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## **Goodwill Industries of Arkansas Announces New Education and Mission Services Leadership**

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (October 2, 2024)** — Goodwill Industries of Arkansas (GIA) is pleased to announce Ervin “Pete” Dennis as the organization’s new Vice President of Mission Services and Jherrithan Dukes as Vice President of Education and Training.

In his role, Dennis will be responsible for the overall operation, growth and success of GIAs Career Service and Reentry Service programs, which includes the Opportunity Accelerator and Transitional Employment Opportunity programs.

Prior to joining GIA, Dennis most recently served as operations manager for Lumen Technologies and in a similar role at Amazon before that. From 2012-20, he was the general manager for Mission1<sup>st</sup>, a disabled veteran-owned small business headquartered in Melbourne, Fla., that delivers end-to-end project implementation, systems engineering technical assistance, field services and support, and information technology and engineering support solutions to customer programs worldwide. In 2022, Dennis retired as Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves following a 30-year military career in the Marine and Army reserves, including a period of time with the Arkansas National Guard in Pine Bluff.

Dukes will provide strategic leadership for Goodwill Training and Education Centers (GTEC) in Little Rock and Springdale. GTEC houses The Excel Center and The Academy at Goodwill. He will serve as superintendent for the Excel Center network and provide direction to lead the development of service delivery standards and procedures for educational strategies. He will also guide the operational direction of The Academy at Goodwill.

Dukes previously served as deputy superintendent for Friendship Aspire Academy Charter Schools for Arkansas. He began his career as a classroom teacher and quickly rose to principal of Friendship Aspire Public Charter School in Pine Bluff which was named the number one elementary charter school in Arkansas under his

leadership. He received his Bachelor of Science in Education at UA Pine Bluff and his Master of Education at UA Little Rock. He is a Little Rock native.

“As Goodwill Industries of Arkansas expands our service programs across the state, we are excited to welcome Pete and Jherrithan in these two crucial leadership roles,” said Sr. Vice President and Chief Mission Officer Edie Stewart. “Their backgrounds offer a unique perspective in the development of our mission initiatives. It is critical for us to meet Arkansans where they are to enhance opportunities for education and training and create opportunities for their future success by providing a clear roadmap to a job and career. Pete and Jherrithan will help GIA make that happen.”

### **About Goodwill Industries of Arkansas**

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to changing lives through education, training and employment. In the last fiscal year, our career services team helped 498 people find work at companies around the state. Through our various education, training and employment programs, GIA provided services to 6,345 Arkansans. Since opening in 2017, 190 adults in Arkansas have graduated high school and earned their diplomas through The Excel Center®, Goodwill’s high school for adults 19 years or older. The Academy at Goodwill, licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education, is a trade school that provided training and certifications to 2,524 individuals in FY23 to secure new employment and advance careers. Goodwill also offers reentry services for those coming out of justice-involved situations to help train and find employment. Visit [GoodwillAR.org](https://www.GoodwillAR.org) for more information.