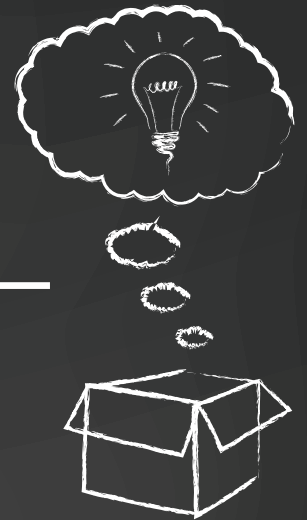


EFFINGHAM COUNTY CEO



CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES

THINK
OUTSIDE
THE BOX

The Effingham County CEO class covers the basics of conceptualizing, starting and running a *small business*.



2015

ANNUAL

REPORT



Amazing! Effingham CEO is finishing its seventh year!

In CEO, entrepreneurial thinking and starting a business may be our mission, but our goal is to help create great people. As CEO begins in August, the transformation begins. CEO students quickly change from being typical high school students from different high schools, to an interactive cohesive group. This happens as a result of a phenomenal partnership between community, education, and business leaders. Our students are taught the very first day to approach others, shake their hand firmly, and look them right in the eye. I receive comments throughout the year on these attributes from those who meet our students.

CEO stands out because of the level of involvement and commitment from our business community. When business people are actively engaged in the class, as investors, visitors, mentors, and hosts, a personal interest in the success of the students takes place. It is a powerful partnership that will pay off for decades to come. This year alone, Effingham County CEO had 10 host sites, 45 business visits, and 100+ community business leaders who spoke on a variety of entrepreneurial and general business topics.

Life lessons are an important concept in the journey of a CEO students. They help them understand themselves better. Since the lesson is learned through the consequences of their actions or reactions, they can gain insight into how they think, act and react in certain situations. Perhaps one of the biggest lessons they can ultimately learn is that while they can't control everything, they can control their response to things. My personal favorite life lesson is, "I don't care about the storm.....I just care whether or not you brought the ship in."

CEO is an economic development project. Growing our own entrepreneurs is a strategic investment in the growth of our economy. It is a long-term effort that pays off in ways that are truly transformational.

On behalf of the 28 members of the Effingham County CEO 2015, I thank you for investment.



Kent M. Probst, Effingham County CEO Facilitator

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.

2015 Effingham County CEO Class



Front Row: Brianna McDaniel, Rachel Schultz, Tori Sims, Caitlin Sloan, Madison Woelfer, Kristina Neu, Nardeen Kaldas, Paige Koester, and 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: Jake Linders, Justin Goeckner, Dunavun Goeckner, Zachary Mette, Devin Aherin, Austin Hartke, Riley Pruemer, Connor Greene, Sydney Ladendecker

CEO Network Developer

Lisa Teichmiller is passionate about the next generation of CEO entrepreneurs and is working behind the scenes developing the mentor/protégé program, initiating quality summer internships, and keeping the CEO website fresh and exciting. She enjoys bridging the Effingham County business community with the CEO class, and loves the excitement that's generated among the business owners as well as the students. Lisa is always looking for new CEO investors to partner in this inspiring educational movement; a movement that encourages an entrepreneurial spirit within our county. This truly is community economic development at its finest. If you would like to become a CEO investor, mentor or provide an internship opportunity, please contact Lisa at mlisateichmiller@gmail.com.



2015 Effingham County CEO



Devin Aherin has started **Aherin Seed**, a retailer of cover-crop, forage and turf seed. The focus of his company is cover crops: plants grown by farmers during times when a conventional crop is not feasible. Crops that cover otherwise barren land offer a wide range of benefits, starting with a reduction of minerals and nitrogen leeching into groundwater, a decrease in soil erosion, the building of organic matter, and weed suppression. The plants that provide these benefits include rye grains, radishes, oats, and clovers. Devin hopes Aherin Seed can work with farmers to make cover crops a profitable and sustainable part of their operation. "CEO has shown me numerous opportunities I never knew existed, and the best part is how many opportunities there are in Effingham County. Another wonderful part of the program is getting to meet and talk with business and community leaders every day". Devin Aherin will attend Lake Land College next year, and then will transfer to the University of Illinois to study crop agribusiness.



Megan Brandt is the owner and operator of her business, **Luminous Lights**. Megan has developed an eternal light for gravestones. This light has the same concept of a solar powered light but with a maintenance-free solution. They glow up to 12 hours after being exposed to sunlight for a day. Existing solar powered lights on the market are low quality and not permanent. Like monuments, people want quality especially when visiting a loved ones memorial sites. Luminous Lights promises to have top value and quality in the eternal flame industry. Being enrolled in CEO has helped guide Megan to confirm her passion for business and product development. In the fall Megan will attend Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to major in business and minor in marketing. She also plans to keep her summers fulfilling by going on mission trips to Costa Rica. Whatever the future holds Megan knows that God will reveal His perfect plan and be her guide through every step of her life.



Mariah Bushue is forming **Simply Rustic**, along with her partner Paige Koester. Simply Rustic is a custom pallet-art company that creates and sells wall décor made from wooden pallets. The founders want to help create a rustic environment within homes, while assisting their customer in adding his or her own personal touch with their products. Mariah and Paige are selling a variety of decorative items, from wine racks and bookshelves, to signs with your favorite bible verse, or perhaps just your name. You can contact them at simplyrustic2015@gmail.com. Mariah plans to enhance her business and entrepreneurial abilities at John A. Logan College next year, while improving on her leadership skills as she plays on the girls' golf team. In the future, she hopes to come back to Effingham and make her entrepreneurial dreams come true.



Justin Deters has many passions in his life. Sports has always been his major love, and that is how his idea for a business formed. He has opened **JD's Jerseys**, in which he will sell all types of professional sports jerseys at an affordable price. Justin says he enjoys wearing and looking at all of the items, and that's why he loves the business. Although prices can vary, he plans to sell the jerseys at around \$55 each, and he wants to keep retail prices down so high-school students can afford them. You can contact Justin by email at deters@hotmail.com or by texting to 217 663-2451. Justin has enjoyed CEO so much this year, for so many reasons. He said, "I have met so many new people from different schools and from different businesses. It is unlike any other high school class. The CEO program puts its students miles ahead of their peers with the hands-on experience they receive." Justin received the Networks full-tuition scholarship to Indiana State University next fall, and that is where he will attend college. He plans on a double major in accounting and finance.

2015 Effingham County CEO

Sean French, partnered with Sean Sandifer, has created **Sean's CEO Shop**. Currently, there are thirteen CEO classes nationwide, and there will be twenty-eight classes next year. Though CEO is only six years old, this means there are already hundreds of CEO alumni. Many of these alumni had product businesses, and those products are now sitting in basements, collecting dust and certainly making no money. That is where Sean's CEO Shop comes in. Sean has created an avenue for CEO alumni to move their products back into the market, and to potentially make a little money. He will take those unsold products and create a one-stop shop for past CEO merchandise, marketing through social media, a website, the CEO trade show, and word-of-mouth. CEO has taught Sean the importance of making connections, and understanding that mistakes and failures are what can help him to succeed. Sean plans to attend the University of Illinois in the fall of 2015, majoring in finance and/or accountancy.



Dunavun Goeckner's business is **Goeckner Custom Fabrication**. This is a welding service that repairs small household items, as well as fixing large agriculture and construction equipment. Dunavun also sells retail items, and Goeckner Custom Fabrication will produce any item needed. CEO has been a great experience for Dunavun. It has pushed him to become a better leader, more responsible, and to become more organized with his work. CEO has allowed him to grow personally, and he's learned a lot about the Effingham business community. Dunavun said: "If not for CEO, I wouldn't be the person I am today. I certainly wouldn't have pursued my passion of owning my own welding business. I thank CEO for what it has done and what it will do for me in the future." Dunavun will be attending Lake Land for two years to obtain an associate degree in pre engineering. He'll follow up with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at SIU-C. His plans after college are to start up a welding shop in the Effingham area, or to return to his family's business, Goeckner Backhoe.



Justin Goeckner is the president and CEO of **Goeckner Software Development**. The company specializes in programming applications for iOS devices. The mission of Goeckner Software Development is to provide the innovative applications and entertainment for all ages. The company's vision is to be the leading producer of mobile applications. Justin's first app is a game called Pixel Jump. In this game, the objective is to run as far as possible while trying to avoid obstacles. Pixel Jump grew from the concept of creating a simple game, challenging enough to keep players eagerly coming back. Justin plans to go to Lake Land College for two years, and then transfer to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to obtain a degree either in computer software engineering or in computer management information systems.



Connor Greene has teamed up with Jake Linders to create their business, **Robert Vaughn**. It is a company that provides classy, yet affordable, personalized belts for golfers, businessmen, and others. They believe in quality and customer satisfaction. Genuine, full-grain leather gives every wearer a stylish and professional look. On the Robert Vaughn alloy belt buckle, any design can be laser-etched into the buckle itself. Coming out of Dongguan City, China, the belts are certified to be authentic and high quality. The firm's slogan: "The only answer is Robert Vaughn." Working with some small businesses in the area has benefitted Connor and Jake tremendously in their business venture. Confidently, they assert Robert Vaughn has the potential to take over the belt industry in the world today. In the future, Connor will be attending the University of Illinois to study business.



2015 Effingham County CEO



Austin Hartke, owner and operator of **Hartke Drone Services**, is providing aerial photos like none before him. With the technology of drones and high-speed cameras, Austin will be providing aerial photos that bring a new look and innovative applications to businesses, homes, farms, fields, or events. He says the list of things he has learned this year seems endless, but what he is most thankful for are the many connections he has made with the professional business men and women in Effingham County. Austin said: “Because of CEO, I have acquired life skills that will carry me well into the future. In addition, the business connections CEO helped me establish have provided constructive feedback and additional resources to help me start and run a successful business.” After high school, Austin plans to go to Lake Land College to begin his studies to become a financial advisor.



Nardeen Kaldas owns and operates **Egyptian Handcrafts**. She sells bags, cushions and scarves handmade by women in Egypt. These women are employed by St. Mark’s Cathedral in Cairo, where they work to provide for their families. Nardeen’s bags and cushions are hand-embroidered and her scarves are hand-painted. Each and every product has a special design, so everyone has their own unique product. Nardeen plans on going to the University of Illinois, taking general education courses for the few semesters, and then to major in business. She is not certain about which branch of business she’ll eventually settle on. What Nardeen enjoys most about the CEO class is being treated like an adult, learning all about the business world.



Paige Koester and her partner, Mariah Bushue, have created a business called **Simply Rustic**. Simply Rustic offers decorative wall decor made from wooden pallets, customized to fit your style. Simply Rustic will design its products to fit your home, and they’ll even find a spot for your favorite quote or your name. Along with pallet art, they’re selling wine racks with built-in glass holders – also customizable, of course. The firm’s mission is to create a rustic environment within your home, while assisting you in adding your personal touches with their products. You can contact them at simplyrustic2015@gmail.com. In the fall, Paige is off to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville on a pre-medicine track. Her future plans are to come back to Effingham to live, practice, and start a family.



Maria Kuhns has launched her silk-flower home-decor business, **Botanical Decor**. Botanical Decor sells both traditional (in-vase) arrangements and wall-art fixtures created with silk flowers. Her custom made pieces will dress up any home, and add that floral-fresh feeling. A typical piece of household furniture lasts seven years; many much, much longer. Maria’s pieces give you a chance to frequently change up the decor of your home without breaking the bank. This fall, Maria will be attending the University of Missouri, where she’ll major in agribusiness management.

2015 Effingham County CEO

Sydney Ladendecker is the founder of a trunk-show tea business, **The Leaf**. Her company focuses on the distribution of all-natural, loose-leaf tea, infusers, personalized ceramics, and tea-based crafts. The Leaf also offers in-home tea shows for clients, providing ingredients, materials, and expertise. More information about The Leaf is available online at TheLeafTeas.com or via e-mail at TheLeafTeas@gmail.com. Through her experience in CEO, Sydney has not only grown her personal business, but has grown as an individual. Having the opportunity to interact with business leaders in the community and like-minded entrepreneurial achievers has pushed her to excel in ways she never imagined. The program has bridged numerous gaps in her life, providing the assets needed to build a promising future. Out of high school, she'll attend the University of Toledo, studying political science and sociology, and she may get pulled into the political scene after college.



Jake Linders along with his business partner Connor Greene created Robert Vaughn. Mr. Linders' company creates affordable, classy, personalized belts for those in golf clubs, businesses, fraternities and more. His focus is on quality and customer satisfaction. Robert Vaughn's full-grain, genuine leather gives every wearer a stylish and professional look. Any design can be laser-engraved onto the alloy of the belt buckle. Handcrafted in Dongguan City, China, the belts are certified to be authentic and high quality. With the slogan "The only answer is Robert Vaughn," Jake and Connor say their firm has the potential to take over the world's belt industry. CEO has taught Jake to look at things differently, realize he is surrounded by opportunities, and that he should make the most of every one of them. Jake has chosen to pursue an education at Kansas State University, where he plans to study business and expand the business of Robert Vaughn.



Brianna McDaniel's family is very important to her. For this reason, her CEO business she has decided to produce, **Imelda: Generacion de Amor**, a Mexican cookbook influenced by her grandmother's recipes. Brianna says: "I've entitled this in honor of my grandmother, whom I affectionately refer to as mi abuelita. I want to be able to share with others the passion mi abuelita has for family and food." The book will also include her grandmother's journey from Mexico, and it's her legacy of love. Brianna hopes to one day have an impact on others as her grandmother did throughout her life. She will start her own journey by attending Lakeland College for two years, then transferring to a four-year university.



Zachary Mette is a senior at Teutopolis High School. His entrepreneurial journey has led him to the lighting industry. **Mette's Distinctive Lighting** is a unique solution for the residential Effingham area where he sells hundreds of styles of fixtures for both new construction and remodels; many of which will fit any budget. In the years to come, he plans to make his business Effingham's number-one source for lighting products. Zachary can be contacted at sales@mettesdistinctivelighting.com, and his web site is www.mettesdistinctivelighting.com. Zachary wants to give back to the same community that has supported him through the CEO class. After CEO, Zachary plans to attend Kaskaskia College where he will study business, run cross country, and continue his lighting business.



2015 Effingham County CEO



Kristina Neu has recently launched her wall décor business, **Neu Kreations**. She will be creating artistic pieces by applying vinyl to various objects such as tiles and photo frames. Neu Kreations will decorate your home in a cost-efficient way! Want a Christian, or maybe a vintage spin on your home's décor? Neu Kreations can make you happy! Kristina will be attending Lake Land College in the fall, majoring in agriculture business. Following Lake Land, she'll be transferring to a four-year university to complete her degree.



Megan Nuxoll felt her love of volleyball when she created **Spike It! Volleyball Clinics**, a three-week volleyball clinic catering to primary and junior-high aged girls. Spike It! clinics were held in April at the Effingham Park District Ron Diehl Recreation Center building. Players learned the physical and mental skills necessary to become better volleyball players. Spike It! Volleyball Clinics always combine instruction, hard work... and fun—what volleyball is all about! Stay tuned for an upcoming summer clinic by checking out www.spikeitvbc.com. Spike It! also offers personal volleyball and basketball lessons for girls looking to improve their game. Megan plans to attend the University of Illinois this fall. She believes CEO has given her the confidence and professional skills needed to succeed in college and beyond, as well as opening her eyes to all that Effingham County has to offer.



Landon Oder is the president of **Shave Right, the Double-Edged Difference**, a business that provides double-edged razors, shaving cream, brushes and other accessories to men wishing for a closer, less-irritating, and longer-lasting shave. His experiences using a double-edge razor spurred his desire to help men discover their morning shave doesn't have to be a chore with poor results, but an invigorating experience! The biggest lesson the CEO Program has taught Landon is that getting out of your comfort zone is the key to bettering yourself. There are so many things to explore and learn about in life; all you have to do is put yourself out there. He will be attending the University of Missouri-Columbia this fall, and will be pursuing a major in engineering with a minor in business.



Riley Pruemer has started a business called **Just in Case Designs**. This is a mobile phone case company that is hand-selecting designs that will enhance the life of iPhone carrying customers, including school spirit cases for Dieterich, Teutopolis, Effingham, and St. Anthony fans. CEO has driven Riley to fulfill his full potential of becoming a successful entrepreneur. "Through being in CEO I have realized that Effingham County has a tremendous amount to offer for the aspiring youth growing up in our area and that the Effingham community is an outstanding place to raise a family and own a business." Riley will be attending Lake Land College in the fall for two years, then transfer to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to pursue a degree in marketing.

2015 Effingham County CEO

Megan Schmidt's business is **Halo Hair Accessories**. Halo Hair Accessories sells one of a kind, stylish headbands and hair accessories. Each headband is quality made, and no two are alike! You can contact Megan about her business or with any questions at hhaccessory@gmail.com. Megan's favorite part of CEO is meeting business leaders around the area and having those connections for the future. CEO has moved her out of her comfort zone and has taught her that is the only way to grow. It has impressed upon Megan many life lessons and skills that she can use in the future. She plans to attend the University of Missouri and study business, and then graduate with a law degree.



Rachel Schultz's business, **Maggie's Barkery**, was inspired by her miniature schnauzer companion. She'll be baking up healthy, homemade doggie treats to reward your furry best friend. Her mission is to provide healthy and tasty treats that your pouch will crave. Six year-old Maggie, and all dogs, should be gobbling Maggie's Barkery treats, with ingredients that benefit the dog *and* get as many dog tails wagging as possible. Feel free to contact her about the Barkery or with any other questions at rachelschultz2015@gmail.com. Her favorite part about CEO is getting to meet so many amazing people and creating a network with them that she can use for the rest of her life. She also loves how everyone involved with the CEO program becomes one big family. Rachel is going to attend Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida to play volleyball, and she plans to major in business and finance.



Tori Sims is the founder of **Wildly Creative**, a design-based party business. Wildly Creative provides items that will stand out against an ocean of plain and ordinary. From unusual supplies to original embellished favors, Wildly Creative gives each party host the chance to have a uniquely exciting event. You may not remember who attended, you may not remember the presents received, but it is the mission of Wildly Creative to ensure you remember the sensational atmosphere of your party! You may contact Miss Sims at wildlycreatedesigns@gmail.com. Quality service and customer communication are the keys for Wildly Creative. CEO has made it possible for Tori to hone skills and absorb lessons she can apply in her business and in her life. It has made her an entrepreneurial thinker and has truly inspired her to develop her design skills into a business. Tori plans to double major in graphic design and communication, and to one day expand **Wildly Creative**.



Caitlin Sloan founded **XTREME LIGHTED COOLERS**, a business that supplies personalized, lighted, easy-access coolers. Caitlin believes these coolers will make the lives of campers, sports enthusiasts - and anyone else who would like to see what they're grabbing out of their cooler late on a hot summer night - easier. To purchase a cooler or seek additional information, you may contact her at xtremelightedcoolers@gmail.com. Caitlin hopes her CEO experience will guide her in eventually becoming a successful, entrepreneurial business woman. She believes CEO has transformed her into a more confident, outgoing person, and it's given her such a new outlook on Effingham County; one she'd never have had without CEO. The networking skills she's gained and the opportunities she's had this past year have been incredible. Caitlin will be attending Lake Land with a major in Biology with an emphasis on Marine Biology and Environmental Science.



2015 Effingham County CEO



Jodi Thoele is the founder of **Greet Ahead**. **Greet Ahead** will custom-design and then mail its specialized, business greeting cards to customers and/or employees. Graphic design work for other marketing materials is also available. Jodi already has years of experience in design, which enables her to produce a wide variety of products that can strengthen the brand of your business. She sees value in a personal touch, but she realizes business owners usually don't have time to devote to hand-writing greeting cards. So, all her clients need to do is send her names, addresses, and dates... and she'll take care of the rest. She personally meets with each client to be certain the design(s) chosen is just right for his or her business needs. Greet ahead can be reached at greetahead@gmail.com or found online at greetahead.com. After high school, Jodi will attend Lake Land College to study graphic design. Down the road, she plans to own her own graphic design business or partner in a marketing firm.



Mallorie Vahling started **MVP Access** to give female athletes an accessory they've always needed: sport bows. MVP Access supplies handmade bows for girls that'll provide the perfect touch - whether competing, or later in the winner's circle. **MVP Access** bows are not only cute, but durable, whatever the sport. They will show off team pride, and they'll really make a statement! Mallorie has enjoyed every moment of CEO, and she's excited to see what her future holds. "I sometimes look back at what kind of person I would be today without CEO. I know I'm a new woman with all the experiences I've had through CEO. I can't wait for what tomorrow will bring." In the fall, Mallorie will be attending SIU Edwardsville to pursue a degree in finance.



Madison Woelfer, is the artistic talent and the owner of **MadiClaire Designs**. Through the CEO program and with the help of her mentor, she has realized her passion for art. MadiClaire Designs is an artistic-design company specializing in canvas guest registries. With MadiClaire Designs, you can memorialize any special event in your life with an enduring painting from that moment. These specialty guest registries are customized for events such as weddings, celebrations of life, baby showers, graduations, and many other special occasions. The backgrounds for the registries are hand painted in advance. At the event, each canvas will display a *Tree of Life*. Then, each guest will stamp a finger, place it on the tree, and sign their fingerprint to symbolize a leaf. This will make your special occasion unique as your guests get personally involved. Next fall, Madison plans to continue to grow MadiClaire Designs while attending Missouri State University.



Samuel Wortman's business is **Jack Flash Gifts Online**. Jack Flash Gifts Online is a Web-based retail shop, selling popular items from the gift department of Jack Flash. These items are targeted to customers who want to extend their shopping experience, perhaps request a certain item they had seen earlier or purchased before, or anyone simply looking for a great gift. Our goal is to create a memorable customer service by offering a shopping website that is user-friendly and convenient. We expect to grow into a one-stop shop with a full inventory of any item that is now or was located within a Jack Flash gift shop.

CEO Experience

Each year CEO students create a class business before they venture into their own personal businesses for the Trade Show in the spring. The goal for this year's CEO Experience was to build on the success of last year's event and continue to share with the community the principles that drive the CEO Program. Students from the current class and four CEO alumni classes served on a panel for conference attendees to hear first hand how this program directly affected them. CEO students handled every aspect of the conference from planning to marketing. More than 600 people attended the event. Attendees were also inspired by keynote speakers Dr. Rick Workman and Craig Lindvahl, Susan Hanfland, John Perles, Dr. Nash Naam, Steve Witges and Jennifer Vahling.



Dr. Rick Workman with Devin Aherin

"We set out with many goals for The CEO Experience including having numerous attendees, putting on a first-class event and evangelizing CEO. At the end of the day though, our main goal was to learn and to develop ourselves. I am happy to report that we succeeded in completing our objectives. I believe there is no better way to learn than to do. We performed many real world applications: marketing, sales, venue and finance. The best part to me is how 28 young and motivated individuals, came together to form a cohesive team, stepped out of their comfort zones and worked together to achieve a common goal."

- Devin Aherin, Class of 2015 CEO of The CEO Experience

"The CEO Experience was a phenomenal day. Planning the event was quite the journey. I was in charge of the finances, and the skills I learned regarding budgeting and paying attention to detail have helped me immensely in creating my personal business. The CEO Experience is so valuable because it taught our class to improve our communication, to work together as a team, and to improve our accountability. It was challenging to reinvent the previous years' CEO Experiences, but that made it all the more rewarding in the end."

- Megan Nuxoll, Class of 2015 CEO of The CEO Experience



Sponsors for the CEO Experience Conference

A special thank you from the Class of 2015
to the following companies:

- First National Bank of Dieterich
- Dan Hecht Chevrolet
- Agracel, Inc.
- Roy Schmidt Honda
- AKRA Builders, Inc.
- Patterson Technology Center
- Farm Credit Illinois
- Martins IGA Plus
- SCH Consulting
- Momentum Builders
- Wright's Furniture
- Stevens Industries, Inc.

Class Activities

Mentor Matching

This year's Mentor Program included training for mentors and their protégés. Additional steps were taken this year allowing mentors to give a bio of themselves. The protégés have had some wonderful support and guidance through this mentoring experience. A special thank you to all who participated in the mentoring program.



Banker & Business Plans

Over the course of the year, CEO students prepared two to three business plans and presented them to bankers and investors. The feedback from these experienced professionals helped the students realize the cost of starting a business.



CEO Trade Show

Students held their Trade Show at the Thelma Keller Convention Center. This annual event is the culmination of the CEO year and spotlights the businesses created by each student in the class.



Business Visits

CEO students visited more than 50 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. Business visits build a deep understanding and strong connection between our present and future business leaders.



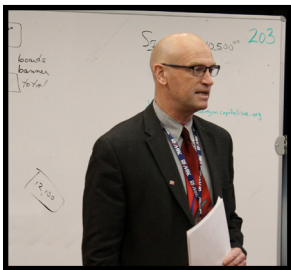
Guest Speakers

More than 100 community business leaders spoke to CEO students on a variety of entrepreneurial and general business topics, including distribution, management strategies, finances, and marketing.

Cincinnati Reds

The Cincinnati Reds are great friends of the CEO program. This spring, CEO continued the tradition of spending a day with the senior leadership of the Reds, job-shadowing and learning about the business of Major League Baseball.





Business Tours

- Agracel, Inc.
- Al's Tire Mart & Electronic Center
- ARC-CSS
- Burkland's Flower Shop
- CandleArt
- Carriage House Event Center
- Catholic Charities
- Cincinnati Reds
- Dan Hecht Chevrolet-Toyota, Inc.
- Design's Unlimited
- Effingham Equity
- Effingham Performance Center
- EJ Water Cooperative, Inc.
- Evergreen Terrace and Apts
- Farm Credit
- FastStop General Store
- Firefly Grill
- Heartland Dental
- Heartland Greenhouses
- Hodgson Mill, Inc.
- Loudon Machine, Inc.
- Mainly You Salon & Spa
- Martin's IGA
- MBS Communications
- Mette's Cabinet Corner, Inc.
- Mid-America Motorworks
- Old Mac's
- Patterson Technologies
- Probst Auto Body
- RM Restoration
- Roy Schmidt Honda
- Siemer Milling Company
- Southeastern Container Corp.
- Stang Arts
- Teutopolis Community For Progress
- The Thomas Shop
- Thelma Keller Convention Center
- Three Z Printing
- Total Grain Marketing
- Tuscan Hills Winery
- Uphill Grind
- Vantage Outsourcing
- Versatech LLC
- Vision 2020 Community Breakfast
- Wenthe Farm
- Wessel's Grocery
- Wiedman Cleaners
- Wright's Furniture and Flooring
- Y-Yard Auto & Truck, Inc.

CEO Investors

- Agracel, Inc.
- AKRA Builders, Inc
- Al's Tire Mart & Electronics Center
- B&B Homes
- B&L Machine & Design
- Bonutti Clinic
- Boyajian, Dr. Ruben
- Bray Title Services
- Bushue Human Resources
- Center for Jaw & Facial Surgery, PC
- CEO Class 2010
- CEO Class 2011
- CEO Class 2012
- CEO Class 2013
- CEO Class 2014
- City of Altamont
- City of Effingham
- Crossroads Bank
- Dan Hecht Chevrolet-Toyota, Inc.
- Dust & Sons
- Dusty's Outdoor Media
- Eagle Country Water Works
- Effingham County
- Effingham Ophthalmology Association
- EJ Water Cooperative, Inc.
- Erskine, Dwight & Karen/Raymond James Financial
- Farm Credit Services of Illinois
- Fifth Third Bank
- Firefly Grill
- First National Bank of Dieterich
- First State Bank of Beecher City
- Heartland Dental
- Henderson, Tom & Lana
- Heritage Builders of Effingham
- Higgs Welding
- Hodgson Mill, Inc.
- HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital
- Huels Veterinary Services
- J&J Ventures Gaming, LLC.
- Jansen Cable Construction, Inc.
- John Boos & Company
- Kemper CPA Group
- Koboldt Charitable Trust
- Koerner Distributor, Inc.
- Lake Land College
- Linders, LTD LLC/McDonalds
- Lindvahl, Craig & Beth
- Loudon Machine, Inc
- Martin's IGA Plus
- McDevitt, Osteen, Chojnicki & Deters
- Mette's Cabinet Corner, Inc
- Midland States Bancorp, Inc.
- Momentum Builders, Inc.
- Naam, Dr. Nash
- Patterson Companies
- Probst Auto Body
- Prudential Financial/Rich & Angie Hartke
- Pyramid Marble & Granite
- Re/Max Key Advantage Realtors
- Respond Communications/Montrose Mutual
- Roy Schmidt Honda
- Samuel Family Foundation
- Sandschafer Electric
- SCH Consulting
- Schultz Investment Co.
- ServPro at Effingham
- Siemer Milling Company
- Siemer, Austin & Fuhr
- Signature Home Styles
- Snap-on-Tools
- South Central FS
- Southeastern Container Corp.
- Stanfield Chiropractic
- Stevens Industries, Inc.
- Superior Fuels, Inc.
- Support Products, Inc
- Sutterfield Law Offices, P.C.
- Taylor Law Offices, P.C.
- Teutopolis Community for Progress
- Thelma Keller Convention Center
- Three Z Printing Company
- Tingley Insurance Agency, Inc
- Tuscan Hills Winery
- Vantage Outsourcing
- Versatech, LLC
- Village of Beecher City
- Village of Dieterich
- Village of Teutopolis
- Walk Body Shop
- Washington Savings Bank
- West & Company, LLC.
- Wolters, Bob & Karen
- Wright's Furniture
- Y-Yard Auto & Truck, Inc.

CEO Alumni Investors

The following CEO Alumni Investors have taken the opportunity to move from being a recipient to an investor in the class.

2011

Matt Huels
Christopher Schultz
Alexis Teichmiller

2012

Scott Deters
Nic Koester
Alex Linders
Austin Speer
Devin Wright

2013

Vince Higgs
Emmie Schultz

Keeping in Touch with CEO Alumni

These Effingham County CEO Alumni have returned to the area to pursue employment following their college graduations. We are thrilled that they chose to return to their roots to contribute to the success of the county. The alumni are listed with their place of employment.

Hannah Vail Pikowski

Hodgson Mill

Megan Zumbahlen

WSF Trucking, LLC

Dylan Meadows

K Wholtman Construction

Jordan Conkling

Bob's Discount Home
Improvement

Alexis Teichmiller

Owner of A T avenue

Janae Holtz

MBS Communications

Vince Higgs

Higgs Welding

Allison Donsbach

Heartland Dental

Bailey Hepner

Great Clips

Keith Sutterfield

Sutterfield Media, Inc.

Courtney Koester

Premier Broadcasting

Shayna Bushue

Heartland Dental

Many of our CEO Alumni are currently pursuing higher education and several still continue their CEO business pursuits.



2014 Open Prairie Ventures CEO Scholarship

The partners of Open Prairie Ventures, a venture capital investment firm, have created an annual scholarship for one graduate of the Effingham County CEO Program in Effingham, Illinois. The scholarship amount is \$4,000 (1,000 per year for four years).

Jeff Traub from Open Prairie Ventures presented the award to Garret Ziegler



2014 John H. Schultz Scholarship

The John H. Schultz, CEO Scholarship was created in memory of John H. Schultz, an Effingham area entrepreneur and businessman. It was created by the children of John and Fran Schultz and is a \$1,000 annual scholarship.

Audra Schultz presented the John H. Schultz Scholarship to Garret Ziegler

2014 Entrepreneur of the Year

Dick Rhodes, Chairman of the Effingham County CEO Board presented Zach Tegeler the “Entrepreneur of the Year” and was nominated by his fellow CEO students.



CEO Mentors & Ambassadors

John Perles - CEO Ambassador
Momentum Builders, Inc.

Tom Purcell - CEO Ambassador
Retired Sales & Marketing Executive

Bob Schultz - CEO Ambassador
Schultz Investment Company

Karen Wolters - CEO Ambassdor
Midland Institute

Nikki Bloemer
The First National Bank of Dieterich

Noah Brandenburger
Loudon Machine, Inc.

Theresa Bushur
Prudential Insurance

Matt Cekander
Doehring, Winders & Co. LLP, CPA's

Kaye Dent
Frisse & Brewster Law Offices

Lynn Deters
Edward Jones

Ann Deters
Vantage Outsourcing

Luke Doedtman
Hawickhorst and Associates

Jake Donsbach
Country Financial

Dwight Erskine
Raymond James Financial Services Inc.

Alli Habing
The First National Bank of Dieterich

Dr. Nanci Huels
Altamont Veterinary Clinic

Katie Koester
Thelma Keller Convention Center

Norma Lansing
Effingham County Chamber of Commerce

Deb Niebrugge-Reimers
Niebrugge-Reimers & Imburgia, LLC & Uphill Grind Cycle & Fitness, LLC

Wanda Pitcher
Tuscan Hills Winery

Mark Probst
Probst Auto Body

Ron Probst
Teutopolis Community For Progress/Wooden Shoe Development

Kelly Roepke
Y-Yard Auto & Truck, Inc.

Dean Samuel
Sherry Hill Enterprises

Rick Siemer
Siemer Milling Company

Jeff Speer
RE/MAX Key Advantage

Jamie Stang
Stang Arts

Elaine Stock
Heartland Dental

Chris Tingley
Tingley Insurance Agency

Jeff Traub
Open Prairie Ventures

Jennifer Vahling
Midland States Bank

Tracy Willenborg
Taylor Law Offices, P.C.

Ryan Witges
Agracel, Inc.





Class Hosts

The CEO class meets in a different local business each month. Meeting in an established professional business environment sets the stage for learning and encourages students to picture themselves beyond their school years. The following businesses have generously opened their doors to the CEO class this year.



CEO Advisory Board



Dick Rhodes, Chairman
Dusty's Outdoor Media/
Country Rhodes



Craig Lindvahl
Midland Institute for
Entrepreneurship



Dennis Deters
Vantage Outsourcing



Robin Elam
Altamont High School
Guidance Counselor



Dwight Erskine
Raymond James
Financial



Greg Fearday
Principal, St. Anthony
High School



Susan Hanfland
SCH Consulting



Joedy Hightower
Southeastern Illinois
Community Foundation



Norma Lansing
Effingham County
Chamber of Commerce



Bill Fritcher
Superintendent, Unit 50
School District



Audra Schultz
Community Leader



Tom Purcell
Sales and Marketing
Executive

Pledge Card - If you are interested in supporting the Effingham County CEO Class by becoming a Business Partner Investor, please use the form below. Thank you!



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.

PLEDGE CARD

For More Information:
www.effinghamceo.com

Dick Rhodes, *Chairman*
Effingham CEO Advisory Board
217.347.1012
drhodes@dustysoutdoormedia.com

Kent Probst, *Facilitator*
Effingham County CEO Class
217.343.1785
probstk@ttown.k12.il.us

Lisa Teichmiller, *Network Developer*
Mentors, Investors, & Internships
217.254.5755
mlisateichmiller@gmail.com