployment rate.

Through the integration of industry-recognized certification training and dual-credit requirements, The Excel Center positions 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.

“Goodwill is well-positioned to offer students support every step of the way while earning a diploma, and we keep track of them after they graduate as well,” said Delgado. “Graduating nearly 4,000 students is a testament to our outstanding and supportive staff as well as to the students themselves for never giving up.”

In order to graduate from The Excel Center, students must fulfill the graduation requirements established by the Indiana Department of Education. Highly qualified, licensed instructors help students

work toward a Core 40 diploma. Life coaches help remove and address barriers to education, both inside and outside of the classroom.

To attend a graduation ceremony near you or interview a graduate, please contact Jennifer Rendant.

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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.