



Media Advisory

Date: December 15, 2016

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Who: Goodwill Excel Center Mid-South, Inc.

What: Adult students from The Excel Center to earn high school diplomas, and an honorary diploma will be awarded posthumously to Jamison Rowan, the 18-year old killed Dec. 5; the award will be accepted by Jamison's mother

When: Saturday, December 17, 11:00 a.m.

Where: Martin Luther King Jr. Preparatory High School, 1530 Dellwood Ave.

Details: At the second graduation for the state's only adult charter school, 39 adults will earn their high school diploma. Graduates are encouraged to obtain career certifications and/or post-secondary education in order to gain economic self-sufficiency. About the December 2016 graduates:

- 39 Adults with an average age of 32 years
- Youngest graduate 18; oldest graduate 65 years
- 28% male; 72% female
- 15 Opportunity Youth (those 18-24 years of age)

About The Excel Center

The Excel Center is a tuition-free charter school where Shelby County adults 18 and older can earn a fully accredited high school diploma. The program provides free MATA bus passes, Life Coaches, and an on-site child drop-in center for up to four hours. Students are introduced to industrial sectors which provide fertile ground for prospective employment and a career that can provide a living wage. The Excel Center model opened in Indianapolis in 2010 as an initiative of Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc. Indianapolis has 11 sites with over 3,000 students enrolled and more than one-thousand graduates. In addition to the Memphis Excel Center, which opened July 20, 2015, Excel Centers have opened in Austin, Texas and South Bend, Indiana and Washington, D.C. with more in the pipeline. In Memphis, the adult charter school is authorized by Shelby County Schools and is located at 1490 Norris Road, 38106.

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