

# 10TH

ANNIVERSARY

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ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2018

EFFINGHAM COUNTY **CEO**<sup>®</sup>

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CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL  
OPPORTUNITIES

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## CHAIRMAN REPORT



Dear Effingham County CEO Investors,

As the Effingham County CEO Advisory Board Chairman, I present to you the 2018 CEO Annual Report. This is a milestone year celebrating the 10th year of this unique and exciting educational program.

As I reflected on the content of my message this year I found myself thinking about the impact our CEO program will have on our future. The Effingham County community is blessed with so many kind, generous, and successful individuals who make CEO possible and allows it to continue generating impact on our youth today. Many of these individuals I'm referring to are YOU.....our investors. And to think each of you were able to create this success without the benefit of a CEO program. Now stop and think what potential the 322 students who have participated in our program over the past 10 years will have to offer 20, 30, and 40 years from now? The promising outcome will be exciting to see!

Another aspect of the creation and continued success of our CEO program extends well beyond Effingham County borders. Today 39 communities, including 168 schools, covering 4 states (Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Colorado) have active CEO programs. I think we should all take great pride in knowing the community of Effingham County, with its vision of CEO, is making an impact well beyond originally imagined. They say one person can make a difference in this world, I say so can one community!!

On behalf of our entire Effingham County Advisory Board I would like to express our most sincere gratitude for your continued support. We fully respect the many demands of your hard-earned dollars and we take seriously the commitment to provide you maximum return on your investment. I would like to close this year's address with the following: CEO brings promise for a bountiful harvest in the years to come by planting seeds of promise in the lives of our youth today.

Respectfully,  
Steven A. Witges  
Effingham County CEO Advisory Board Chairman



## FACILITATOR REFLECTIONS

### **Kristy Sayers**

One of my favorite quotes is “If I have seen a little farther, it’s by standing on the shoulders of giants- Issac Newton”. If I could add one additional line to this quote it would be “and remembering to thank them for the view”. As we mark the 10th year of CEO in Effingham County, I can’t help but consider the contribution that each participant, mentor, investor, board member and facilitator made in building the incredible view we enjoy today. Effingham CEO continues to build on the experiences of previous classes, providing additional opportunities for growth.



CEO is always evolving, changing and adapting. Change is inevitable but one thing that remains constant is the student driven approach of Effingham CEO and the tremendous support provided by Effingham County. As a facilitator, the development of each participant from August until the end of the year will always be a favorite aspect. It is a privilege to be involved with a student development opportunity that provides an excellent launch towards their future success. CEO is the best example of educational change and represents an investment in future economic development of Effingham County. Expecting Great Things!



### EFFINGHAM COUNTY CEO®

*“The facilitators and board members genuinely care about my success. The best way I could describe their role is they are there to let us wonder out on the road, but not let us get hit by a bus. To me that means they are there to let us seek out adventures into new territory, but not let us completely fall on our face. They create opportunities for the students to seize that can lead them towards success.”*

**Ashley Goeckner CEO Class of 2018**

### **Lisa Teichmiller**

It was an honor to be your CEO Facilitator this past year. Even though actively engaged in CEO as a parent, board member, and Network Developer, there is nothing as rewarding as a front row seat in the journey of a CEO student. Seeing the day to day awareness that a student discovers about their community is the catalyst of why this program excels and brings opportunity to a young person’s life. Who at 18 can share a financial statement with local bankers or be engaged with a mentor from their business community who guides them through the highs and lows of starting up their own business? CEO is the engine in making these opportunities possible.



This program allows our community to be the revolving classroom with our weekly tours and guest speakers. And our students inspire us with their challenging questions, their strong pursuit towards seeking knowledge and strong character to do the right thing when nobody’s watching. I found reading their journals each week as a window into the perspective and daily discoveries of our community. There is no doubt that we look forward to seeing where and what the Class of 2018 brings to the world. We envision greatness!



# 2018 CEO Class



**First Row:** Madison Magee, Claudia Donovan, Wittni Cotton, Lindsey Stephenson, Kaleb Whitt, Tiffany Gates, Patrick Sherrod, Jillian Allen, Cairra Leasher,

**Second Row:** Avery Elder, Kody Line, Danny Hortenstine, Ryan Sandifer, Claire Gardner, Marianna Hemmen, Brooke Stuckemeyer, Ashley Goeckner, Jessica Campos, Cade Walsh

**Third Row:** Jacob Guy, Hanna Wolff, Meg Deters, Aly Armstrong, Kourtney Cordes, Jake Brandt, Megan Hodge, Reese Buenker, Makenzie Koenig, Marci Mills, Stephen Berg, Truman Rhodes

**Fourth Row:** Alex Deters, Patrick Tkachuk, Bryce Lohman, Noah Kopplin, Blake Lohman, Nicholas Martelli, Carver McCaskill, Alex Beesley, Tyler Higgs

## New opportunities for the Class of 2018 included:

- Stronger emphasis on understanding personality and team building by spending a day at American Obstacle.
- Learning how to write introductions and providing an introduction for every business visit and speaker, which in turn added to their network.
- Developing personal business research skills by completing a feasibility study prior to Shark Tank.
- Participating in personal development by reflecting on their own participation and contribution to CEO with 30 and 90-day reviews.
- Spent time job shadowing businesses within Effingham County to help them with better career knowledge in planning their future.
- Created a business conference for their class business that promoted the entrepreneurial spirit of our community by having speakers who had roots in Effingham County.
- Developed 37 business start-ups that were shared with our community at the CEO Trade Show.



## ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY

Being an entrepreneur is a high-risk, high-reward position. It's full of stressful situations, sure, but it's also chock full of rewards and a sense of accomplishment. If a student has the willingness to take in and process all the speakers, business tours and gains confidence to network with the Effingham County business community, they will graduate the CEO Program with a better understanding of what it takes to start and run a business. Special CEO days like planning the CEO Experience, preparing financials for Banker Day and presenting the perfect pitch for Shark Tank provides the pathway to success not only at the CEO Trade Show, but builds momentum to a bright future.

### Guest Speakers

More than 100 community business leaders spoke to Effingham County CEO students on a variety of topics. Numerous discussions and presentations were explored on distribution, management strategies, finances, marketing, presentation skills, and many life lessons to walk into their adult life with confidence.



### Business Visits

CEO students visited more than 60 area businesses, where they toured facilities and interviewed owners, managers, and employees. Business visits are an eye opening experience, as students are able to explore and learn about local companies they have passed by all their lives. These business visits build a deep understanding and strong connection between our present and future business leaders.

### Banker Day, Shark Tank & Business Plans

Over a course of a year, students write two business plans they present to the bankers and investors where they have professionals critique and



provide sound advice on how to move forward with starting their business. The feedback from Banker Day then leads into presenting at Shark Tank Day where students pitch their business ideas and exhibit their products and services to gain insight to perfect their business before the Trade Show.



## ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY

### Mentorship Program

Each student is matched with a mentor from the business community. The mentors present to the class their personal career story and why they wish to be a CEO mentor. The students select their mentor by providing their top 10 choices after hearing the mentor presentations. Both mentors and proteges provide a detailed survey of their backgrounds, interests, expectations and future career goals that are referenced when making the final selections for the mentor match. It is stressed that the protege leads the mentoring relationship.



### CEO Trade Show

This is where all the culmination of what was experienced in CEO comes to reality. It is a big day for CEO young entrepreneurs who have been planning for months. The Trade Show is held at the Thelma Keller Convention Center and it spotlights the businesses created by each student in the class. This is also a great event for the area where many families bring their younger children to introduce them the CEO Program.



### Cincinnati Reds

The Cincinnati Reds are great friends of the Effingham County CEO program. This spring, Effingham County CEO continues its tradition of spending a day with the senior leadership of the Reds, job shadowing, and learning about the business of Major League Baseball. Appreciation goes out to Craig Lindvahl for his connections with the Reds.





## PERSONALITY TRAITS / TEAMWORK

Students take a personality profile assessment Professional DynaMetric Programs (PDP) to determine their dominant personality traits. Having this awareness of one's strengths and personal communication styles allows them to work better as a team with the knowledge that understanding different personality types enhances their outcomes. The class of 2018 put their PDP's in action at the American Obstacle Course on how to work through critical thinking pathways and exercises.





Mentoring is a key contributor to a student's CEO success. It is an effective networking model that establishes connections, strengthens social skills and provides a greater understanding of complex career paths.

Ultimately, these relationships strengthen our CEO Program and builds generational bridges between student's and the business community. We send out a huge thank you to all our mentors for their investment of time into their protégé's journey of starting their own business.



## 2018 MENTORS

- Rachel Anderson ..... Jansen's Dance Center
- Terri Beal ..... People's Bank & Trust of Altamont
- Skyler Bilbo..... Wente Plumbing
- Jake Buhnerkempe.....J&R Collision Centers
- Sherrie Busby .....Heartland Dental
- Don Bushue ..... Retired
- Matt Cekander .....Doehring,Winders & Co. LLP
- Roy Dent..... Dent Law Offices
- Jake Donsbach ..... Country Companies
- Dave Dorris..... Turnkey Computers Systems
- Tim Ellis .....Heartland Dental
- Dwight Erskine..... Raymond James Financial
- Karen Etter ..... Re/Max Key Advantage
- Mike Etter ..... Kwik Wall
- Julie Everett..... Smith Moore
- Jill Feldhake..... Dieterich Bank
- Debra Frailey .....Century 21 Realtor
- Ted Gardewine ..... Bray Title Services
- Ali Habing ..... Dieterich Bank
- Angie Hartke..... Prudential Insurance
- Dr. Nanci Wood-Huels .....Huels Veterinary Services
- Amanda Kemme.....Taylor Law Offices, LLC
- Brad Koester.....First State Bank of Beecher City
- Katie Koester ..... Firefly Grill, LLC
- Tara McAllaster..... Network Marketer
- Theresa McCloy ..... Personal Life Coach
- Toby McMahan ..... Probst Auto Body
- Jake Pals ..... John Boos & Company Inc.
- John Perles.....Momentum Builders
- Tom Purcell..... Retired
- Alec Ring ..... Ring Financial Inc.
- Justin Roley ..... Crossroads Bank
- Theresa Rutherford ..... HSHS St. Anthony Hospital
- Joe Schumacher..... Stevens Industries
- Jodi Siebert.....Heartland Dental
- Chris Swing ..... Vantage Outsourcing
- Brad Waldhoff..... Jack Henry and Associates
- Kelly Willenborg.....My Memory Worx
- Tracy Willenborg..... Taylor Law Offices
- Melissa Willenborg ..... Firefly Grill, LLC

THANK YOU!





The Ambassadors work as team mentors who share best practices with the class as they work on developing the CEO Experience. They also offer another great source to tap into the Effingham County's experienced business community. It is with great appreciation that we thank this team of seasoned mentors in assisting the CEO Class of 2018 in making great decisions with their class business this year.

## 2018 AMBASSADORS

Noah Brandenburger  
*Smoothie King Franchise*

Tina Brumleve  
*Designs Unlimited, Inc.*

Jean Cornell  
*Business Educator*

Mike Defend  
*Crossroads Bank*

Dave Doedtman  
*Washington Savings Bank*

Jamie Stang Ellis  
*Stang Arts*

Ron Mietzner  
*Martin's IGA Plus and Relay for Life*

Wanda Pitcher  
*Tuscan Hills Winery*

Bev Soltwedel  
*Retired*

Jeff Speer  
*Re/Max Key Advantage*

Aaron Stortzum  
*Old Mac's Drive Thru*





## OUR INVESTORS



Agracel, Inc.  
AKRA Builders, Inc.  
Al's Tire Mart and Electronics Center

B & B Homes, LLC  
Balda Dental Office  
Beck's Hybrids  
Bonutti Clinic  
Boyajian, Dr. Ruben  
Bray Title Services  
Brumleve Industries, Inc.  
Bushue Human Resources, Inc.

Center For Jaw & Facial Surgery, PC  
City of Altamont  
City of Effingham  
Country Financial/Jacob & Christina  
Donsbach  
Crossroads Bank

Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota, Inc.  
Dieterich Bank  
Dust and Son Auto Supplies  
Dusty's Outdoor Media

Edward Jones, Lynn Deters  
Effingham County  
E J Water Cooperative, Inc.  
Erskine, Dwight & Karen/Raymond  
James Financial

Farm Credit Illinois  
Firefly Grill, LLC  
First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust  
First National Bank of Waterloo  
First State Bank of Beecher City

GOSS Loudon, LLC  
Grunloh Construction, Inc.

Heartland Dental, LLC

Tom & Lana Henderson/State  
Farm Insurance  
Higgs Welding  
Hodgson Mill, Inc  
SHSH St. Anthony's Memorial  
Hospital  
Huels Veterinary Services

Illinois Power Generating Company

J&R Collision Centers, LLC  
J&J Ventures Gaming, LLC  
Jack Flash  
Jansen Cable Construction, Inc.  
Joe's Pizza & Pasta  
John Boos & Company

Kabbes, Scott & Sue  
Kemper CPA Group, LLP  
Koboldt Charitable Trust  
Koerner Distributor, Inc

Lake Land College  
Linders Ltd LLC/McDonald's  
Lindvahl, Craig & Beth

MBS Communications  
Malone Travel Center  
Martin's IGA Plus  
McDevitt, Osteen, Chojnicki, &  
Deters, LLC  
McHugh Hospitality Group, Inc.  
Mette's Cabinet Corner, Inc.  
Midland States Bancorp, Inc.  
Milano & Grunloh Engineers  
Momentum Builders Inc.

Patterson Companies, Inc  
Probst Auto Body, Inc  
Prudential Financial Services/  
Rich & Angie Hartke

Pyramid Marble & Granite

RE/MAX Key Advantage Realtors  
Respond Communications, Inc  
Roy Schmidt Honda

Samuel Family Foundation  
Sandschafer Electric  
Save-A-Lot  
Schultz Investment Company, Inc  
Servpro of Effingham  
Siemer Milling Company  
Signature HomeStyles  
Smith Moore  
Snap-on Tools  
Soltwedel, Delbert & Bev  
South Central FS  
State Farm Insurance  
Stevens Industries, Inc  
Superior Fuels, Inc.  
Sutterfield Law Offices, P.C.

Taylor Law Offices, P.C.  
Teutopolis Community For Progress  
The Equity  
The Kabbes Development Group  
Tingley Insurance Agency, Inc.  
Tuscan Hills Winery

Vantage Outsourcing  
Village of Beecher City  
Village of Dieterich  
Village of Teutopolis

Washington Savings Bank  
Weber's Clothing & Jewelry  
West & Company, LLC  
Wolters, Bob & Karen  
Wright's Furniture & Flooring

Y-Yard Auto & Truck, Inc.



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW....OUR ALUMNI

The following list supports the mission of CEO by equipping enterprising individuals and entrepreneurial thinkers who will contribute to the economic development and sustainability of Effingham County. Over the ten year of classes, the first five classes would have graduated from college. A statistic you will find promising is that 33% of our graduates currently work in Effingham County contributing to our economic growth.

2009 Courtney Koester - Premier Broadcasting & Socialite Event Planning  
2009 Dr. Joe Balda - Balda Dental  
2009 Allison Donsbach - Washington Savings Bank  
2009 Jessica Keller - Heartland Dental  
2009 Jennifer Niebrugge Brooks - BW Leadership Institute  
2009 Janae Wolf - MBS Communications  
2009 Kelsey Meyers - Beecher City Jr/Sr High School  
2009 Tyler Yocum - New Hope Communication Director

2010 Keith Sutterfield - Sutterfield Media  
2010 Michael Brummer - The Dog  
2010 Devin Walk - Walk Marketing  
2010 Dylan Meadows - DM Designs Construction Company  
2010 Vince Higgs - Higgs Welding  
2010 Russell Higgs - Higgs Welding  
2010 Brad Reedy - Koerner Distributor, Inc.  
2010 Alyssa Long - Tourism Tech at City of Effingham

2011 Christopher Schultz - Midland States Bank  
2011 Michael Nosbisch - E J Water Cooperative  
2011 Megan Zumbahlen - Siemer Milling  
2011 Riley Westendorf - Southtown Car Wash  
2011 Daniel Lechman - Heartland Dental

2012 Faith Wendte - Wendte Farms  
2012 Valerie Deters - Heartland Dental  
2012 Brock Swingler - Donnewald Distributing

2013 Patrick Martelli - Heartland Dental  
2013 Celeste Deters - J & J Ventures Gaming  
2013 Shelby Flach - Precious Blessings Children's Boutique

2014 Adam Doty - Firefly Grill  
2014 Sean Sandifer - Country Carved

2015 Riley Pruemer - Country Carved  
2015 Zack Mette - Mette's Distinctive Lighting  
2015 Devin Aherin - Aherin Seeds

2016 Braydan Bushue - Everlasting Legacy & Joe's Pizza & Pasta

2017 Kelsey Wermert - Design No. 7 Interiors

*"Being a part of CEO gave me a firsthand look at how much the Effingham Community believes in and cares about its young people's success. The opportunities I had as a member of the class helped grow my confidence and established a desire to give back to the community as well."*

Allison Donsbach Alumni 2009  
Washington Savings Bank



*"CEO class gave me the confidence to jump into the business world and that I could not fail, if I gave it all I had."*

Dylan Meadows Alumni  
2010 Owner of DM Designs  
Construction



*"The CEO Program provides young men and women the opportunity to learn valuable interpersonal and professional skills that are indispensable in life. Personally, the class increased my confidence and encouraged me to always ask questions. The spirit of the program has stayed with me; I continuously strive to improve situations, products, and projects with an entrepreneurial mindset."*

Michael Nosbisch 2011 -  
University of Illinois/ E J Water  
Cooperative, Inc.

*\*Based on our records this is the list of CEO alumni who work in Effingham County.*



## THROUGH THE YEARS



# 2017

**First Row:** Riya Shah, Maria Vonderheide, Sophia Ballard, Alex Denoyer, Camryn Heuerman, Laurell Light, Arianna Kopplin. **Second Row:** Braydan Bushue, Donovan Hammer, Kaylee, Horn, Kiersten Goodman, Alex Hardiek, Christa Schwinke, Sydney Zacha, Lauren Siemer, Hannah Walk. **Third Row:** Mary Claire Wegman, Carson Howard, Sydnie Vahling, Madeline Aherin, Kelly Rentfrow, Sidney Webster, Lauren Ozenkoski, Sidney Brumleve, Sami Will, Carson Hartke, Jacob Beckman. **Fourth Row:** Jacob Crow, Adam Lorenz, Kayla Holste, Jacob Bushue, Trey Koester, Mitchell Sager, Matt, Linders, Dustin Gurley. **Fifth Row:** Evan Kuhl, Caleb Wendt, Manuel Martinez, Christian Deters, Patrick Tegeler, Sam Childerson.



EFFINGHAM COUNTY **CEO**<sup>®</sup>

*"CEO has given me invaluable skills and experiences that I use every day in college. I plan to use what I learned while in the class during my upcoming internship, for the rest of my college career, and for the rest of my life."*

Collin Hecht 2016 - Indiana University

## 2017 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

The 2017 Annual Trade Show at the Keller Convention Center received huge support from the community. All the preparation and energy the students created for their personal business came to life as each student greeted potential customers who were interested in their products and services.



**Dustin Gurley** won the **2017 John H. Schultz Scholarship**. This was created in memory of John H. Schultz and his wife Fran, an Effingham area entrepreneur and businessman. It was presented by their son Bob Schultz to Dustin as a \$1,000 annual scholarship.

**Sidney Webster** and **Alex Denoyer** were voted on by their CEO peers as **"Entrepreneurs of the Year"**. Congratulations to Dustin, Sidney, and Alex. They each had an entrepreneurial attitude throughout their journey alongside their peers. Each week in CEO, they were asking questions, eager to meet guests who visited the class, and when given an expectation would exceed what was expected.



**First Row:** Collin Hecht, Mikayla Winters, Parker Anderson, Chipman Schmidt, Erica Higgs, Elizabeth Falconburg. **Second Row:** Blake White, Eric Wolff, Austin Johnson, Dalton Kemper, Chandler Martelli, Shelby Nunamaker, Noah Blievernicht, Reed Schafer, Kayla Kroeger, Andrew Mersman, Bryce Pruemer, Kyle Deters. **Third Row:** Travis Whitt, Anni Borries, Julie Greuel, Mindy Myers, Emma Spears, Emma Kull, Logan Deadmond, Drake Hill. **Fourth Row:** Trevor Lee, Chanel Pals, Kelsey Wermert, Bailey Weishaar, Carson Fonner, Kaylee Tonn, Kaitlin Deters, Samantha Brandenburger, Hannah Kingery. **Fifth Row:** Jared Minor, Margeaux Stuckemeyer, Grant Piggush, Lance Arnold, Matt Niebrugge.

# 2016

## EFFINGHAM COUNTY CEO<sup>®</sup>

*"I ran the American Cancer Society's event Bark for Life which occurs annually in May. The event had previously been disbanded, but I brought it back as an annual event and it continues to raise about \$5,000 a year for the ACS. The event this year is happening on May 6, 2018"*

Rachel Bierman - Alumni 2014 - University of Louisville



**First Row:** Brianna McDaniel, Rachel Schultz, Tori Sims, Caitlin Sloan, Madison Woelfer, Kristina Neu, Nardeen Kaldas, Paige Koester, Megan Schmidt. **Second Row:** Landon Oder, Justin Deters, Maria Kuhns, Sean French, Jodi Thoele, Mariah Bushue, Mallorie Vahling, Megan Nuxoll, Megan Brandt, Sam Wortman. **Third Row:** Jacob Linders, Justin Goeckner, Dunavan Goeckner, Zachery Mette, Devin Aherin, Austin Hartke, Riley Pruemer, Connor Greene, Sydney Ladendecker.

# 2015



# 2014

**First Row:** Charlotte Wentte. **Second row:** Emily Wortman, Madison Bushue. **Third Row:** Rachel Bierman, Heidi Thoele, Hailey Meyers, Kacie Hilt. **Fourth Row:** Alexandra Teasley, Luke Jansen, Luzy Niernerg, Avery Brooks, Zach Tegler, Alex Goldstein. **Fifth Row:** Kassie Stanfield, Adam Doty, Macy Wendling, Jackson Wendling, Kyle Brumleve, Aaron Goeckner, Sean Sandifer, Preston Walker, Garrett Ziegler.



## EFFINGHAM COUNTY CEO®

*"I am currently working as a contractor for Monsanto Company and also working on my family's grain farm. In the future, I hope to become a full-time employee on my family's farm and help adopt new technology, increase profitability, and expand the operation."*

Faith Wendte - Alumni 2012 - University of Illinois/Wendte Farms



# 2013

**First Row:** Morgan Breer, Celeste Deters, Shelby Flach, Abby Marten, Katie Whightsel, Paige Oltman, Emmie Schultz. **Second Row:** Molly Higgs, Shannon Dougherty, Molly Niernerg, Stephanie Robb, Tori Hardiek, Taylor Mefford, Nate Jakubowski. **Third Row:** Chris Lidy, Will Beck, Landriah Hardiek, Ryan Ruholl, Parth Maheshwari, Charlie Schultz, Patrick Martelli, Tanner Conner, Ethan Fitzwilliam.



**First Row:** Katie Lange, Amelia Winters, Courtney White, Lauren Horn, Katie Whightsel, Valerie Deters, Ashley Jamerson, Nathan McDonald. **Second Row:** Jenny Schmidt, Alex Linders, Mitch McMahon, Daniel Palkovic, Josh Wall, Tyler Goeckner, Noah Prince, Devin Wright, Taylor Fatheree. **Third Row:** Faith Wendte, Chad Goldstein, Nick Koester, Eric Schmidt, Brandon Hemmen, Scott Deters, Austin Speer.

**2012**

EFFINGHAM COUNTY **CEO**<sup>®</sup>

*"Before CEO class, running my own business was never on my mind. But CEO showed me that entrepreneurship could foster my strengths especially creativity. I've since started my own marketing business, Walk Marketing. Many of the concepts I learned in CEO continue to dominate my business philosophy and have given me much needed structure, which can be difficult as a solo entrepreneur. Plus, the connections I've made in CEO class have been invaluable. It was a no brainer starting my business in Effingham County."*

**Devin Walk Alumni 2010 Walk Marketing**



**First Row:** Mariah Story, Kelsey Hagen, Alexis Teichmiller, Michael Nobsch, Fallon Paruleski, Megan Zumbahlen, Matt Huels. **Second Row:** Aaron Wall, Taylor Goeckner, Matt Cutright, Riley Westendorf, Hunter Jurgens, Jessica Carey, Blake Grinestaff, Brock Swingler, Mariah Ludtke, Weston Penno, Kyle Clough, Willie Jansen, Austin Kopplin. **Back Row:** Travis Brockett, Daniel Lechman, John Muhondro, Christopher Schultz, Trent Gebben.

**2011**



**2010**

**First Row:** Devin Walk, Alex Bauer, Anne Wessel, Michael Brummer, Bailey Kroeger, Vince Higgs.  
**Second Row:** Alyssa Long, Megann Pagel, Anthony Artola, Keith Sutterfield, Brock Workman, Russell Higgs. **Third Row:** *Christopher Schultz*, Brad Reedy, Amanda Barr, John Schultz, Dylan Meadows, Jonathan Poff, Justin Stock.



EFFINGHAM COUNTY **CEO**<sup>®</sup>

*"CEO gave a new lens to look at my hometown through - it truly shed a new light on businesses and leaders in my community. This lens helped me understand the importance of community, support, and hard work which propelled me to step beyond my comfort zone throughout my time in college and beyond. This program truly put me ahead of my peers."*

Luke Jansen Alumni 2014 - SIU - Edwardsville



**2009**

**Front Row:** Hannah Vail, Jennifer Niebrugge, Joni Burke, Shayna Bushue, Jessica Keller, Kelsey Myers. **Second Row:** Jessica Wright, Edward Swingler, Jorda Conkling, Christian Silva, Joe Balda, Tyler Yocum, Courtney Koester. **Third Row:** Cavin Walsh, Nick Jones, Neal Deters, Joel Baker, Allison Donsbach, Kory Poland, Janae Wolf.





## HOST SITES



*"I believe that the CEO class offers much more than great tools/resources to give young adults a head start on the entrepreneurial path, but it also creates a mindset of professional and successful practices for nearly every aspect of life."*

Blake Grinestaff Alumni 2011 - SIU - Edwardsville



## CEO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Steve Witges  
Chairman  
Farm Credit Illinois



Noah Brandenburger  
Chair-Elect  
Smoothie King Franchise



Keith Sutterfield  
CEO Alumni Coordinator  
Sutterfield Media, Inc.  
Class of 2010



Dennis Deters  
Vantage  
Outsourcing



Dwight Erskine  
Raymond James  
Financial



Karen Etter  
Re/Max  
Key Advantage



Bill Fritcher  
Superintendent  
Unit 50 School  
District



Brad Koester  
First State Bank of  
Beecher City



Jennifer Patton  
Effingham High  
School  
Guidance Counselor



Tom Purcell  
Retired Sales &  
Marketing  
Executive



Jennifer Vahling  
Midland States  
Bank



# INVESTOR PLEDGE

EFFINGHAM COUNTY **CEO**

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL  
OPPORTUNITIES

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make a contribution to the Effingham County Entrepreneurship Fund.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$3,000 total—paid \$1,000 per year over a three-year period

\_\_\_\_\_ \$3,000 paid in full

(I understand I will not be contacted for a renewal during the next 3 years).

Please check here if you wish to be invoiced.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to the Effingham County Entrepreneurship Fund*

PO Box 1211- Effingham, IL 62401 Phone 217-342-4988

*The Effingham County Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization.  
Your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

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## LIFE LESSON



“Just because they don’t call you out, doesn’t mean they don’t notice”  
Although I understood it at the time, it wasn’t until working within my University’s theatre department that I fully grasped the impact; all of your actions culminate to your personal brand - the email you took a week to respond to, the meeting you were five minutes late to, the way you accept criticism - good or bad, all of those things are noticed and it’s your responsibility to make sure it’s positive. Because of my actions, I’ve been invited to join University committees, join productions last minute, and much more because I’ve established myself as someone reliable, but I know others who have missed incredible opportunities for just the opposite.”

Sidney Ladendecker 2015 - Missouri State University



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.effinghamceo.com](http://www.effinghamceo.com)

**Steve Witges**  
CEO Chairman  
Effingham County CEO  
217.259.6640

**Noah Brandenburger**  
Chair-Elect  
217.821.3441  
If interested in becoming  
an Investor

**Kristy Sayers**  
Facilitator  
217.994.1696  
aksayers1@hotmail.com

**Lisa Teichmiller**  
Facilitator  
217.254.5755  
mlisateichmiller@gmail.  
com

*Cover design by Claire Gardner, CEO Class of 2018*

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# CEO Mission Statement

The Mission of the Effingham County CEO class is to provide a comprehensive educational experience, equipping our students to become enterprising individuals and entrepreneurial thinkers who will contribute to the economic development and sustainability of Effingham County.



# CEO Vision Statement

The CEO class embodies everything that our country was built upon. The core principles of hard work, innovative thinking, and entrepreneurship are values that we experience every day through CEO.



**Celebrating 10 years of  
CEO in Effingham County.**