



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Free High School Diploma Program Offers Second Chance for Tri-County Adults**

The Palmetto Excel Center opens doors to adults seeking to complete education at no cost with wrap around services included.

**North Charleston, SC** – The Palmetto Excel Center (PEC) is South Carolina's only tuition-free public charter high school exclusively for adults 21 and older and is now enrolling new students from across the tri-county region.

This unique educational opportunity allows adult learners to earn an official South Carolina high school diploma, potentially opening doors to better employment, higher education, and increased earning potential.

Many adults in our community had to put their education on hold due to life circumstances and PEC offers a chance for them to finish what they started, completely free of charge, with all the support they need to succeed.

The streamlined application process takes less than 10 minutes to complete online at [palmettoexcel.org](http://palmettoexcel.org) and free computer and internet access is available at any Palmetto Goodwill Career Opportunity Center for those needing assistance.

In 2022, workers 25 and older with a high school diploma made over 25% more than those who didn't graduate from high school and those without diplomas had the highest rates of unemployment. (Bureau of Labor Statistics.)

Real impact - Yalonda's story: After more than a decade out of school, Yalonda enrolled in PEC and became a member of its first graduating class. A single mother of three children – one with special needs – she credits her experience at PEC and earning her diploma with giving her the confidence she needed to succeed, and she is now on a path to become a certified pharmacy technician. You can read Yalonda's story [here](#).

**Interested adults aged 21 and older can contact the center directly at (843) 329-9662 or [info@palmettoexcel.org](mailto:info@palmettoexcel.org) for more information about this life-changing opportunity.**

### **About The Palmetto Excel Center**

Launched in August 2023, on the North Charleston Trident Technical College Thornley campus, this tuition-free adult public charter high school serves South Carolina adults aged 21 and over, following a national model of Goodwill Excel Centers. With support from Palmetto Goodwill, the school removes students' barriers to education by offering flexible courses, free childcare, transportation, and student services in pursuit of a certified high school diploma and college or career readiness.