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**Xcel Energy Foundation supports youth exploration in STEM careers**

*Goodwill Industries of Denver receives $10,000 grant to fund its STEM initiative*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DENVER, Colo. (July 06, 2017) – Goodwill Industries of Denver announced today it has received a $10,000 grant from the Xcel Energy Foundation to support workforce readiness training specifically for youth interested in STEM careers. Goodwill’s Youth STEM Program directly bridges the technical skills gap by preparing minority and low-income students for postsecondary education and careers related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Through classroom instruction, training, job shadowing, internships, case management, site visits and career exploration; Goodwill’s STEM program reaches disadvantaged youth who may not otherwise have an opportunity to be exposed to the exciting career options available in this field.

“There is a huge opportunity for young individuals in the Denver metro area to launch productive career paths in the STEM field,” said Stuart Davie, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Denver. “The funding we received from the Xcel Energy Foundation will help Goodwill provide these students access to training necessary for long lasting job retention and career success.”

With the help of this grant, Goodwill expects to impact more than 1,000 students in the Denver metro area. In 2016, Goodwill served more than 27,000 Coloradans in need with its career development programming for individuals with barriers to employment.

“Goodwill provides many opportunities, like this STEM program, to help students be successful in their chosen career paths,” said Jennifer Wozniak, director of communications for Xcel Energy. “Xcel Energy is committed to supporting organizations like Goodwill that make our communities stronger.” Wozniak has served on the Goodwill Industries of Denver Board of Directors since 2011.

Xcel Energy is a longtime supporter of Goodwill Industries of Denver. In addition to grant funding, Xcel Energy employees serve as volunteer mentors in several of Goodwill’s youth career development programs throughout the year and also participate in Goodwill volunteer events at retail stores and donation centers on Xcel Energy’s Annual Day of Service each spring.

**About Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL)**Xcel Energy provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. Headquartered in Minneapolis, the company is an industry leader in responsibly reducing carbon emissions and producing and delivering clean energy solutions from a variety of renewable sources at competitive prices. Through its foundation, Xcel Energy supports activities in four important focus areas: STEM education, workforce development, environmental stewardship, and access to arts and culture. In 2016, Xcel Energy invested over $13.9 million to support communities across its service territory.

**About Goodwill Industries of Denver**
Goodwill Industries of Denver provides career development resources for tens of thousands of Coloradans with barriers to employment. Goodwill’s community programs facilitate job preparation and skills training for at-risk youth, struggling families and individuals with disabilities. Through its thrift retail operations, donations, corporate partnerships and recycling processes, Goodwill is ensuring that every individual in our community has the opportunity to live to their fullest potential and overcome obstacles to success and self-sufficiency. Visit [www.goodwilldenver.org](http://www.goodwilldenver.org) to learn more. ###