



# The Excel Center®

WHAT IS THE HISTORY?

WHAT IS THE MODEL?

DOES IT WORK?

WHY DOES IT WORK?

# HISTORY

The Excel Center idea started in 2008

- Response to:
  - Better serving older students in traditional high school
  - Better serving GED students
  - Better meeting employer needs
  - Better meeting community needs

# PURSING A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Turning point in decision was research we did starting in 2008 about links in various social issues

- Educational attainment
- Crime
- Health
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Employment
- Poverty

Each issue influences the others

- Ex: As poverty increases, educational attainment decreases, crime increases, health decreases

# HISTORY

The Excel Center school opened in fall 2010

- Opened 1 site with 300 students
  - 2,000 on a waiting list by January 2011
- With support from local authorizers, rapid expansion began in fall 2011, while improving the school model



# HISTORY

## Excel Center Network started in 2013

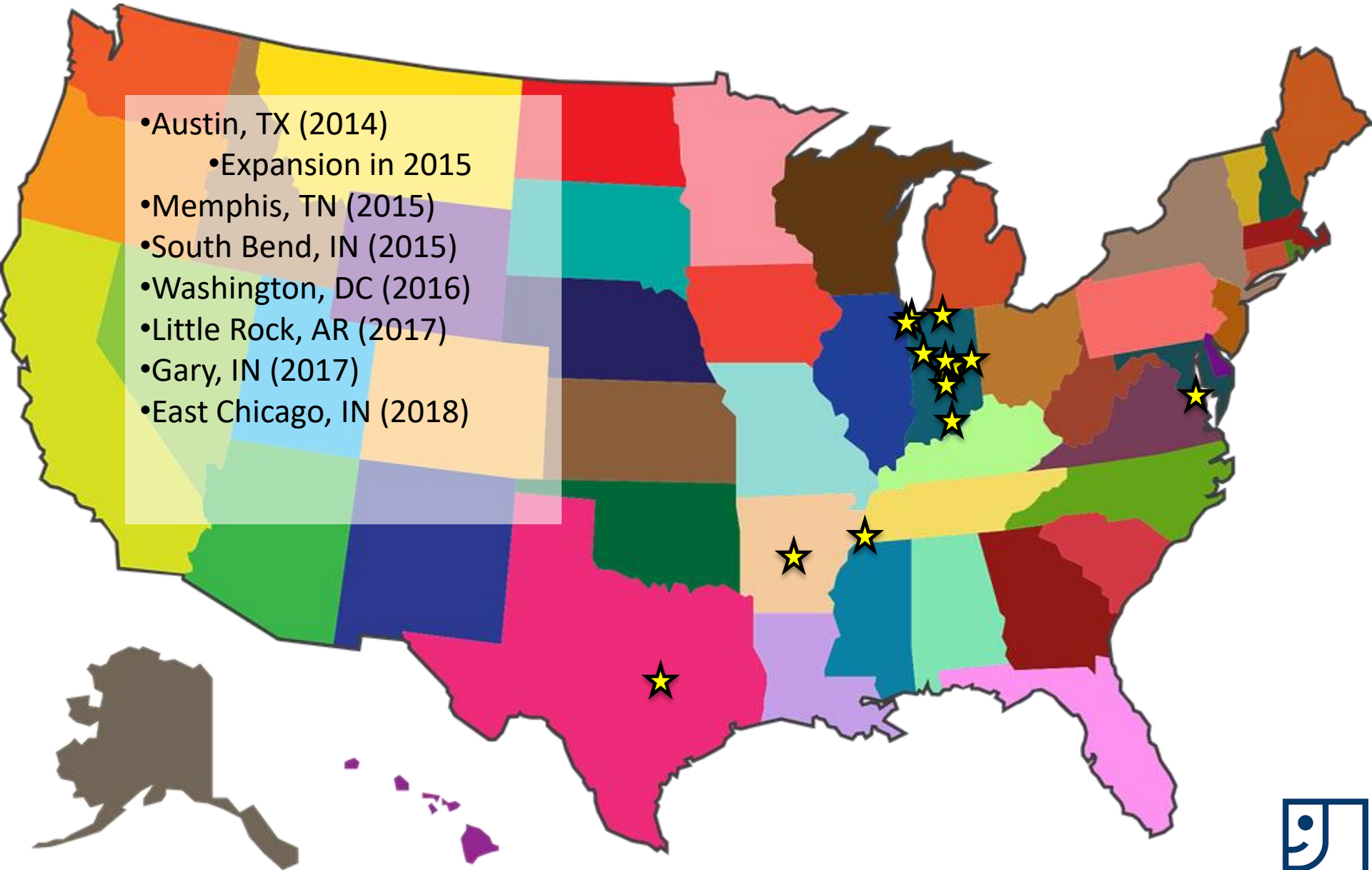
Year	Schools	Total Students
2010	1	300
2011	+2	800
2012	+2	1500
2013	+4	3000
2014	+1 (Austin, TX)	3500
2015	+2 +1 (South Bend, IN) +1 (Memphis, TN)	4100
2016	+2 +1 (Washington D.C.) +1 (Shelbyville, IN)	4500
2017	+1 (Clarksville, IN) +1 (Little Rock, AR) +1 (East Chicago, IN)	Projected: ~5,200
2018	+1 (Gary, IN)	Projected: ~5,500

# HISTORY

State	Legislation
IN* (2010 – 2013)	-Opened without legislative barriers -Legislation introduced
TX* (2014)	-Legislative pilot approved -Legislation introduced
TN* (2015)	-Opened without legislative barriers -Pursuing legislation
DC	-Opened without barriers
AR	-Legislative pilot approved
MD	-Introduced legislation
IL	-Introduced legislation
MO	-Introduced legislation

# CURRENT NATIONAL NETWORK

- Austin, TX (2014)
  - Expansion in 2015
- Memphis, TN (2015)
- South Bend, IN (2015)
- Washington, DC (2016)
- Little Rock, AR (2017)
- Gary, IN (2017)
- East Chicago, IN (2018)



# CURRENT EFFORTS

Phase 1 – Feasibility & Discovery	Phase 2 – Community Development	Phase 3 – School Prospectus & Planning	Phase 4 – Implementation	Phase 5 - Membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goodwill of Central Arizona-Phoenix, AZ</li> <li>• Goodwill Industries of Kentucky – Louisville, KY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MERS Missouri Goodwill – St. Louis, MO</li> <li>• Goodwill Northern Illinois – Rockford, IL</li> <li>• Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake – Baltimore, MD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goodwill Industries of Arkansas – Little Rock, AR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goodwill Industries of Michiana – East Chicago, IN</li> <li>• Goodwill of Greater Washington, Washington D.C.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goodwill Industries of Michiana – South Bend, IN</li> <li>• Goodwill of Central Texas – Austin, TX</li> <li>• Memphis Goodwill Inc – Memphis, TN</li> </ul>



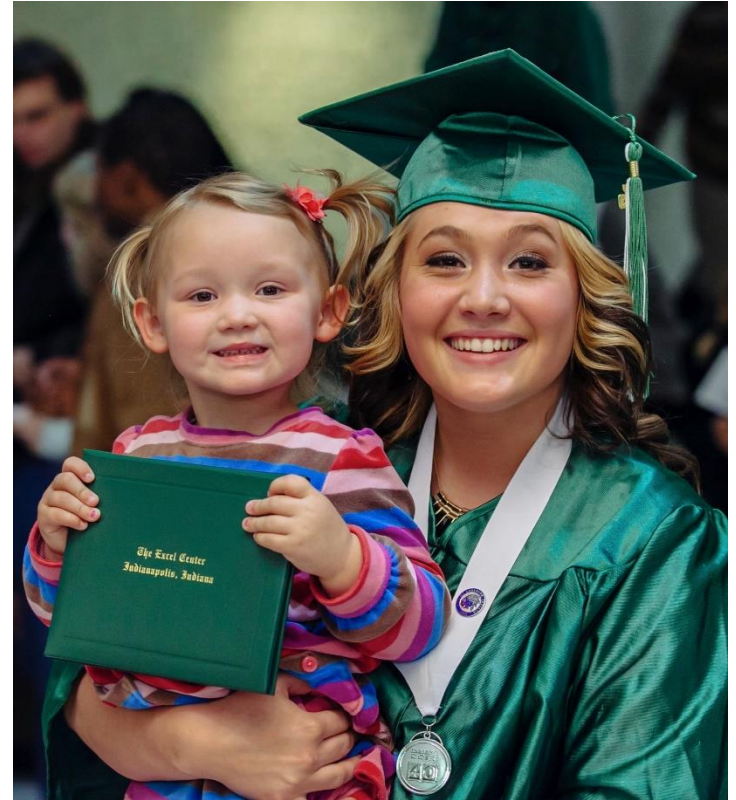
# THE MISSION

The mission of The Excel Center is to provide adults the opportunity and support to earn a high school diploma and post-secondary education while developing career paths that offer greater employment and career growth opportunities.

- Meet students “where they are”
- Navigate academic and non-academic barriers to success

# THE BUILDING BLOCKS

- Flexible, year-round schedule
- Free child drop-in centers and transportation assistance
- Barrier removal
- Target is a rigorous high school diploma combined with dual credit or industry certification
- Focus is on qualifying them as “work-ready”
- Mature learning environment



# THE MODEL

## The Excel Center Model

### Secondary-Level Education

- Accelerated pace of learning and credit attainment
- Direct instruction from licensed teachers
- Classroom instruction paired with online credit recovery
- Credits may be earned for valid and relevant work experience
- Rigorous instruction & high expectations

### Postsecondary Education and Career Pathways

- Strong relationship with local community college
- Dual credit course offerings available
- Students earn in-demand industry-recognized credentials
- Industry partners provide work-based learning experiences and career options
- College and career readiness coaching and planning

### Coaching

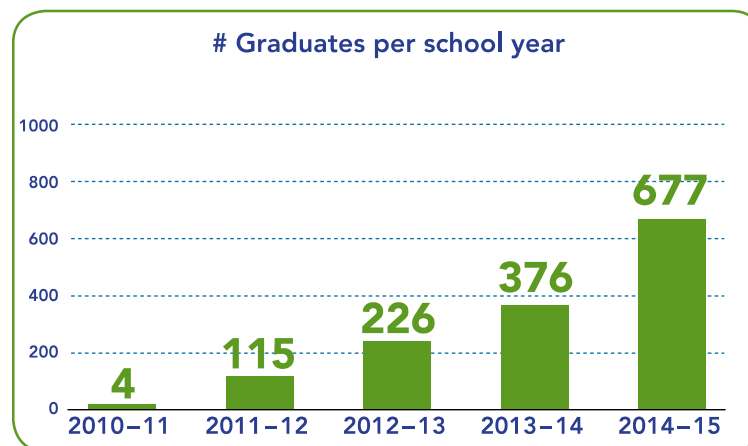
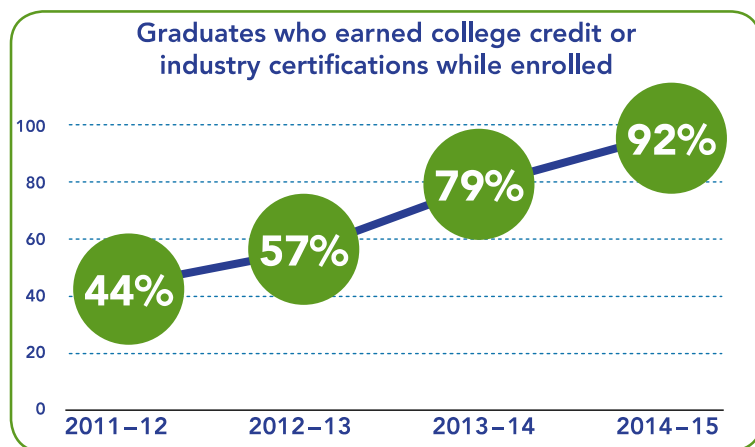
- Promote continued retention of students by addressing life barriers
- Students meet regularly with their assigned coach
- Address life skills, connections to community resources, and creating future plans
- Proactive barrier removal for critical life & work issues
- Graduation planning and goal-setting

### The Building Blocks

- Flexible, year-round schedule to meet needs of working and busy adults
- Free on-site child care and transportation assistance
- Rigorous high school diploma combined with dual credit or industry certification
- Focus on work-readiness
- Mature learning environment: Student population is a mix of younger and older students

# DOES IT WORK– MEASURABLE ACTIVITIES

- Over 2,300 graduates
- Over 3,500 post secondary credentials earned by over 1,600 graduates



# DOES IT WORK– MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

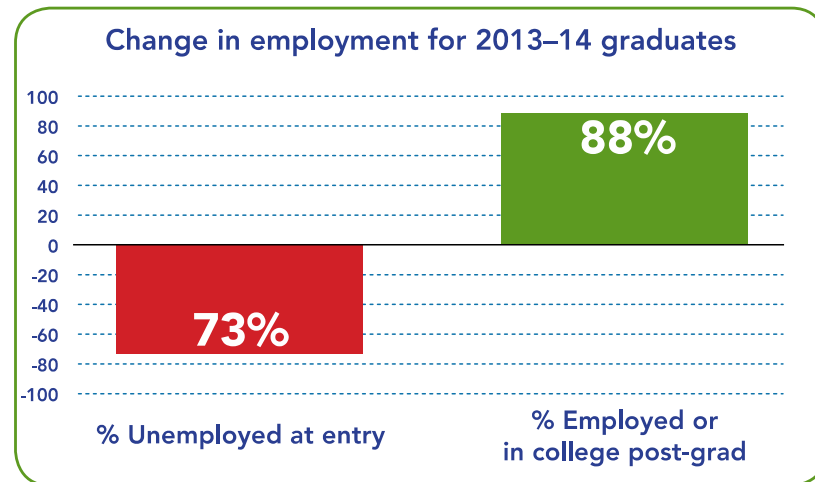
The activity outcomes are strong, but meaningless unless they lead to economic success

- Increased educational attainment and increased wages have a positive impact on all other social issues

Dr. Michael Hicks, Director of Center for Economic Research at Ball State University

- Performed impact study of Excel Center graduates from inception through June, 2013

Follow up analysis of 2013-14 graduates showed strong economic results



Excel Center Impact Analysis	Annualized Employment Effect	Average Annual Wage Growth	Total Benefit per Capita
Graduates	\$4,758	\$4,572	\$9,330
Non-Graduates	-\$2,021	\$2,856	\$835
Never Attended	-\$2,361	\$17	-\$2,344



# WHY DOES IT WORK?

## Relationships

- Life Coaches
- Extended class periods
- Key part of culture

## Rigor

- Face-to-face instruction
- Accelerated pace

## Relevance

- Early focus on what comes next
- Transition to connected coursework
- Work experiences

The Excel  
Center



# MEET KATIE





**THANK YOU**