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For Immediate Release

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## **Over 1,000 Adults Earn a High School Diploma at The Excel Center This Year**

*Goodwill's high school for adults continues to support individuals who wish to earn a diploma*

**INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.** – The Excel Center®, a unique high school that provides adults the opportunity to earn a Core 40 diploma, celebrated a record-breaking school year, graduating 1,012 adults in 2018-19, the highest number in its history. Since 2010, The Excel Center has seen consistent growth, including the expansion to 15 locations throughout central and southern Indiana.

“We are extremely proud of our graduates and the impact they continue to make after graduating,” said Betsy Delgado, vice president of mission & education at Goodwill. “The Excel Center demonstrates a two-generation approach to health, education and employment to help families increase their independence and reach their potential.”

Celebrating its 10-year anniversary this coming school year, The Excel Center allows students to pick up right 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.

“The Excel Center gave me a huge boost in confidence,” said Excel Center graduate Genesis Ortiz. “I had no aspirations to go to college when I enrolled. But the staff really impress upon you that it’s not about what happened in the past, it’s that you’re building a new foundation.”

Originally from California, Ortiz and her family relocated to Indianapolis, Indiana, where she found work decorating cakes at a south side bakery. Though she enjoyed her job, her perspective on continuing her education began to change after having children. She enrolled at The Excel Center and earned dual credits and an industry-recognized certification before graduating with a Core 40 Indiana high school diploma. She now plans to become a teacher.

During its 10-year history, The Excel Center has graduated 4,533 adults just like Genesis. 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. To date, The Excel Center graduates have earned 6,689 certifications and 8,930 dual credits alongside their high school diploma.

The Excel Center is now enrolling for the 2019-20 school year across all 15 of its [locations](#). To enroll, interested applicants can apply online at [excelcenter.org](http://excelcenter.org) or call 317.524.3925. For more information, or to schedule an interview, 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.