



GOODWILL OF CENTRAL  
& SOUTHERN INDIANA



The Harry and Jeanette  
Weinberg Foundation



Truist Foundation

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**For Immediate Release**

**Goodwill Receives Grants from Truist and Weinberg Foundations to Help Double Capacity of The Excel Center by 2030**

*\$4M in grants will support the national expansion of Goodwill's high school for adults*

**INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.** – Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana announced today that it received \$4 million in grants from Truist Foundation and The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to support the national expansion of The Excel Center®, Goodwill's tuition-free high school for adults. The Excel Center network, administered by Goodwill Education Initiatives, currently operates 41 schools in nine states, plus the District of Columbia, with the goal of expanding to 85 schools by 2030.

“The Excel Center’s unique model is changing the lives of adults who were struggling to move forward professionally due to their lack of a high school diploma,” said Kent A. Kramer, president and CEO of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. “We recognize that adults have responsibilities outside of the home, and we support them by removing the obstacles that are blocking their paths to success.”

The Excel Center offers flexible scheduling and a fast-paced, rigorous curriculum. Free on-site child care and transportation assistance are available to students, along with other services that are individualized on a case-by-case basis. The Excel Center also helps students prepare for life after high school by offering college credits and industry-recognized certification courses — all at no cost.

“Truist Foundation invests in transformative ideas and proven solutions — and The Excel Center has the data to show that this unique learning environment works,” said Lynette Bell, president of Truist Foundation. “We are pleased to help increase the number of communities where this free learning opportunity will exist and believe it will provide a critical step in building a pathway for people across the country to thrive.”

Grant funds will support the multiyear process that Goodwill Education Initiatives undertakes when opening an Excel Center, which involves assessing the feasibility of licensing, launching, and sustaining schools; working with community and state-level leaders to promote and develop the Excel Center model; assisting with the planning and development of a curriculum and adherence to other local requirements; and providing direct training, on-site support and consultation during implementation, as well as continuing support.

The schools in operation today illustrate what can be achieved when resources align with needs.

“The Excel Center supports adults in earning the education and credentials they need to secure a good job and build a career,” said Marci Hunn, senior program director at the Weinberg Foundation, who leads grantmaking focused on employment and training. “We are excited to see this strong program expand to more places, enabling more people to access better economic opportunities for themselves and their families.”

Since 2010, The Excel Center has helped more than 13,000 adults earn their high school diploma. Graduates have also earned more than 8,000 industry-recognized certifications and more than 12,000 dual college credits.

“For more than a decade, The Excel Center has been helping families change their economic trajectory,” said Betsy K. Delgado, senior vice president and chief mission and education officer at Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana. “We’re excited to see the momentum building across the country for Goodwill’s evidence-based model of education. We are thankful to the Truist and Weinberg foundations for bringing Excel Centers to more communities and putting more diplomas into the hands of adult learners.”

[Read our Strategic Plan](#) to learn more about The Excel Center National Office.

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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 40 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.

### **About Truist Foundation**

Truist Foundation is committed to Truist Financial Corporation's (NYSE: TFC) purpose to inspire and build better lives and communities. The Foundation, an endowed private foundation established in 2020 whose operating budget is independent of Truist Financial Corporation, makes strategic investments in a wide variety of nonprofit organizations centered around two focus areas: building career pathways to economic mobility and strengthening small businesses to ensure all communities have an equal opportunity to thrive. Embodying these focus areas are the Foundation's leading initiatives – the Inspire Awards and Where It Starts. Learn more at [Truist.com/Foundation](https://truist.com/Foundation).

### **About The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation**

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation is dedicated to meeting the basic needs of people experiencing poverty. Each year, the Foundation gives about \$150 million in grants, supporting nonprofits that offer direct services in the areas of Housing, Health, Jobs, Education, and Aging. The Foundation's priority communities are Baltimore, Hawai'i, Israel, New York City, Northeastern Pennsylvania, and San Francisco. This includes supporting nonprofits serving federally designated rural areas within, or adjacent to, these priority communities. For more information, please visit [www.hjweinberg.org](http://www.hjweinberg.org).

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