**Class One: Myths that Keep Adults from Going to College**

1. **Myth: “I can’t afford it.”**

Reality: Many people believe they will never be able to go to college because they don’t have the money to pay tuition and other costs. In fact, billions of dollars in grants, scholarships, and loans are available for those in need of financial aid. Find out about financial aid before you close the door to higher education.
2. **Myth: “It’s been a long time since I’ve been in school. I’m worried about how I’ll do in college.”**

Reality: Community colleges are open to all students and offer classes at a wide range of levels to meet all students’ needs. The colleges also include many services to help students be successful. Even if you had a hard time when you were in school, what’s important is who you are now and what your goals and motivations are at this point in your life.
3. **Myth: “I need to get a job and make money before I go on to college.”**

Reality: In today’s job market, more and more high-skill, high-wage jobs require a college degree. Studies have shown that college graduates earn hundreds of thousands of dollars more during their lifetime than those with only a high school diploma.

1. **Myth: “No one in my family has ever gone to college. I don’t know if I can do it.”**

Reality: Being the first in your family to pursue higher education can be confusing and difficult. You will need to select, apply to, and enroll in a college, and apply for financial aid. Goodwill has put together the Community College 101 class to help you get ready for going back to school. The class will cover all of the important information that you need to know about college and will prepare you for taking that next step.

1. **Myth: “I’m too old to go back to school.”**

Reality: It’s never too late to learn new skills. Many adults feel they won’t be able to keep up with younger students in classes. In fact, the majority of community college students are adults over 30 and are quite successful in the classroom, bringing rich life experiences that enhance discussions and provide strong motivation to learn.