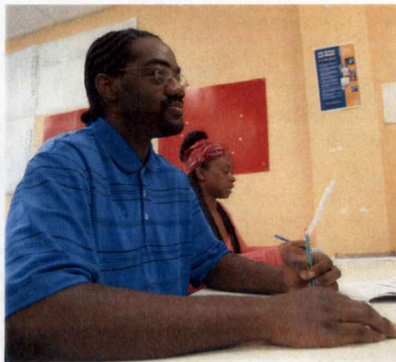




OF WEST CENTRAL INDIANA

Earn Your High School Diploma *Tuition-Free*



RE-IMAGINE YOUR PATH

The Excel Center of West Central Indiana is a proven, tuition-free adult high school that awards industry-recognized certifications and college credits, all while earning a high school diploma. We believe building valuable skills is just as important as earning a diploma which is why we offer wrap-around services to better equip our students for success.

We also help adults who already have a GED, HSE, or certification of completion continue to their next level of education, with the goal of opening doors to better employment and more opportunities.

WE SUPPORT YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR JOURNEY

We understand many adults have life responsibilities that make it challenging to go back to school. We provide support services to help remove barriers and empower you for success.



Tuition-Free



Free Childcare



Flexible
Schedule



Transportation
Assistance



Life Coach
Support

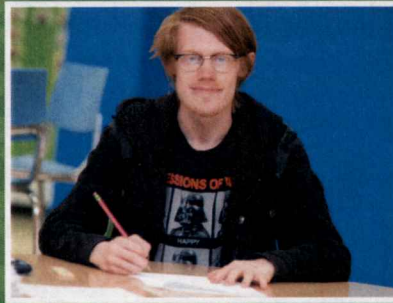
Any Adult. Any Age.

The Excel Center of West Central Indiana imagines a future where anyone without a high school diploma can access an *Excellent* education.



13,000+

Adults the Excel Center has helped graduate nationwide since 2010



+39%

After 5 years, graduates increase earnings by 39% compared to peers.



99%

Graduates earned college credits or industry-recognized certifications.

UNLOCK YOUR FULL POTENTIAL

The Excel Center of West Central Indiana is like a key that can open many doors. Once you have that diploma, things start to change.

- ▶ Earn a higher salary for you and your family
- ▶ Advance your career with a diploma
- ▶ Open the door for college or an in-demand career
- ▶ Be an inspiration to your family
- ▶ Having confidence that you can achieve anything.



Find a Career Pathway



Increase Your Independence



Unlock New Opportunities



Take the Next Step. *You Got This.*

 (812) 235 1827  ExcelCenterWCI.org  ExcelCenterWCI@wvgoodwill.org

SCAN HERE
TO LEARN
MORE ▶▶

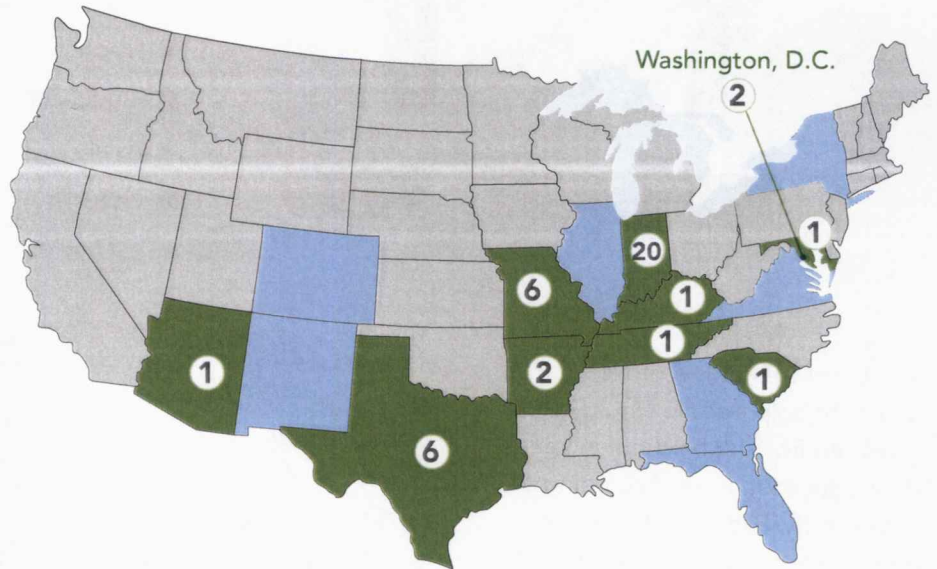




2023 NATIONAL REPORT

The Excel Center® is a free high school operated by Goodwill to support adult learners with earning their high school diploma and developing the skills needed for college or a career. With more than 40 campuses across the United States, The Excel Center is helping students prepare to succeed in good jobs that lead to economic success.

The Excel Center has been rigorously evaluated by the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunity (LEO) at University of Notre Dame. LEO's research found that The Excel Center is a cost-effective solution for helping adults earn their high school diploma and find better employment.

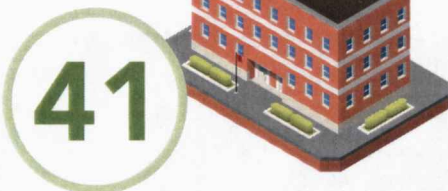


■ States with Open Excel Centers ■ States pursuing Excel Centers

since
opening
in 2010:

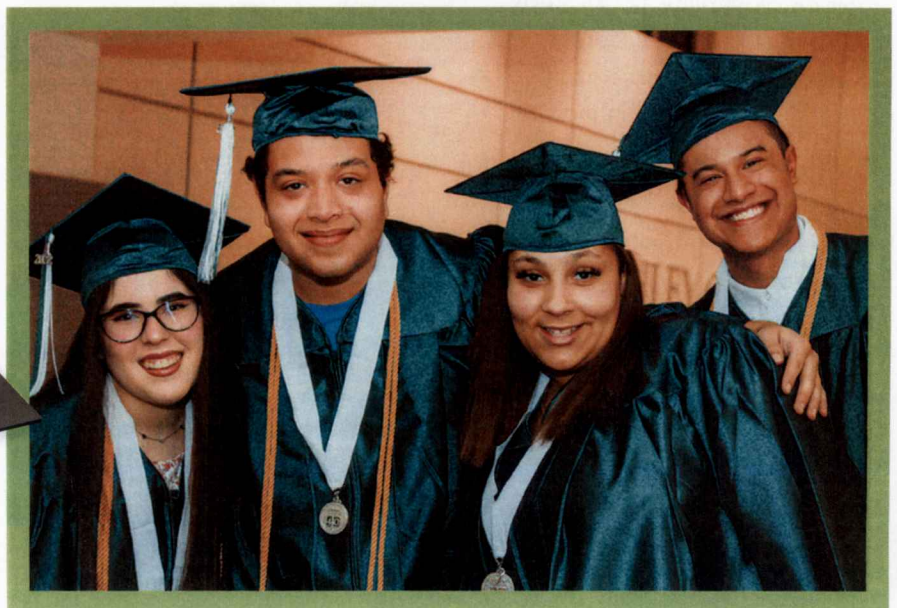
Number of
certifications earned:
8,000+

Number of dual
college credits earned:
12,000+



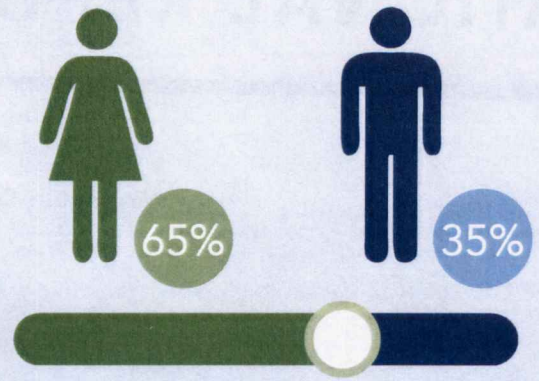
campuses serving more than
10,000 students annually

Number of
graduates since
2010:

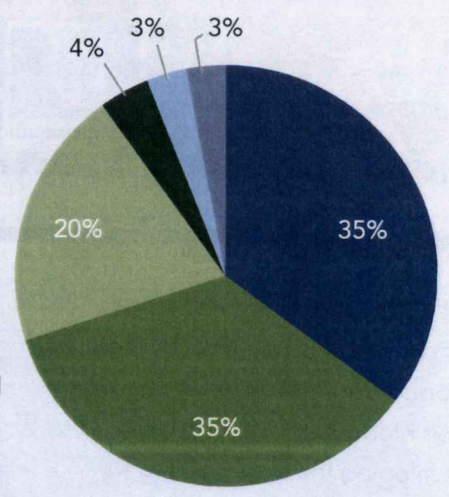


demographics

AVERAGE AGE OF **32**



- Black
- White
- Hispanic
- Multiracial
- Asian
- Other



The Excel Center is a proven model to help people who did not graduate from high school increase their education level. According to LEO's study, Excel graduates are more likely to earn college credits and certifications than their peers.

During the 2022-23 school year 1,824 graduated from The Excel Center with 74% earning certifications or dual college credits.

Excel Center graduates not only increase their education, but also their employability. LEO's study found that The Excel Center students are 40% more likely to be employed after graduating.

The Excel Center graduates are not only more likely to be employed, but also have longer job tenure and earn more money due to landing jobs in higher-paying sectors such as healthcare or construction.

During the 2022-23 school year, students earned certifications in 57 different occupational fields, including: welding, automotive, dentistry, business, nursing, construction and more.

**22-23
SCHOOL YEAR
HIGHLIGHTS**

**1,824
GRADUATES**

**57
certification
options**

**74%
earning
certifications
or dual
college credits**

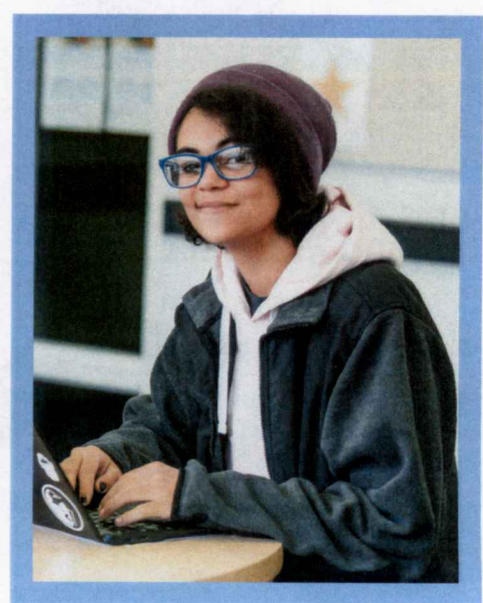
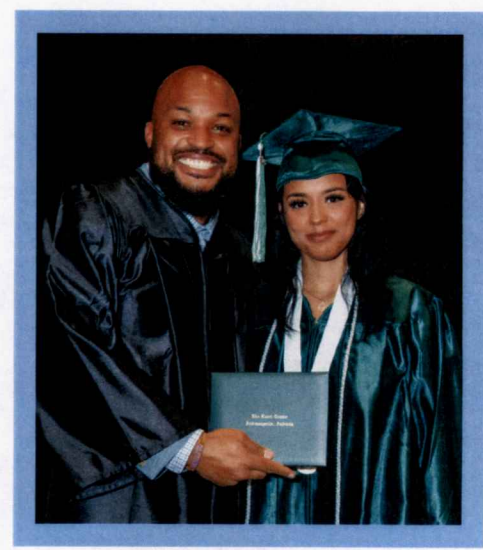




Photo: Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana

A second chance: Adult learners complete high school diplomas and increase their options

Key Results

- The Excel Center® is a successful, cost-effective solution for high school dropouts.
- After 5 years, graduates increase earnings by 38% compared to their peers.
- Graduates are more likely to be working and have college credits than their peers.
- Graduates are more likely to be employed in the health sector than their peers.

Context of the Issue

There is a high school dropout problem in Indiana. In 2019, more than 12% of students did not finish high school. Those who drop out have significantly worse labor market outcomes than peers. Hoosiers without a high school diploma earn, on average, less than \$10,000 per year and 37% less than those with a high school diploma as their highest credential. Adult learners have unique needs that are not one-size-fits-all, often balancing otherwise busy lives with full-time work while managing a household and caring for children. Hoosiers driven to finish high school as adults often have to choose between convenience and potential earnings. There is a solution that meets adult learners where they are, leads to higher earnings and has the evidence to prove it: The Excel Center.

Current Efforts

In 2019, almost 470,000 Hoosiers ages 25 and over had not earned a high school diploma (or equivalent). When one of these adults wants to return to school, they are typically directed to the High School Equivalency (HSE) test.¹ However, completion of an HSE is not common—in 2015, just over 6,600 Hoosiers successfully passed. Their earnings gains are minimal: students who barely pass the General Educational Development test (another high school equivalency test) see less than a 10% increase in earnings. A high school diploma will potentially trump an HSE when an employer compares two similar job applicants. A high school diploma offers something significantly different than the HSE test. In the process of completing the diploma, the student builds soft skills in such areas as attendance, persistence and interpersonal interaction. Where available,

the high school diploma can support learning for those whose educational needs cannot be met by traditional Adult Basic Education and the HSE test. Importantly, the HSE may simply evaluate whether one has skills or not, while the Excel Center experience is as much about a process of building skills as it is about completing the diploma. Despite this range of benefits, options for adults to complete a high school diploma are extremely limited.

Innovative Solution: The Excel Center

Founded by Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana, The Excel Center is a tuition-free, public charter high school that supports adult learners in completing their state-certified high school diploma. The Excel Center provides small classes on a flexible schedule, assistance with transportation, and on-site child care in order to address the major barriers to being in class and ready to learn. Life coaches mentor students to help them navigate challenges, to assist in building soft skills necessary for the workforce, and to focus on postsecondary goals and preparedness such as credits towards an undergraduate degree or industry-recognized certifications. Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana operates 16 Excel Center Locations across Indianapolis and other parts of central and southern Indiana; there are four additional locations in northern Indiana. The collective Excel Center network includes 41 schools across nine states and Washington, D.C. — all operated by local Goodwill organizations—with a goal of operating 85 campuses by 2030.

¹ Indiana changed from administering the General Educational Development (GED) test to the High School Equivalency (HSE) test in 2014.

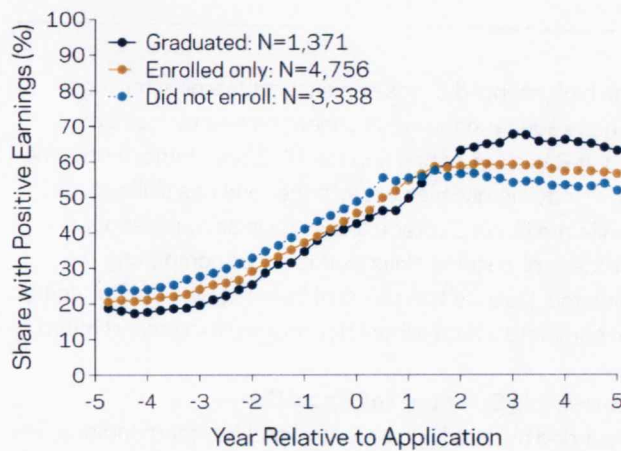
LEO's Study

LEO performed a rigorous, quasi-experimental study to evaluate the impact of The Excel Center's specialized approach. The study sample included all applicants to The Excel Center from January 2013 through June 2015. Three groups of applicants were studied: (a) those who applied to the program but did not enroll; (b) those who applied and enrolled but did not complete the program; and (c) those who both enrolled in and completed the program—with individuals in group (a) and (b) serving as a comparison group of "peers" to group (c). LEO researchers linked application records from the Excel Center with education and labor market data from the Indiana Management Performance Hub. LEO used earnings and employment data from five years after a student's application to The Excel Center in order to analyze changes in earnings over time.

Major Findings

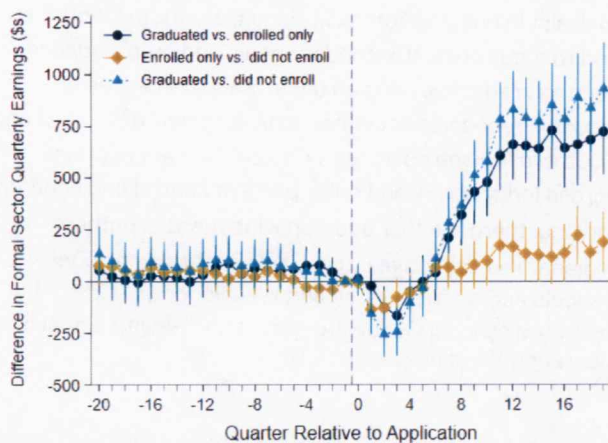
Higher employment: Excel Center graduates are 12.2 percentage points more likely to be employed in the formal sector than their peers.

Figure 1. Percent of Applicants with Formal Sector Employment



Higher earnings: Excel Center graduates see a 38% increase in their earnings in 5 years (\$12,300 annual income for graduates versus \$8,900 for peers), when controlling for observable characteristics.

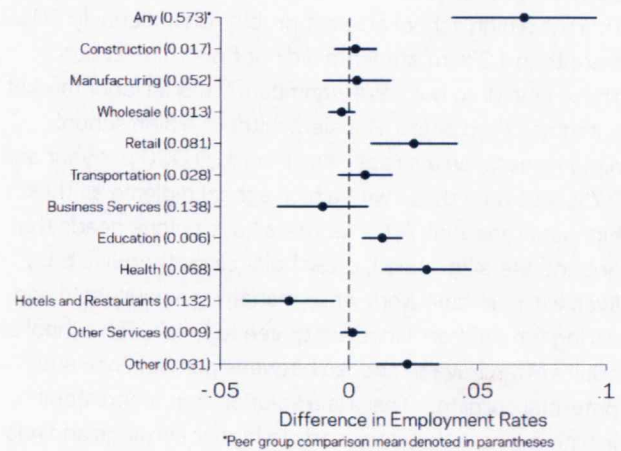
Figure 2. Differences in Annual Earnings



More college credits and certificates earned: Excel Center graduates are 43 percentage points more likely to earn a certificate and 21 percentage points more likely to earn college credits than non-graduates.

More career opportunities: Excel Center graduates are 53% more likely to be employed in the health sector than those who did not graduate.

Figure 3. Probability of Employment in Different Sectors



Lasting State Benefit

At a cost of \$6,750 per student per year, the total cost for an Excel Center graduate is \$10,000. An Excel Center graduate is projected to make higher earnings over their lifetime, increasing the benefit to the individual and potentially to society through decreased use of public benefits and increased tax payments.

Key Takeaways

- Graduates of The Excel Center make more money, work in higher opportunity jobs, and earn more college credits and professional certificates more than their peers.
- The Excel Center costs the same as other charter schools, and has more advantages for adult dropouts than the common HSE alternative.
- The Excel Center is a proven model to help people who drop out of high school course-correct.