

2020 - 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



The mission of the 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 our community.

Dear Friends,

The Illini Prairie CEO's first year under a new name, and first year with Sullivan students, has been one to remember. What can I say about this year? I can say how proud I am of our 13 students and their resilience and commitment. I can say how they have endured these interesting times, the worldwide pandemic, with hard work and relying on each other. I can say that they, like many others, have learned to pivot and reinvent themselves and this CEO experience. I want to thank my co-facilitator, Christi Mulligan, for all that she did with this class early on in the school year. I want to say how excited I am to start working with our new co-facilitator, Hannah Meyers, as we move forward. The Illini Prairie CEO students have been so authentic and genuine and I want to thank them for a tremendous year. I can only imagine how these circumstances will help them in the future and know that they will be successful business men and women in the near future. Thanks for a memorable year and all the support from local investors, all four high schools, and the CEO Board. Looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year!



Mac Condill

Illini Prairie CEO Facilitator

Dear Friends,

I am the Director of Learning and Development at UIUC's School of Social Work. I report to the Statewide Director for Workforce Development. His full team is responsible for a \$50M partnership between UIUC and the Office of Learning and Professional Development at Illinois DCFS. My team performs 4 major services for our client (DCFS). We design and create all trainings for the following: social workers serving children and families across the state, all foster parents, all potential and current adoptive parents through foster care, youth in care, and for any staff beyond case workers (this is instructor led trainings and self-directed eLearning). We test and monitor all licensure for Foster Parents, Social Workers, Counselors, Therapists and Psychologists in the state, maintain and manage the technology associated with all training and development (Learning Management System and IL Certificate and Licensure system), and provide data governance for all training-related programming for the state.

Generally speaking, I think the CEO course is an amazing opportunity for any learner, let alone someone in high school. I think it provides a real glimpse into the world that awaits them after high school and provides insight into the real world like no other class I've ever encountered. Working all over the Midwest in schools during the past two decades has allowed me to see a wide array of programming that is offered to Pre-K through high school students and hands-down, this course is easily one of the top three programs I've ever encountered. What's even more amazing is that my opinion regarding this course is based upon a year in which nearly a full quarter was done remotely. In a non-Covid year, there's no question it would be either my number one or tied for that spot. As for this year's group of students, I truly could not speak more highly. While I don't have any other "groups" to compare them to, I do know they'd have to rank highly. Their ability to persevere through a year of hardships while still building a stellar class business is unmatched!



Christi Mulligan

Illini Prairie CEO Co - Facilitator

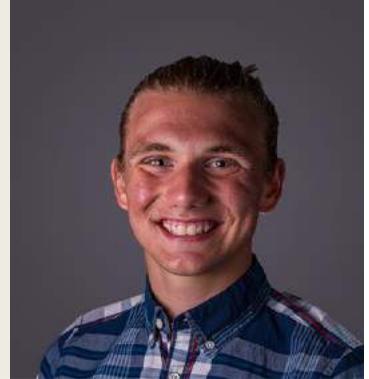


Alexa - Rings By Alexa

Hi! My name is Alexa Hauser and I am a senior from Sullivan High School! I joined CEO to help me get a better understanding of the business world and to make more connections around my community. After high school, I am going to Saint Louis University to major in International Business and minor in Marketing. For my individual business, I am making homemade rings with real and authentic crystals and pearls! My business is called Rings by Alexa. Illini Prairie CEO has opened my eyes to what business truly is. It gives you experiences that high school classes could never give you. I love seeing my team everyday and making memories that I will never forget!

Aiden - Beachy's Detailing

Hi, my name is Aiden Beachy and my personal business is Beachy's Car Detailing. I'll be detailing the interior and exterior of my client's car. I plan to go to Manchester University in Northern Manchester Indiana. I plan to study Environmental Studies and also play soccer and maybe kick the football. The CEO program has helped me with multiple things through life. I learned to be more confident with my communication skills. I have also learned about a handful of small locally owned businesses in our area that are working to help with our environment. I definitely recommend joining the CEO program to get a real eye opener with starting the big part of life.



Allison - Make it yours Decor

Hello! My name is Allison Gordon, after high school I plan to go to college to study art/music. I am proud to say that I own the business Make It Yours Décor. It is a custom home decor, where I am designing and painting home decor. The products will be mainly wood signs for both inside and outside. The quote "Make It Yours", in the logo is to let the customer know that the design is custom for only them. This is what I like about artwork, bringing expression to inanimate objects. I want this business to expand, but that will be in the future. This class has taught me more about life and everything than any other class. I have grown so much in this class, without it I wouldn't know how crazy life is. CEO is a class where you learn about life lessons and about the business world, it's a class that you should definitely consider taking. You won't regret your decision at all!

Carlie - Bliss Body Scrub

Hello, I am Carlie Seip and I am a junior at Tuscola high school. After high school I am hoping to pursue elementary education at the University of South Carolina. My individual business is called Bliss Body Organics. We do organic body scrubs and bath bombs. I started in October with a clothing line for babies, but due to COVID-19 I had to unfortunately shut it down. Moving forward I hope to continue making bath products as a side hustle. CEO is a great opportunity to get out of your comfort zone and a great way to meet new people. CEO has taught me that anyone can be an entrepreneur as long as you are passionate about it and ready for the heavy obstacles!



Coen - Destroyed N' Desperate

Hello, my name is Coen Foster, and I am the owner of Destroyed N' Desperate, a phone screen repair business. I started this business because I wanted to use my skills to solve a problem everyone, or almost everyone, is susceptible to. This is a skill that I have learned in the past and I was wanting to take it to the next level. I know throughout the years I have seen several people with broken phone screens and the market is here to stay at least for a long while. Without the Illini Prairie CEO program, I would've never thought to bring this business to light.



**“If your dreams don’t scare you they’re not big enough”
- Melissa Krieger**

“People tend to measure success by the number in their bank account and the amount of people under them... but the truth is when I had all of that, I was the most unhappy I had ever been. My true success has been found in doing what I love doing the most, and I have never been more fulfilled.” - Jay Martin





Dillan - Personal Assistant

Hello my name is Dillan Alcorn and I am a Senior at Tuscola High School. For my individual business I am becoming a personal shopper for people. The name of my business is Personal Assistant. I will go and buy groceries for those who can't go out and get their groceries themselves or need help getting them. After I graduate I am going to Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama to study Non - Profit / Business. This class has taught me so much that I have taken away and used in my life. From learning all the businesses in the area that I might have not known about to meeting people I probably would have never talked to in the first place. In this class we learn new life lessons and things to prepare us for the future. I highly recommend signing up for this class.

Graciela - Sugar Shack

Hello my name is Graciela Leal and I'm the proud owner of Sugar Shack. It's a dessert shop based on trendy dessert treats. The menu ranges from decorative chocolate covered strawberries to cupcakes. The customer can customize every order to their liking. CEO has taught me a lot of the business world. We have gotten insight in small and big businesses that we weren't aware of. The class does a very good job treating us like adults and holding us accountable for our individual class duties. In addition, this class helps with public speaking and just being all-around professional.



Illusha - 180 Recycling

My name is Illusha Budd and I am a senior at the Arcola High School. As I reflect back on what I have learned from this program, I can't help but focus on networking, and the importance of building relationships throughout life. The business that I started is a recycling service called 180 Recycling. I heard multiple people complain about not having a recycling service in Arcola, so I decided to do something about that. This gave me the opportunity to fill a niche in the community that would be environmentally beneficial, as well as something I can be passionate about. To create a self-sustaining and functional service, I flipped the standard ideas of recycling; hence the name 180 Recycling. I will be bringing this idea with me to college next year at the University of Evansville where I will study cognitive science, and will be working alongside the change maker association to complete this idea in Southern Indiana.

Jake - Dyer's Desserts

Hi! My name is Jake Dyer. I have a passion for music and all creative arts. I plan on going to Parkland and then transferring to a 4 year university. My business is a bakery called Dyer's Desserts. I will be baking gourmet brownies. Being in CEO has been incredibly helpful for me, as I have learned how to organize myself and manage my time. One of the best lessons I've learned is the importance of feedback from peers. Most people want to help and will give you honest and useful feedback. Another great advantage of CEO is meeting interesting and useful business people. My favorite business visit was going to Bruder Tank and learning about how the business launched.



Jorge - Graduated Early

Hello, my name is Jorge Macias I am an early graduate of Arcola High School; as well as this CEO program. Throughout my CEO journey, I got to meet a lot of valued individuals and small corporations that really gave everyone a glimpse on how they established and grow their business. For that, I am very thankful because this CEO program is full of beneficial leaders who are your local residents looking to grow with their students. My personal message is If you believe and stay firmly driven to your goals, anything is possible. I'm an 18 year old expecting my first child in one month, and I have been working from 5am - 5pm ever since I graduated. I now have over \$25,000 saved up and still prospering. I'm fully dedicated to growing my knowledge in the liquid financial market; which I'm in a digital learning class for, as well as real-estate wholesaling. In conclusion, I still plan on establishing my own sole proprietorship; which is gutter cleaning/power washing. In life, you're the only person you will ever have to compete against. Stay driven, and always invest in your own craft.

**“The only impossible journey is the one you never begin.”
- Tony Robbins**



**“Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.”
– Henry David Thoreau**



Kendra - Merkai

My name is Kendra De La Garza and I'm a senior at Arcola High School. I joined CEO to learn more about businesses in close communities, and see the different opportunities that are offered. Meraki is my individual business where I make personalized phone cases. The customers could choose what to be on the case, whether it be a picture or a certain design. While being in the CEO program, I've learned how to step out of my comfort zone and how to talk to a larger group of people. I've learned that success isn't all about money, it's if you're happy with what you're doing. It should feel like something fun, rather than it be an actual job. CEO has also taught me to use your connections, and realize that you can do anything if you have the right mindset. After high school, I plan to get a major in business administration, and my ultimate goal is to get a M.B.A. One day I hope to have my own successful business.

Krish - Finest Home Goods

My name is Krish Patel and I am a junior at Tuscola High School. I joined this class because I wanted to start my own business and this class can really help with that. After high school I'm thinking about joining the army and then coming back and going to college for coding or computer engineering. My personal business is a dropshipping business. I make my website with different products. I chose to do homegoods and I am planning on investing most of my money back into the website that I earned from. Someone that I really bonded with was Christi Mulligan, our Ex facilitator who is my mentor now. She was the reason why I would be so excited to go to CEO every single day. Something that I learned from the CEO was that anyone can be an Entrepreneur.



Mackenzie - Moonlit Sky Candles

Hi my name is Mackenzie Wright and I am a junior at ALAH (Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond) High School. After high school I want to go to Lakeland Community College then transfer to Eastern Illinois University for a degree in music education. My business is called Moonlit Sky Candles. I make organic soy wax candles and wax melts. This class led me to some great accomplishments. I have come out to be more of myself when starting this class. I learned writing and speaking skills that other classes don't teach and made lots of new friends. This class gets you out of your comfort zone to prep you for a college path. You don't exactly have to go to a college path when taking this class, it just gives you more college opportunities.

Preston - PB's Lawn Care Service

My name is Preston Brown, I am a Junior at Tuscola High School. I joined CEO to make more connections and to be more of a leader. This class has helped with both very much, I have made connections with many entrepreneurs that I could look to later on in my life for help. I have changed in many ways because of this class just by being more open and outgoing and this class has helped with that. This class has taught me so much about business and it makes it easier to start my own business which is going to be a Lawn Care Service. I'm very glad I took this class, I would definitely recommend it to anyone considering taking it.



Class Business



Each year the CEO students hold a class business. This class business is to raise money to fund the start of their personal businesses. This year, the class decided to sell masks. Due to the pandemic we knew that we couldn't hold an event and we knew people needed masks. We sold them around Christmas time so that they could be used as gifts or stocking stuffers.

Yearly Overview

Mentor Matching

Each Year the CEO students get paired up with a mentor. This mentor is there to help the CEO student along his/her business through the class. A special Thank You to all who have participated in the mentoring program.

Business Plans

Over the course of the class, CEO students have to compose business plans to present to bankers on a day we like to call "Banker Day". This year's class got to have two banker days to be able work on their communication skills to bankers. The feedback on these days help the student learn more about what they need to think about in their business and if they need to change anything before launching.

CEO Trade Show

Every year the students/new business owners hold an Annual Trade Show presenting their businesses to the public. Through this the students get real life encounters with people interested in their business and have an opportunity to get new customers.

Business Visits & Guest Speakers

The CEO students go on business visits to learn more about the small town community business and learn how things run. They typically visit more than 50 business per class. However, due to Covid, they were not able to do that. Instead, they had a lot more Guest Speakers from local businesses. Whether it be in person or virtually, the CEO students had the opportunity to talk to more than 50 Guest Speakers this year.



ILLINI PRAIRIE **CEO**[®] **TRADE SHOW**

May 12th ~ 5-7 PM
Arcola H.S. Gym



THANK YOU, to our CEO Investors!

- ACE Hardware, Sullivan
- Arcola First Bank
- Arcola Foundation
- Arcola School District
- Arthur First Bank
- ALAH School District
- Boyer Sappenfield Investment Advisors
- Bruder Tank
- CF&H Insurance
- Citizen's Abstract
- Crist Termite
- Curry Construction
- Dedicated Realty
- Edward Jones (Arthur & Tuscola)
- First Community Bank (Sullivan)
- First Mid Bank & Trust (Arcola, Arthur & Sullivan)
- First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust
- First National Bank of Nokomis (Arthur)
- Friends of Sullivan Athletics & Academics
- Harris Companies
- Herff Jones
- Hilligoss Schrader Funeral Home
- Lindenmeyer Insurance
- Marvin Keller Trucking
- Metro Communications
- Monahan Partners
- Nate & Megan Parsons
- Patient Equipment
- Quality Network Solutions
- SavMor Pharmacy
- Sullivan Chamber & Economic Development
- Sullivan School District
- The Great Pumpkin Patch & The Homestead Bakery
- The Libman Company
- Tri-County Welding
- Tuscola Chamber & Economic Development
- Tuscola First Bank
- Tuscola National Bank
- Tuscola Rotary Club
- Tuscola School District

*Without our investors,
this program would not
happen! The Board,
Students and
Community thank you!*

Friends of CEO:

- American Family Insurance - Lori Shasteen
- Arcola/Tuscola Record Herald
- Carriage Crossing
- CHI Overhead Doors
- Coach House Garages
- Flesors Candy Kitchen
- John Davis State Farm Agent
- Kosic & Stout PC
- Pinnacle Point Graphics
- Yoder's Kitchen



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

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

2019 Class

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

CEO Board Members

- Megan Parsons
 - Board President
- Bill Wagoner
 - Board Secretary
- Tim Mooney
 - Board Treasurer
- Mike Lindenmeyer
- Brian Moody
- Laurie Minor
- Tom Mulligan
- Justin Bozarth
- Steffanie Seegmiller
- Ted Walk
- Holly Olson
- Kyle Thompson
- Rob Kusic
- Stan Harris

If you are interested in supporting the Illini Prairie CEO Program by becoming an investor, please use the form below and mail to 214 N Main St. Tuscola, IL 61953. Thank you!

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PLEDGE CARD

I can see the wonderful impacts this program has on the students of the Arcola, Arthur, Sullivan and Tuscola communities. I would like to become involved by:

(Please check all that apply)

- Becoming an investor (3-year commitment of \$1,000 each year or \$500 3-year commitment to become a Friend of CEO)
- Finding out more information about becoming a Mentor
- Hosting a class for a tour
- Coming to class as a guest speaker

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Mailing address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

