

Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc.

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Contact: **Cindy L. Graham, Vice President of Marketing**
Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc.
Work: (317) 524-4212 **Cell:** (317) 459-4162
E-mail: cgraham@goodwillindy.org

“DLANG” to be honored May 20 with Goodwill’s Youth Connections Award

Denisha “DLANG” Ferguson will be recognized May 20 as the recipient of Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana’s Youth Connections Award. This award recognizes an employer who demonstrates outstanding support for young people who have barriers to education by taking action to provide jobs and internships.

Encouraging students to pursue their dreams through internships and work experiences in the fashion world inspires Denisha “DLANG” Ferguson.

Denisha, known as “DLANG” in the fashion industry, owns the design company Indy Fashion Time (IFT), which produces fashion competitions, shows and workshops. In 2010, she began working with students in the Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) program, administered by Goodwill, which targets high school juniors and seniors.

In working with the students, Denisha provides a multi-faceted fashion internship experience that culminates in a significant role in Denisha’s IFT fashion show. The internship allows students to work on projects for the fashion show that include fashion design and sewing clothing purchased from Goodwill, production assistance, modeling, photography, videography, writing, marketing and web design.

“Internships are important because they allow students the hands-on experience that they need,” said Candice Singleton, community outreach coordinator for JAG, Indianapolis Met.

Denisha says she wants students to have fun in their internships while building confidence and learning that they can do anything that they set their minds to do.

“I know how it can be in the industry, and I just want to give students an opportunity to live out their dreams, be in a positive environment and just be able to learn and grow and develop themselves,” she says.

Denisha 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, 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.