



PRESS
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Goodwill Training and Education Center Set to Open in Springdale

Unlocking Ceremony Scheduled for July 19; Tour and Tailgate Event July 20

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (June 27, 2023) — Goodwill Industries of Arkansas (GIA) is launching the Goodwill Training and Education Center (GTEC) in Springdale to serve adults looking to earn their high school diploma or obtain industry-leading credentials and certifications. An Unlocking Ceremony has been scheduled for July 19 at 11 a.m. Along with a traditional ribbon cutting, the ceremony will feature a short program with speakers and a tour of the renovated 32,000 square-foot campus. Modeled after Goodwill’s Little Rock schools, GTEC’s campus at 2100 South Old Missouri Road will house The Excel Center and The Academy.

The following day July 20, GTEC will host Tour and Tailgate from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. This will be a free event for anyone interested in learning more about enrolling in The Excel Center or The Academy. Instructors and life coaches will be on hand to provide guided tours of both schools. Free tailgate-style food will be available and among other prizes, five \$1,000 scholarships will be given away to students who enroll in an Academy certification program.

“This campus will further expand the delivery of our mission of changing lives through education, training and employment in Northwest Arkansas,” said GIA President and CEO Brian Marsh. “More than 320,000 Arkansans over the age of 19 are without a high school diploma and the workforce in our state needs skilled labor. GTEC will provide opportunities for individuals in this region to learn important skills to gain meaningful employment, all under one roof.”

Unlocking Ceremony
Wednesday, July 19
11 a.m.

Tour and Tailgate
Thursday, July 20
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

2100 S. Old Missouri Rd.
Springdale, AR

The Excel Center is the state's only high school where adults 19 years and older can earn a state-certified high school diploma. In 2015, legislation approved in Arkansas paved the way for the first Excel Center in Little Rock to open in October, 2017. Until then, passing a General Educational Development (GED) test was the only option for those 21 or older. Since opening, 127 adults have graduated. In 2022, approval was granted for two additional locations in Arkansas, including Springdale.

Because GIA knows students need more than just access to education, The Excel Center offers flexible class schedules to meet the needs of working and busy adults at no cost to the students. Benefits include free drop-in onsite childcare, tutoring, dedicated life coaching, and transportation assistance. Approximately 84% of The Excel Center's graduates have gone on to college or pursued post-secondary training.

The Academy at Goodwill, licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education, provides individuals the training and certifications needed to pursue greater career opportunities and positively affect the workforce in Arkansas. The Academy offers 25 certifications in the top industries in Arkansas: health care, information technology, skilled trades and business and administration. Featured certifications include certified clinical medical assistant, certified pharmacy technician, Google certifications, welding and construction.

Academy courses are accelerated, and many are either offered at no cost or lower costs offset by revenue from Goodwill's retail operation. The Academy also provides a number of wrap-around services such as resume preparation, career mentoring and job search to help gain employment following graduation.

For more information visit GoodwillAR.org/GTEC.

About Goodwill Industries of Arkansas

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to changing lives through education, training and employment. In the last fiscal year, our career services team helped 498 people find work at companies around the state. Through our various education, training and employment programs, Goodwill Industries of Arkansas provided services to 6,027 Arkansans. Visit GoodwillAR.org for more information.