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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAREER ACADEMY SOUTH BEND EARNS EARLY COLLEGE ENDORSEMENT

State credential recognizes program quality, academic rigor, and student supports

South Bend, IN, May 24th – The Early College program at Career Academy South Bend recently achieved endorsement through the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL). The status marks the quality and effectiveness of Career Academy South Bend its fidelity to implementing the Eight Core Principles of Early College. Only a few Indiana schools have achieved endorsement since 2020 and the only High School in northern Indiana to achieve this status.

Career Academy South Bend launched the Early College High School model in 2019 in partnership with University of Indianapolis. The program will graduate 16 students with the Indiana College Core Certificate and at least 30 transferable college credits in 2021. The program is projected to graduate 32 students in 2022 with the Indiana College Core.

“This a remarkable opportunity for all of our students. Early College at Career Academy supports our students in many ways and prepares each of them for the rigors of college and their future careers. This is just another example of why our school is truly amazing,” says Jeremy Lugbill, Principal at Career Academy South Bend.

The Early College High School (ECHS) model operates as a small school designed to prepare students for postsecondary success. Students earn both a diploma and up to two years of credit toward a bachelor’s or associate degree while in high school.

The program removes the academic and financial barriers that prevent many Hoosier students from attending a college or university. While open to all students, Early College targets low-income young people, first-generation college students, English language learners, and students of color—all statistically underrepresented in higher education.

“Early College at Career Academy has put me in a great spot for college, I feel more confident, prepared and ready for the overall university experience,” said ECHS and Career Academy Valedictorian and Senior, Jacinda Unger.

Schools pursuing endorsement submit portfolios addressing ECHS required principles categorized by: rigorous curriculum, robust student supports, and program completion data. Schools undergo a site visit including interviews with administrators, teachers, students, and parents. A school cannot pursue

endorsement before implementing the model for two years and graduating a class of Early College students. Programs undergo a re-endorsement process every three years.

“These newly-endorsed schools have documented evidence of the exceptional quality of their programs. Their efforts help students graduate high school and accelerate into postsecondary education, whether at a two- or four-year institution or a career/technical program. This is a true gamechanger for Career Academy South Bend students and their families,” said Sandy Hillman, CELL’s Early School director.

CELL introduced the Early College High School model to Indiana in 2003. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education has authorized CELL as the state’s sole organization for training, supporting, and endorsing Early College High Schools.

Data released from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education in January 2021 shows students earning dual credit in high school are more likely to stay enrolled in college and graduate on time or early. These students saved roughly \$82 million in potential tuition costs.

About Career Academy South Bend

Career Academy South Bend is a college and career focused, S.T.E.M. Certified middle school and high school. It opened in August 2011 with 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. We've grown to accept enrollment in grades 6-12 and have opened a second campus to serve grades K-5 at the Success Academy in South Bend with a total school enrollment of over 1300 students, corporation wide.

CareerAcademySB.com

About CELL

Created in 2001, the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis serves as a leading convener, catalyst, and collaborator for innovative education change. CELL partners with schools and communities to improve outcomes for students of all ages by supporting meaningful, high-quality educational opportunities. Providing leadership that is both cutting-edge and action-oriented, CELL unites districts, schools, communities, universities, and businesses to build a sense of urgency and collaboration for statewide educational and economic progress. Learn more:

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