

October 5, 2020  
For Immediate Release

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### **Goodwill Fights Dropout Rate with Free High School for Adults**

*More than 5,500 students earned a diploma from The Excel Center since 2010*

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — October is [National Dropout Awareness Month](#). According to the U.S. Census Bureau, over 12% of Hoosier working age adults lack a high school diploma. The Excel Center®, Goodwill's free high school for adults, is working to decrease that rate by allowing adult students the opportunity to pick up where they left off in school, providing support and resources to meet their goals.

To date, over 5,500 adults have graduated from The Excel Center. Since opening its first location in 2010, The Excel Center has seen consistent growth, including the expansion to 15 locations throughout central and southern Indiana.

"We know the multi-generational impact that education has on economic prosperity, equity and quality of life," said Betsy Delgado, vice president of mission and education at Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. "The Excel Center model helps to remove educational barriers that our students previously faced to reach their full potential."

With expedited curriculum and flexible scheduling, students can graduate quickly and prepare for college and careers. The Excel Center also offers students on-site child care, transportation assistance, dual-credit courses and industry-recognized certification opportunities — all at no cost.

"Through the integration of industry-recognized certifications and dual-credit courses, The Excel Center positions graduates for careers that offer better-than-average wages," said Delgado. "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's adult high school has demonstrated success over the past 10 years, including:

- Supporting over 5,500 adults to graduate with a Core 40 Indiana high school diploma
- 91% of graduates earned a college or career readiness credential before graduating
- 6,523 industry-recognized certifications awarded
- 11,456 college (dual) credits earned
- A \$9,828 average increase in annualized wages and job prospects for graduates

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.

For more information, or to enroll, please visit [excelcenter.org](http://excelcenter.org).

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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.