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Common Goal, Indiana INTERNnet Join Forces, Offer 25 High School Internships

INDIANAPOLIS—Two programs encouraging young people to plan for their professional futures are uniting to provide internship opportunities to Marion County high school students. The Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce are partnering to offer 25 summer internships through Common Goal—the Indianapolis Chamber’s education initiative to raise graduation rates in Marion County public high schools—via the Indiana Chamber’s Indiana INTERNnet.

“This initiative is reflective of how we get things done in our community,” notes Roland M. Dorson, president of the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. “It is collaborative, it is affirmative, and it is focused on outcomes.”

Common Goal is striving to increase the graduation rate from 70 to 80 percent and to decrease the number of high school dropouts from 7.7 to 5 percent by 2011, resulting in more than 2,000 additional students graduating from high school.

“We feel that these high school internships will provide students a meaningful opportunity to learn about careers, show them the relevance of staying in school and hopefully, encourage the pursuit of higher education,” states Pam Norman, Indiana INTERNnet executive director.

Indiana INTERNnet will provide the technology to match students and businesses for these summer internships. Assistance is also available to businesses that want to create or enhance an existing internship program to host a high school intern this summer.

Meanwhile, Common Goal Graduation Coaches are identifying students who would most benefit from the internship opportunities. Student workshops conducted at targeted schools in May will prepare students for the internships.

Marion County organizations interested in hosting a Common Goal intern can contact Indiana INTERNnet program coordinator Amber Shelton at 317.264.6863 or ashelton@indianachamber.com.

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Founded in 1890 by Colonel Eli Lilly and a group of Indianapolis business leaders, the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce is the voice of the central Indiana business community. Today, with a membership of more than 4,000 businesses, the Indianapolis Chamber is still a voice of progress and improvement, bringing together businesses for a thriving community. For more information on the Chamber, visit indychamber.com.