FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PALMETTO GOODWILL OFFERING ONSITE AND ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSES

North Charleston, SC – Palmetto Goodwill hosted its first 2020 Hiring Event and Career Info Session today, where it unveiled a new initiative aimed at helping address the state and region's workforce development needs, while simultaneously accomplishing Goodwill's mission of providing job training and employment services to those in need.

Palmetto Goodwill currently offers a variety of onsite career credentialing and certification courses at no-cost for qualified applicants in Manufacturing, Welding, HVAC, CDL, Hospitality and Culinary. These offerings are being expanded greatly by partnering with ed2go, a Cengage company, to offer hundreds of online career certification courses.

Online Advanced Career Training courses align with growing industries. Applicants can choose from a variety of self-paced courses that prepare students to enter careers in high-demand industries such as healthcare, logistics and computer programming. Fundamentals online courses are also available and are designed for personal and professional development. These project-oriented courses focus on soft skills such as decision making and communication, as well as hard skills including productivity, software training and business writing. Those who complete the courses receive a certificate of completion from Trident Technical College through a joint-collaboration with ed2go and Palmetto Goodwill.

Those qualifying for the no-cost enrollment option include veterans, SNAP eligible families, individuals who have recently been laid off and those who may have exhausted their unemployment benefits. For those not qualifying for the no-cost option Palmetto Goodwill works with the applicant to find programs and/or funding sources to offset the cost.

Jermaine Husser, VP of Mission Services for Palmetto Goodwill, applauded the partnership saying, "There are great jobs available throughout our state, but not enough skilled and trained workers to fill them. Our onsite credentialing programs coupled with these online offerings will help fill that demand by providing no-cost training in high demand fields."

Ed2go provides innovative, relevant courses that support job market demand. Its course catalog ranges from career and certification training to personal and professional development, with a focus on transferable skills. The program utilizes an intuitive, fully online model designed to meet the needs of adult learners.

"As jobs change rapidly, we're proud to partner with Goodwill to help their clients develop in-demand skills and improve their employment opportunities," said Taryn Mckenzie, Executive Director of Corporate & Workforce Partnerships at Cengage. "This is an innovative partnership as adults who complete their courses will earn a certificate of completion from Trident Technical College which will further strengthen their resume." All participants are supported by Palmetto Goodwill Career Navigators, who will help guide students into the right programs based on their career and education goals.

For more information go to palmettogoodwill.org/training.

About Palmetto Goodwill

Palmetto Goodwill is a non-profit social enterprise whose mission is to help people achieve their full potential through the dignity and power of work. In operation since 1979, Palmetto Goodwill operates 31 thrift stores/donation centers, 12 Career Opportunity Centers and 14 commercial contracts to support its mission throughout its 18 county territory. To learn more visit palmettogoodwill.org.

About ed2go

ed2go, a Cengage company, believes that anyone, anywhere can learn. Started in 1997, they provide high quality education the fastest way possible — online. By partnering with academic institutions, corporations, and workforce agencies, they reach life-long learners in all 50 states and in more than 16 countries. <u>www.ed2go.com</u>.

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