



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Career EXCErate Wisconsin® ceremony an example of local impact during Goodwill Week

Goodwill NCW program helps people upskill for in-demand careers

North Central WI — Every year, during the first full week of May, Goodwill organizations worldwide celebrate Goodwill Week. This year in Wisconsin, Governor Tony Evers made it official, proclaiming May 3-9, 2026 as Goodwill Week. Goodwill North Central Wisconsin (NCW) is one of over 150 different Goodwill agencies and our local mission is "Elevating People by Eliminating Barriers to Employment." A prime example of that endeavor is the Career EXCErate program which saw its latest cohort receive their educational certificates on May 4.

Career EXCErate is a comprehensive career-training program that includes wrap-around support, offered at no cost to individuals who want to launch a lasting career. Students in the Spring 2026 cohort completed certificates in health care, skilled trades and retail, and will join the more than 960 individuals (154% over goal as of April 2026) that have been served by the program since 2022. Those who have completed the program and attained employment are also benefiting from improved financial stability, as they have seen an average increase of approximately \$11.55 in wages from intake to their current job.

Career EXCErate Wisconsin was launched in the summer of 2022, thanks to a Workforce Innovation Grant from the State of Wisconsin that concludes in June of 2026. Despite the grant ending, the program will live on, as Goodwill NCW has announced that it will fund the program moving forward, collaborating with Fox Valley Technical College, Chippewa Valley Technical College and other education partners, expanding access in all of the counties it serves by offering in-person, online and hybrid options at no cost to the participant.

For job seekers: Those interested in earning a certificate through Career EXCErate can complete the online application form at CareerEXCErateWI.org.

For local employers: Employers can partner with Career EXCErate to recruit qualified candidates. Contact careerexceleratewi@goodwillncw.org to learn more.

For referrals: Prospective students can be referred by a local agency, nonprofit, employer or personal contact.

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Goodwill North Central Wisconsin (Goodwill NCW) is a nonprofit organization with a mission of *Elevating People by Eliminating Barriers to Employment. We provide pathways to those who are disadvantaged who have a goal of building job skills that lead to sustained employment and improved financial stability. We see people for who they are and believe in the power of work, within our retail stores and workplaces throughout our community. We are proud of the life-changing impact we make in our communities and to our planet with the help of our donors and shoppers.* Learn more at goodwillncw.org