

Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc.

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Goodwill to honor Indianapolis Met high school student on May 20 for her life-changing turnaround

Indianapolis resident **Ronnisha Davis** will receive Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana's Youth Achiever of the Year Award on May 20. The award was established to honor a young person who has shown great progress and accomplishment in overcoming barriers to education or employment.

Indianapolis Met student Ronnisha Davis, who is known to be driven, ambitious, a good student, and a leader among her peers, has a bright future. "After I graduate high school, I want to become an elementary school teacher," she says.

But Ronnisha has had to overcome obstacles in her life to be on track to graduate early at Indianapolis Metropolitan High School, a public high school operated by Goodwill Education Initiatives. She has faced being placed in the foster care system and being suspended from school for fighting in 2009. The next year, she attended another school but stayed connected to Indianapolis Met.

Ronnisha returned to Indianapolis Met for the 2010-11 school year. She changed her attitude, became focused on graduating early and going to college, moved into her own apartment, and balanced a job with school activities.

"When I started getting interested in what I wanted to do and having the bigger picture, it motivated me to do better," Ronnisha says.

Nothing is stopping Ronnisha. She will attend the University of Indianapolis this fall in the Bridge Scholars Program, which will provide her with a full-tuition scholarship for eight semesters.

"I believe Indianapolis Met has helped Ronnisha decide who she is as an individual," said Tereee Smith, director of the school's College and Career Readiness Center.

Ronnisha will receive the award at this year's Celebration of Achievement Awards Breakfast at 8 a.m. on Friday, May 20, at the JW Marriott, 10 S. West St., in downtown Indianapolis. Tickets for this event are \$25 each or \$200 for a table of eight. To make reservations, please visit www.goodwillindy.org/breakfast or call (317) 524-4528.

Indianapolis Met is operated by Goodwill Education Initiatives, Inc., which opened the public high school in 2004. The school strives to significantly increase the high school graduation rate and the enrollment of students into post-secondary educational programs. For more information about Indianapolis Met and student enrollment, visit www.indianapolismet.org or call (317) 524-4638.

Goodwill helps people find jobs and helps young people prepare for life and work. For more information about Goodwill's services, visit www.goodwillindy.org or call (317) 524-4313.