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For Immediate Release

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Goodwill Celebrates National Employ Older Workers Week
Providing post-retirement job opportunities for older adults in Muncie

MUNCIE, Ind. – As part of National Employ Older Workers Week, Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana is celebrating employees like Dr. Mary Lewellen, an educator who served students at Ivy Tech Community College for 24 years before retiring. Now 70 years old, she re-entered the workforce to serve students at The Excel Center, Goodwill's tuition-free high school for adults.

“Even after you retire, you can continue to make a contribution. You have the wisdom and the work ethic to make a difference,” Lewellen said.

In her role as an instructional interventionist, Lewellen is responsible for engaging with students, assisting them with orientation and supporting their overall academic achievement.

“They keep me young,” Lewellen said. “We learn from each other. We have students from all walks of life; they will become contributors to our community, learn the importance of education and understand that it's the pathway to a better life.”

As an older worker, Lewellen understands the unique opportunity she has to further her community's education and future well-being. After an impactful and successful career, she understands what's most important about working with students: drive and motivation.

“Older workers have a lifetime of knowledge, experience and wisdom to offer our students,” said Betsy K. Delgado, senior vice president and chief mission and education officer at Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. “We're so grateful that Mary has decided to share her gifts and help students along their own paths to independence and self-sufficiency.”

Lewellen has a bachelor's degree in English and journalism, a master's degree in executive development for public service and a doctorate in higher education administration. Prior to The Excel Center, she served as the interim dean of students at

Ivy Tech, worked in student affairs and even held a position as the school's marketing director.

"I love that no two days are the same," Lewellen said. "I'm pursuing my passion."

The last full week in September is National Employ Older Workers Week, which recognizes the vital role of older workers in the workforce. This year's theme is: Possibilities are Ageless.

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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 contract manufacturing services, charter schools for adults and youth, a maternal-child health program, a childcare center and more.