



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 26, 2024

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## **PALMETTO EXCEL CENTER EXPANDING TO TWO NEW SOUTH CAROLINA CITIES**

*The tuition-free adult charter high school to open locations in Sumter and Spartanburg*

**North Charleston, SC** – Palmetto Goodwill and its affiliated Palmetto Excel Center are proud to announce two new adult charter high schools are slated to open in South Carolina by the fall of 2025. On March 14, the South Carolina Public Charter School District (SCPCSD) Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve the new schools which will serve community members in Sumter and Spartanburg.

Once operational, the two new Palmetto Excel high schools will provide the opportunity for Sumter and Spartanburg community members aged 21 and over to earn their high school diplomas and workforce certifications at a fast pace. The new locations will bring the total number of Palmetto Excel schools to three, including the first school, which opened in North Charleston in August of 2023 with 150 students.

Palmetto Goodwill President and CEO Brian Itzkowitz explains the Palmetto Excel Centers follow a national model. "This model is the first of its kind in the state. We are removing some common barriers to education many adults are facing by offering drop-in childcare, transportation assistance, academic coaching, college credits, career readiness services, and industry-recognized workforce certifications at no cost to the students."

Palmetto Excel North Charleston has received over 2,000 applications this year and is on pace to expand to 300 students in its second year on the Trident Technical College campus. "We've already seen the impact of Palmetto Excel on students in the Charleston area, where our first graduates are now pursuing college degrees and new career options," said Lee Deas, Board Chair of Palmetto Excel. "We can't wait to do this same life-changing work throughout the state, and are excited to engage the Spartanburg and Sumter communities in the creation of Excel schools that reflect their needs."

For more information about The Palmetto Excel Center, please visit [palmettoexcel.org](http://palmettoexcel.org).

### **About Palmetto Excel Center**

Palmetto Excel Center is a tuition-free high school for adults aged 21 and over located on the campus of Trident Technical College in North Charleston. Designed to break barriers against the dynamic life of adults, Palmetto Excel Center offers transportation assistance, drop-in childcare, flexible schedules, academic coaching, and college or career readiness. To learn more visit [palmettoexcel.org](http://palmettoexcel.org).

**About Palmetto Goodwill**

Palmetto Goodwill is a non-profit social enterprise whose mission is changing lives by providing equitable access to training, education, and employment. In operation since 1979, Palmetto Goodwill operates 33 thrift stores/donation centers, nine Career Opportunity Centers and 15 commercial/government contracts to support its mission throughout its 18-county territory. To learn more visit [palmettogoodwill.org](http://palmettogoodwill.org).