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Statements

Rick Fuson, Chief Operating Officer, Pacers Sports & Entertainment

"When the Pacers Foundation, Pacers Sports & Entertainment, Indiana Pacers and Indiana Fever made its \$500,000 commitment to Common Goal almost six months ago, we 'challenged' the community to join with us in this important effort by at least matching our contribution," said Rick Fuson, Chief Operating Officer of Pacers Sports & Entertainment. "We are heartened and appreciative that today we are able to recognize so many 'partners' who have met and exceeded that challenge. The high school graduation rate is so important to the success of today's young people and our community over-all, and together we pledge to support Common Goal to make a difference," Fuson concluded.

Dennis Bassett, CEO, Chase Indiana

"We can make the biggest impact by working hand in hand with key community leaders and programs such as Common Goal and marshalling significant resources," said Dennis Bassett, CEO of Chase in Indiana. "Together, we can build momentum for change in Marion County public schools."

George S. Fleetwood, President, AT&T Indiana

"The high school dropout issue affects us all and we must do more if we expect to compete in the global economy. Through the AT&T Aspire program, we support programs and educators committed to putting our youth on the path to a brighter future," said George S. Fleetwood, President, AT&T Indiana. "The Common Goal mentoring program is making a difference in the lives of at-risk students and we are proud to be a part of this local initiative as it helps prepare our young people to succeed and prosper."

Julie Murphy, Regional General Manager and VP, Wal-Mart

"Increasing high school graduation rates through mentorships and improved literacy is critical to the lives and well-being of all Americans," said Julie Murphy, Regional General Manager and VP, Wal-Mart. "By supporting education and local initiatives like Common Goal, Wal-Mart hopes to ensure that leaders of tomorrow here in central Indiana have the skills they need to be successful. We are delighted to join these partners and this effort to invest in our area's future workforce."

Bill Corley, President, Community Health Network

“Community Health Network is engaged with Common Goal not only to provide funding for this important initiative, but also to provide mentors for students,” said Bill Corley, Chair of Common Goal and President of Community Health Network. “We believe that improving educational skills in the 11 school districts in the metropolitan area is crucial to the long-term success of Indianapolis. Improving the graduation rate from 70 percent to 80 percent within the next four years is a goal every business should strive for because it will provide for a brighter future for Indianapolis.”

Vince Caponi, CEO, St. Vincent Health, \$100,000

“Having served the health care needs of the Marion County community for more than 127 years, we understand the importance of an educated workforce,” said Vincent C. Caponi, CEO of St. Vincent Health. “Our partnership with Common Goal will benefit our community as Hoosier students earn their high school diploma.”

Dr. Hank Dunn, Chancellor, Ivy Tech Community College-Central Indiana

“Partnering with the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce on the Common Goal initiative is a natural extension of the community college’s mission of helping individuals dare to dream and, more importantly, realize their educational aspirations,” said Dr. Hank Dunn, chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College-Central Indiana. “As with our other bridge-building partnerships with K-12 schools in Marion and the surrounding counties, we’re supporting Common Goal to better prepare youth for success in college, whether their goal is to complete a certificate or associate degree and secure a good job or transfer their credits to a baccalaureate program at another college or university. A critical step, however, is to increase the number of students who graduate from high school. Ivy Tech is pleased to be part of this concerted effort to put more young people on the path to success in education and employment.”

Randall Lewis, Executive VP Internal Audit, WellPoint

“Education of our youth is essential, and WellPoint is very proud to play a part in the Common Goal initiative to raise the high school graduation rates in Marion County,” said Randall Lewis, Executive VP Internal Audit, WellPoint. “Clearly the Indianapolis community has made it a priority to help ensure the youth of our city has the resources and support to achieve their aspirations and dreams.”

Dave Champ, Indiana Vice President of Agency, State Farm Insurance

"State Farm is proud to support educational initiatives like Common Goal because of its far reaching impact on our youth, the economy and the workforce," says Dave Champ, Indiana vice president of agency for State Farm Insurance. "For more than two decades, State Farm has been involved with education partnerships and our research shows that by 2010, 80 percent of all the jobs will require some post-secondary education. From both a workforce and economic standpoint, we want to make sure we do our part in helping youths get the skills they need to compete in the global economy."