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# ILLINI PRAIRIE **CEO**<sup>®</sup>

## ANNUAL REPORT



# 2021-2022



## **MISSION**

CEO nurtures entrepreneurial thinkers who possess awareness of themselves and their communities.

## **VISION**

**To be learners, owners, creators, communicators and connectors.**

The CEO class embodies everything that our country was built upon.

The core principles of hard work, innovative thinking, and entrepreneurship are values that students experience every day in CEO.

# Facilitators

Dear Community Members,

The Illini Prairie CEO class will graduate another 9 students into the area this Spring! Once again, a mix of Sullivan, Tuscola, Arcola, and Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond students that have completed projects, class businesses, and their own personal businesses; will be prepared to tackle this ever changing work environment. We have worked through unique circumstances and have visited local businesses and continued to represent our schools and communities well, despite the pandemic. This group, like each class, is unique and I feel has truly grown every single day they have gotten together. The best is yet to come as they head to Senior years or their first year in furthering their education. They will represent us well.

Due to more work on our transitioning family farm, I will be stepping away from the program at the end of this school year. It has truly been an amazing opportunity for me and our family business. I have met amazing people along the way and will forever cherish these cobbled up last 3 classes of amazing students. I want to still be a support to the program and the people in it, and look forward to seeing how the program will grow. Best wishes to all and I have truly enjoyed working with the Schools and CEO Board, as they are some of the most committed members of our communities, and they fight for the future of these students on a daily basis. Thanks for another memorable year and a special thank you to the local investors, all four high schools, and the CEO Board. Keep up the great work!



Lead Facilitator, Mac Condill

# Facilitators

Community Members,

As I unbuckled my seatbelt, walked into the Community Building and waited to greet the new 2021-2022 CEO class, my mind was racing a mile a minute. Will the students like me? How could I compare to the great Mac Condill? What cool businesses can we tour? Did I even remember to pack a pen? Weighing more heavily on my thoughts, I questioned how I could make an impact. Determined to start our first day with a lively discussion I posed this simple, yet defining quote to the students: "For the man who asks a question is a fool for a minute. The man who does not ask is a fool for life."

A recent graduate from Eastern Illinois University I earned my Master's Degree in Public Administration/Public Policy in May, 2021. Much of my research focused exclusively on sustainable urban systems and development. I understood the importance of programs such as Illini Prairie CEO and their impact on rural communities. When I stepped into my new role as Co-Facilitator that humid first day in August I did so with a purpose. I wanted to encourage an environment of curiosity.

To those unfamiliar with Illini Prairie CEO, this high school program lends opportunity to students interested about entrepreneurship by way of touring area businesses and hearing tell-all stories from community leaders. In fact, it was these very features that made me fall in love with the program. Understandably, I wanted students to take the most from those newfound experiences. I wanted them to master the art of "asking the right questions."

I'll be honest. Getting to the right questions has not always been easy. In fact, it is a stark contrast from the traditional classroom where students instead seek only "the answers." However, asking the right questions has forced each and every one of us to become better listeners, notetakers, communicators and critical thinkers. And it is these simple, but invaluable life skills that lie at the core of CEO.

With each passing week, I have stood back and watched as their questions become more polished and refined. In doing so, they have learned important business concepts, formed valuable relationships and grown as individuals. I love watching their light-bulb moments and sudden interest in their small towns now full of opportunity. May they never lose that sense of curiosity and continue to ask the "right questions" long after CEO. May we each strive to be a little more like a CEO student ; )



**Co-Facilitator Hannah K. Myers**

With that said, I must give a tremendous thank you to all of the Business Owners, Board Members, Investors, and Mentors - Illini Prairie CEO is fortunate to have such enthusiastic communities supporting this program. I thank you all for letting me be a part of it.

I cannot forget to thank Mac Condill for being such a fantastic co-worker and mentor during my first year as Co-Facilitator. Your advice of attacking and simplifying problems, then "putting them in the rear-view mirror" certainly helped calm me during my many moments of self-doubt. I am forever grateful for the wisdom you shared and look forward to entering 2022-2023 as Lead Facilitator with your unwavering support.

# BOARD MEMBERS



**Megan Parsons**

Libman's: Vice President  
Human Relations  
Board Chair



**Bill Wagoner**

City of Arcola:  
City Administrator  
Board Secretary



**Justin Bozarth**

Tuscola High School:  
Guidance Counselor  
Board Member



**Stan Harris**

Harris Companies  
Board Member



**Ashley Lewis**

First Bank: Vice  
President/Cashier  
Board Member



**Mike Lindenmeyer**

Lindenmeyer  
Insurance  
Board Member



**Holly Olsen**

Specialty Stitchery  
Owner  
Board Member



**Tom Mulligan**

Arcola School District:  
Superintendent  
Board Member



**Steffanie Seegmiller**

ALAH High School:  
Principal  
Board Member



**Brian Moody**

Tuscola Chamber &  
Economic  
Development  
Board Officer Role



**Laurie Minor**

Sullivan Chamber of  
Commerce and  
Economic  
Development  
Executive Director




**Ted Walk**

Sullivan High School  
Superintendent  
Board Member

Not Pictured:  
**Rob Koscic and  
Kyle Thompson**

# INVESTORS

Our Program Investors provide support to our community driven program. An annual investment of \$1,000 provides the necessary resources for current-year facilitator salary and operating expenses, and ensures the sustainability of the Illini Prairie CEO class for future students. Investors also contribute their time to the program. Hosting host business visits, provide guest speakers and serve as mentors. All crucial to the success of our program. 


- Ace Hardware Sullivan
- Arcola First Bank
- Arcola Foundation
- Arcola School District
- Arthur Community Bank
- Sarah Bush Lincoln
- Boyer Sappenfield Investment Advisors
- Bruder Tank
- Carriage Crossing
- CF&H Insurance
- CHI Overhead Doors
- Crist Termite
- Curry Construction
- Dedicated Realty
- Edward Jones
- First Community Bank Sullivan
- First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust
- First National Bank of Nokomis (Arthur Branch)
- Flesor's Candy Kitchen
- Friends of Sullivan Athletics & Academics
- Harris Companies
- First Mid Bank & Trust  
(Arcola, Sullivan & Tuscola branches)

- Herff Jones
- Hilligoss Schrader Funeral Home
- Lindenmeyer Insurance
- Marvin Keller Trucking
- Metro Communications
- Monahan Partners
- Nate & Megan Parsons
- Patient Equipment
- Quality Network Solutions
- Sarah Bush Lincoln
- SavMor Pharmacy
- Sullivan Chamber & Economic Development
- Sullivan School District
- The Great Pumpkin Patch & The Homestead Bakery
- The Libman Company
- Tri-County Welding
- Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond School District
- Tuscola Chamber & Economic Development
- Tuscola First Bank
- Tuscola National Bank
- Tuscola Rotary Club
- Tuscola School District
- Yoder's Kitchen
- Chittick Eye Care



THANK  
YOU

## Friends or In-kind Supporters:

  
American Family Insurance - Lori Shasteen  
Coach House Garages  
John Davis State Farm Agent  
Kosic and Stout PC



## Thomas Brown

My name is Thomas Brown. I currently attend Tuscola High School and am part of the basketball team. I enjoy being involved in the community and joined CEO because I wanted to learn more about area businesses.



## Brady Urban

Hello, my name is Brady Urban, and I am a junior at Tuscola High School. I run Cross Country, and am also active in many clubs such as Key Club, Student Council and Drama Club. In my free time, I enjoy running my business called Urban Benefits, which I started through CEO. I joined CEO because I wanted to be a step ahead of my peers. I have really enjoyed this CEO class.



## Dakota Freese

Hi! My name is Dakota Freese and I'm a senior from Sullivan High School. I work on multiple farms, the main one being a horse farm, M&M Farms in Sullivan. I've been there for 2 years and been a shift leader for over a year. I do a lot of the maintenance, mechanical, and mowing. I plan to be a welder and continue my military career. I'm a Horizontal Construction Engineer, so I hope to build bridges, make roads, and a lot more.



## Makenzie Herschberger

Hi! my name is Makenzie and I am a Junior at Tuscola High School. I run cross country as well as cheer for both football and basketball season. I'm also a part of many clubs like SADD, key club, drama club, and Junoiresses. I love to stay involved with the community and CEO has been a huge part of that.



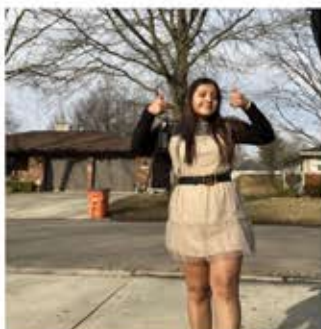
## Alex Kuhns

Hi, my name is Alex Kuhns, and I'm a senior at Arcola High School. I have played basketball and golf for all 4 years of high school. I worked at Yoder's Kitchen for two and a half years, and now I work at Monical's Pizza and Kuhns Equipment. After graduation, I plan to attend Eastern Illinois University to study Finance and Business.



## Tyson Macaulay

Hello! my name is Tyson Macaulay and I am currently a Junior at the Tuscola Highschool. I enjoy being on the football team and being outdoors. The CEO program has helped me in many different aspects of life and has made me a better and more professional person overall.



## Kelly Toto

Hi! My name is Kelly Toto and I'm a senior at Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond High School. I work at La Cascada Mexican Grill. I joined CEO because I wanted to learn more about local businesses and the communities around me. After graduation I plan to attend Parkland College and major in Business with a minor in Fashion Merchandising.



## Zack Ozier

Hi, my name is Zack Ozier and I am a senior from Sullivan High School. I am currently the secretary of the Spanish Club and the vice president of the Sullivan Singers. I joined CEO to learn more about my community and to learn about what it takes to run a business. I am planning on attending Illinois State University in the fall and major in Marketing.



## Kenzie Fornshell

Hi, my name is Kenzie Fornshell and I am a senior at Tuscola High School. I am a part of NHS and SADD. I joined CEO to broaden my knowledge in business. I've always been interested in business and I am hoping to pursue it in the future.





## Business Visits

An important piece of the CEO experience is visiting local businesses. People often drive by these locations without recognizing their contribution to the economic development of our area. Business visits connect CEO students directly to their community by showing them the businesses that exist in the area and cultivating relationships between them and the community members who own those businesses. After touring these locations, Illini Prairie CEO students walk away with a changed mindset, a better understanding of local economies and a supportive professional network from which to build upon.

### 2021-2022 Business Tours

- Whitney Heredia Photography**
- Trust Bank**
- The Great Pumpkin Patch**
- Vintage Karma**
- The Vault**
- Douglas County Museum**
- Ford of Tuscola**
- Sweet Soul Boutique**
- Save-Mor Pharmacy**
- Monahan Partners**
- Broomtown Cafe**
- Coach House Garages**
- Shady Crest Market**
- Das Holz Haus**
- Building 1225**
- Metro Communication**
- Hydro-Gear**
- Mid-State Tank**
- Best Western**
- Roslens**
- Woodshed Health and Fitness**
- La Cascada**
- Pinnacle Point**
- Masterbrand**
- Simply Amish**
- Shimmer and Sheek Boutique**
- Gingerich Tree Farm**
- A Bloom Above and Beyond**
- Libman's**
- Flesor's Candy Kitchen**
- Joe's Pizza**
- Agri-Fab**







## Guest Speakers

Illini Prairie CEO students have a unique experience with guest speakers serving as instructors for the program. Community Leaders present their life stories, entrepreneurial journeys and share lessons on a variety of business topics.



### 2021-2022 Guest Speakers

**Joshua Taylor-Johnson**  
**Jeff Young (Do. Co Farm Bureau)**  
**Wil Eades**

**Tuscola Mayor Daniel Kleiss**  
**Rob Kosic**

**David Porter**  
**Bill Wagoner**

**Justin Older (Henderson Engineers)**  
**Jack Martin**

**Roger Kauffman**  
**Sullivan Mayor Glazebrook**  
**Arcola Mayor Jesus Garza**

**Dr. Kyle Thompson**  
**Molly Rowling**

**Pastor Bob Silvanik**  
**Jorge Macias**

**Wilmer Otto**

**Prof. Brian Mann (EIU)**

**Colton Anderson (Relentless Fitness)**

**Dan Hodge (Crist Termite)**

**Shelly Kauffman (Shelley's Salsa)**





## ILLINI PRAIRIE CEO<sup>®</sup> Golf Outing

Before students focus on their individual enterprises, they must first work together on a class business. Working together throughout class business creation means students learn what it is like to manage personalities, delegate responsibilities, problem-solve and organize logistics to make their business both possible and profitable! With over 27 sponsors and 40 players, the Illini Prairie CEO class was able to earn over \$3500.00! This money is then divided amongst students for their individual business loans.





**We we're extremely thankful for all the businesses  
who sponsored our Class Business!**



State Farm  
Simply Amish  
Cabot  
Monical's Pizza of Tuscola  
Rally Point  
A Bloom Above and Beyond  
Lighthouse insurance  
Petals and Plants  
Justin Gensler Mortgage  
TNB Bank  
Sweet Soul Boutique  
Shimmer & Sheek Boutique  
Yoder's Kitchen  
Arcola Chamber of Commerce  
The Vault  
Vintage Karma  
IGA  
Edward's Funeral Home  
Kelsey's Furniture  
Slow Spark BBQ  
Do It Best  
Arcola Record Herald  
Tuscola Review  
Broomtown Cafe  
Omni Prosthetics and Orthotics  
Patterson and Parsons Dentistry  
Douglas County Museum  
American Family Insurance  
Flesor's Candy Kitchen  
Downtown Design  
Arcola Flower Shop  
Jackson Hewitt Tax Service  
Sav Mor Pharmacy



# MENTORS

A Mentor is a business owner, entrepreneur, or intrapreneur from the CEO business community. A mentor is someone willing to share their time and expertise with a CEO student. The Illini Prairie CEO program is fortunate to have a diverse and enthusiastic pool of Mentors eager to help guide our young entrepreneurs. Ultimately, these relationships strengthen the CEO program's success and builds generational bridges between the student and the business community.



Cassie Yoder

**Green Mill Village/ Cass Concepts**

Marketing Development Director

Suzi Berkich

**The Great Pumpkin Patch**

Director of Business Operations

Kevin Monahan

**Monahan Partners**

President

Kristen Thompson

**Kristen & Co.**

Owner

Lloyd Murphy

**Trust Bank**

President and CEO



Cindi Reed

**Dicks Pharmacy**

Owner/Pharmacist

Rick Otto

**Coach House Garages**

President

John Davis

**State Farm**

Insurance Agent

Tim Mooney

**Arcola First Bank**

Vice President



Please contact us, if you are interested in being a CEO mentor for 2022-2023! You will be provided mentor training and be required to have a background check to enroll in the program. Successful mentoring partnerships are advantageous for everyone – the student, the mentor and the CEO program!



## *Urban Benefits*

Urban Benefits is a self-care product that contains charcoal infusions. These charcoal benefiting products contain all-natural ingredients such as shea butter, coconut oil, essential oils in the soap, Castile oil and coconut oil in the shampoo, and baking soda in the toothpaste powder. I sell the soaps, 2 sizes of shampoo, and teeth whitening toothpaste powder. The soap detoxifies and exfoliates your skin, leaving it brightened unclogged pores, and smoothed imperfections. The shampoo deep cleans and exfoliates the scalp of any harmful product build-up and leaves your hair shiny. For the toothpaste powder, wet a toothbrush and dip it into the jar allowing it to stick. Then brush for 30 seconds and rinse. This removes up to many years of stains. Follow me on Facebook @UrbanBenefits and Instagram @Urban\_Benefits; If interested contact me and purchase your benefiting product today!



## *Kuhns Employment*



Kuhns Employment is hosting a job fair at Arcola High School on May 18 from 8:30-10:30 AM. All juniors and seniors at Arcola High School will be in attendance as well as possibly other students from neighboring schools. 25% of the profit will go toward a scholarship for a randomly selected student attending the event. We expect to have a good turnout and hope many students can find new opportunities!

## *Tyson's Lawn Care Service*



Tyson's lawn care service is a reliable and fast way to get your yard in tip-top shape. Easy contacting and a great price for the work that goes into your yard. even better you get to pick what you want, it's your preference on what you want. My mission is to provide great customer service and create a service that is affordable for all.

## *Kelly's Kosmetics*

Kelly's Kosmetics is an all-natural lip care product. Containing Shea butter, Coconut oil, Jojoba oil, and other many other nutrients will support the Skin lip. Will help your lips hydrate and leave them soft all day long. Having all-day protection and is also available in different flavors and colors.





## *Thomas Brown Presents: The Basketball Basics*



Thomas Brown's: Basketball Basics Camps' goal is to better the campers as players and people. I want the campers to learn every part of the game. I make sure that everything from shooting to teamwork. Everything about this game can change a person's life. You can contact me for more information @33thomasbrown on Instagram and Thomas Brown on Facebook.

## *Kenzie's Authentic Aromas*



Kenzie's Authentic Aromas is a natural, clean, and fresh soy candle business. These candles are made with natural essential oils and soy wax, which is one of the cleanest candles waxes ever made. There are six original scents which include lemon, rose, sweet pea, lavender, ocean waves, and cinnamon. There are new scents being created during special holidays and seasons. Currently, these candles are sold on Facebook and Instagram @ Kenzie's Authentic Aromas, but I am planning on taking this company to a bigger source like Etsy in the near future. Mentored by Cindi Reed.



## *DSF Hauling*



DSF Hauling is a versatile, reliable, professional hauling service to fit anyone's needs. We pride ourselves on our ability to haul almost anything. From pallet loads, livestock, vehicles, and more. My mission is to be able to be called to a sale barn to help haul some cattle for an older farmer, and have the best customer service and service for all.

Dakota Freese



## *Glotion: Candles by Kenzie*

Glotion: Candles by Kenzie produces an all-natural lotion candle that includes shea butter, cocoa butter, jojoba oil, vitamin E, beeswax, and essential oils which are great components in keeping your skin moisturized. Just scoop a small amount of melted wax onto your hands and rub it in so you can enjoy the amazing aroma while having moisturized hands. I am a part of the Arthur 3rd Saturday Bazaar and have already participated in one show. Follow me on Facebook @Glotion: Candles by Kenzie and Instagram @glotioncandles for more information or to order your lotion candle today!



## **2018 Class**

Jaycee Brown  
Janettee Comstock  
Paige Davis  
Samuel Dickinson  
Verania Garza  
Madyson Hepner  
Madysen Melton  
Holly Olson  
Zachary Pankau  
Kolby Rickman  
Mylilani Samples  
Ethan Stumeier

## **2019 Class**

Seth Gregory  
Gabriel Hallford  
Makenzi Kauffman  
Sara Kremitzki  
Grant McPherson  
Samantha Stevens



## **2020 Class**

Jaiden Carnahan  
Mariana Corona  
Lauren Farley  
Lyssa Madlem  
Jack Martin  
William Nall  
Jake Reed  
Patricia Rodriguez  
Victoria Helmuth  
Carli Stone  
Jakob Sullivan  
Max Wyninger

## **2021 Class**

Dillan Alcorn  
Aiden Beachy  
Preston Brown  
Ilusha Budd  
Kendra De La Garza  
Jake Dyer  
Coen Foster  
Allison Gordon  
Alexa Hauser  
Graciela Leal  
Jorge Macias  
Krish Patel  
Carlie Seip  
Mackenzie Wright



## **Jack Martin: Class of 2020** **J. Martin Pressure Washing**

“CEO gave me an inside perspective into the business world that is impossible in any traditional classroom. It was the the gateway for me between a business idea and an execution.”



**BEFORE** **AFTER**



**CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE TODAY**

Cell: **217-961-4828**  J. Martin Pressure Washing

Email: [jmartinpressurewashing@gmail.com](mailto:jmartinpressurewashing@gmail.com)





# ILLINI PRAIRIE



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for more information

