

October 26, 2023

For Immediate Release

Contact Goodwill: Jennifer Wade, Director of Marketing & Communications

317.524.4100

jennifer.wade@goodwillindy.org

The Excel Center Southeast to Celebrate First Graduate

National Dropout Awareness Month highlights importance of adult education

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana recently announced that it will soon celebrate the first graduate from its newest adult high school, The Excel Center® Southeast. October is *National Dropout Awareness Month*, and according to the United States Census Bureau, nearly 500,000 Hoosiers lack a high school diploma.

The Excel Center Southeast campus was recently opened in partnership with Indianapolis Public Schools to expand educational opportunities for adults, specifically the justice-involved population.

“One predictor of recidivism is low educational attainment, and we have the tools to remedy that today,” said Betsy K. Delgado, senior vice president and chief mission and education officer of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. “The Excel Center works for adult students because it helps them address the external barriers they face outside of the classroom – things like transportation, housing, employment or child care issues – that may ultimately deter them from earning their diploma.”

The Excel Center allows adult students to pick up where they left off in school and provides support and resources to meet their goals. With rigorous, 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, dual credit courses and industry-recognized certification opportunities— all at no cost.

The Excel Center opened its first location in 2010 and has since supported nearly 8,000 adult graduates with a Core 40 high school diploma, dual credits, and industry-recognized certifications to earn a higher-than-average wage in the workforce.

The joint venture between IPS and The Excel Center Southeast creates educational pathways and potential employment opportunities for program graduates. The school is

leasing space inside Paul I. Miller School 114 and shares the building with the IPS Facilities Management Department (FMD).

Enrollment for The Excel Center is now open at all 16 central and southern Indiana locations. Adults who wish to enroll can visit start.excelcenter.org or call 317-524-3925.

###

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 child care center and more.