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# LITTLE EGYPT



**22** ANNUAL  
**23** REPORT

**CEO**®

[WWW.LITTLEEGYPTCEO.COM](http://WWW.LITTLEEGYPTCEO.COM)

# ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

## 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 we experience every day through CEO.

LITTLE EGYPT ®

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CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL  
OPPORTUNITIES

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## Letter to Our Investors from the Chairman of the CEO Board

Dear Marion County CEO Investors,

As your Marion County CEO Advisory Board Chairman, I am very excited to present our 2022-2023 Annual Report which celebrates our 3rd year of our CEO program in Marion County.

Coming into this year, the only thing I knew about the CEO program was that it is powerful. I had witnessed the transformation that students who were a part of this program had experienced. I had taught students in the program as a teacher and had been a leader for them as a principal. This is my first year as the CEO Chairman and it has been an amazing year. As restrictions began to lift at the end of last year and the start of this year, we had an amazing opportunity to grow the program's significance in the community.

Our students met with leaders across many different fields and created lasting relationships in the local business community. As I traveled to the tour of the Centralia Sentinel, I saw students enthralled by the mechanisms of the paper but also asking questions that celebrated their curiosity. The best business leaders are infinitely curious about how things work and getting students outside of the traditional classroom and into the real world is an integral part of what makes the CEO Program special.

Our Facilitator did an amazing job pushing the boundaries of our students' potential. She allowed students to work through their issues before offering solutions. Too many times in our society adults want to make our young people's problems easier and pave their path. This leads to students expecting someone else to take the lead but in our program students are responsible for their learning. That is what the definition of a good facilitator is: providing advice and guidance but allowing students to forge their own way.

We had four amazing businesses that were created through this program. Creating new businesses in our local community is an amazing feat in itself but what I saw was the creation of a new community of young leaders. These students can take charge, organize their time and inspire others to be better.

I would like to thank our investors for their commitment to the vision of the CEO Program. We are making a difference in students' lives as well fostering the relationships between young people and the businesses in our community. It is with your support that we can continue to make this difference in the lives of our students.

Sincerely,

*Quinton Marcum*



## CEO - Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities.

This year the CEO participants designed, manufactured, and sold t-shirts and sweatshirts for their class business. The shirts read: Adapt. Inspire. Lead. These are all attributes required to be a successful entrepreneur. The class of 2023 used their knowledge and skills they've learned growing up during a global pandemic to form ideas, problem solve, and work as a team to raise over \$6000 during the course of their class business.

They spent their days touring local businesses and learning from local business and community leaders; soaking up all of the knowledge that lives right here in Marion County. They then used this knowledge to start 4 very successful AND sustainable businesses. The high school students that I met at orientation nearly a year prior completely transformed into business professionals by April when they presented their businesses to the public at their Trade Show.

Little Egypt CEO Program began amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. That alone would have been reason enough to pass this opportunity by. That's not the entrepreneurial spirit that lives inside of me nor the students I have had the honor of spending my mornings with for the past 3 years. Being the Facilitator for Little Egypt CEO has been one of the great joys of my life. Getting to know 12 really great humans and watching them nurture 12 businesses at such a young age is inspiring. I fully believe that we will have a thriving community as we move forward thanks to the Participants in the Little Egypt CEO Program.

I want to thank the investors, board members, mentors, and every single person who took time out of their schedule to speak to each of the classes. This program wouldn't be a success without the support system that surrounds it. I leave my position as facilitator proud of what Little Egypt CEO has accomplished.

I look forward to watching the program thrive in the future.

Sincerely,

*Emily Kracht-Haake*

EKP Creative, LLC



**January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022**

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	\$57,158.33
<b>INCOME</b>	\$
Investor Income	\$1,600
Interfund Contribution	\$312.86
Interest Income	\$6,940.76
Class Business Income	\$574.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$9,427.62
Total Income	
<b>EXPENSES</b>	n/a
Investment Expense	\$2,185.96
Class Business Expense	\$695.84
Program Expense	\$149.90
Subscriptions	\$60.00
Postage	\$37,538.72
Payroll/Contracted	n/a
Meals/Entertainment/ /Gifts	\$250.86
Travel	\$2,000.84
Fund Admin. Fee	
Total Expense	\$42,881.32
Net Income/(Loss)	\$9,427.62
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	\$23,704.63

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 Little Egypt 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 Little Egypt CEO

Aaron & Gertrude Karchmer	James Sager
Americana Outdoors	John and Connie Cavaletto
Bayer Crop Science	Kaskaskia College
Bettendorf Standford	Kinmundy Bank
Blomberg Inc. Farina Lumber	Macz Funeral Homes
Centralia Foundation	Marion County Savings Bank
Centralia High School	Mark Decker
Centralia Home Center	Midland State Bank
City of Centralia	Monken Automotive
City of Salem	Patoka High School
Country Bob's	Peoples National Bank
Depew & Owen Builders inc.	Peoples State Bank
Diamond Brothers Insurance	Plumbers & Pipefitters 653
Dusty's Outdoor Media	RP Lumber
EFI Solutions	Saint Mary's Hospital/SSM Healthcare
First United Methodist Church of Kinmundy	Salem Community High School
Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce	Security Alarm
Holiday Inn Express	South Central CUSD #401
Jack Graham State Farm Insurance	South Central Illinois Growth Alliance





Quinton Marcum  
Odin Public Schools  
Principal  
Chairman



Wesley Monken  
Monken Automotive  
Owner  
Treasurer



Nick Grandt  
Branch Manager  
People State Bank  
Board Member



Aaron Lorence  
Baldy's BBQ  
Owner/Pitmaster  
Board Member



Christine Meng  
Guidance Counselor  
Patoka Schools  
Board Member



Marianne Russell  
Guidance Counselor  
Centralia High School  
Board Member



James Sager  
Sager Insurance Group  
Owner  
Board Member



Kelsey Tate  
Kaskaskia College  
Dual Credit & Career Pathways  
Board Member

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[www.littleegyptceo.com](http://www.littleegyptceo.com)  
[@ceo\\_littleegypt](https://www.instagram.com/ceo_littleegypt)  
[facilitator@littleegyptceo.com](mailto:facilitator@littleegyptceo.com)  
for more information

A Mentor is a business owner, entrepreneur, or intrapreneur from the Little Egypt business community. A mentor is someone willing to share their time and expertise with a CEO student.



Makalia Atkins

Branch Manager  
Land of Lincoln Credit Union



Georgianne Broughton

Executive Director  
The Community Resource  
Center



Joy Conner

Security Alarm Systems



Shannon Cooney

Owner/Vintner  
Crooked Creek Winery



Malaya Downey

Assistant Director  
Greater Centralia Chamber  
of Commerce



Nicholas Farley

Mayor  
City of Salem



Jamie Resch

Owner/Artist  
Studio Bee Permanent  
Cosmetics



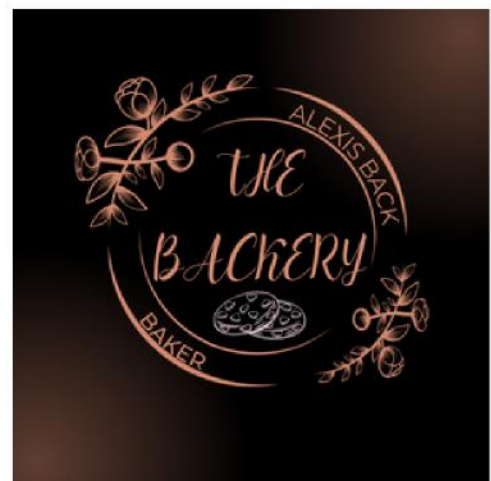


Alexis Back is a junior at Patoka High School. She plays basketball at Sandoval High School and is part of Student Council, she is the secretary for her Junior class. She has done volunteer work at the health department for over a year. In her free time, she babysits her nieces and nephews, and she also reads because she is a big bookworm. She wants to be her own boss and learn what it takes to become an independent business owner.

Overall, Alexis thinks CEO is a great class to take, and even if you don't go into business it is still a great experience.

### **The Bakery**

Alexis is the founder of The Bakery. They sell bakery goods that are all homemade from recipes that have been in her family for awhile. She is passionate about baking and takes pride in making or creating high quality baked goods. She will take the time that is needed to make sure her own personal touch is added to the product which makes her bakery goods unique and sets her apart from other bakers.





Kennedy Bates is a Junior at Patoka High School. She is the daughter of Ty and Carrie Bates. Kennedy enjoys spending her time with family and friends, babysitting, working, and playing volleyball. She is employed at Ponderosa Steakhouse in Vandalia. She is also taking college classes at KC. She is looking forward to this year and meeting new people and learning how to start her own business. She says, "I want to improve my social skills and be able to have more business skills. I am not sure what my future will hold, but I want to do something in the business field."

### **Elegancy & Grace**

Kennedy is the founder of Elegancy & Grace Boutique. They sell various types of women's boutique clothing at affordable prices. They have a wide selection of styles to fit everyone.





Phoenix is a senior at Centralia High School, where she is captain of the Color guard team. She joined this program to pursue her dream of owning her own business in the future. Phoenix has learned from the CEO Program that you should surround yourself with people who think differently than you. She's still Learning how to effectively communicate with peers and other business owners.

### **Phoenix Candle Company**

Phoenix is the founder of Phoenix Candle Company. They make homemade natural soy wax candles that are 100% free of any toxins. Each candle comes with a motivational quote of your choice from their wide selection. The idea to create this business came from watching motivational podcasts, and identifying quotes that stuck out.







Levi is a senior at Salem High School.

He currently participates in golf and tennis. After high school, Levi plans to attend Kaskaskia College to pursue a degree in business or finance. Levi hopes to come out of this class with a clear vision of what he wants to pursue business-wise.



### **Metanoia Clothing**

Levi is the founder of Metanoia Clothing. Metanoia is a unique streetwear clothing brand that is deeply rooted in spirituality and self-discovery. Founded in 2022, the brand has quickly gained a reputation for creating stylish, casual clothing that speaks to the hearts and minds of our customers. The name, Metanoia, comes from the Greek word meaning "change in one's way of life through spiritual conversion." This reflects our belief that true transformation and personal growth come from within, and that by embracing a more spiritual and mindful way of living, we can create positive change in our lives and in the world around us. Our clothing line is designed to reflect this message, with bold graphics and designs that blend urban streetwear with spiritual themes. We offer a range of t-shirts and hoodies that are comfortable, durable, and stylish. Each piece is made with care and attention to detail, using high-quality materials and ethical manufacturing practices. "I am excited to continue growing our brand and sharing our message with the world."

## Business Visits

An important piece of the CEO experience is visiting local businesses in YOUR PROGRAM NAME HERE. People drive by these locations daily without recognizing their contribution to economic development of the area.

The group walks away with a changed mindset, never viewing the business the same way again.

St. Mary's Hospital  
Damon Harbison



Centralia Morning Sentinel  
Michelle Pennington

Americana Outdoors  
Nicolas Farley



E. Kracht Photography  
Emily Kracht-Haake



Greater Centralia Area  
Chamber of Commerce  
Marus Holland



Holiday Inn Express  
& Suites  
Shane Mansker



Salem City Hal  
Nicolas Farley  
Tabitha Meador





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Kaskaskia College President  
George Evans



Bandy's Pharmacy  
Eric Bandy

EFI Solutions  
Mike Neudecker



KlōTHēer  
Kelsie Smith

Irvin Macz Funeral Homes  
Traci Macz



Graphic Packaging  
Phillip Sterling  
Sheri Spears

Centralia House  
Sporting House  
Craig Besant





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Crooked Creek Winery  
re:purpose Development  
Shannon Cooney



Winning Edge  
Chad Knolhoff

Bettendorf Stanford  
Matt Stanford  
Laura Daughtery



Best Western Plus  
Crooked Creek Crossing  
Scooter's Security Alarm Systems  
Rachel Wallace Joy Conner  
Josh Dice



Tri County Electric  
Lynn Hutchison

Country Bob's  
Albert Malekovich



## Business Visits

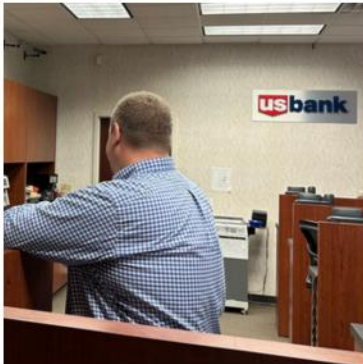
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Barking Lot & Hair of the Dog  
Hannah Shores

Straith's Jewelry Studio  
Samantha Kwiatkowski



US Bank  
Bradley Haege

Edward Jones Investments  
Andrea Williams



Centralia Fire Department  
Chad Gormann & Devin Orrill





## Guest Speakers

EO participants 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

Jayne Godoyo  
Owner, Team Godoyo



Mandy Albers  
Executive Director,  
Heritage Woods



Jamie Resch  
Owner, Studio Bee



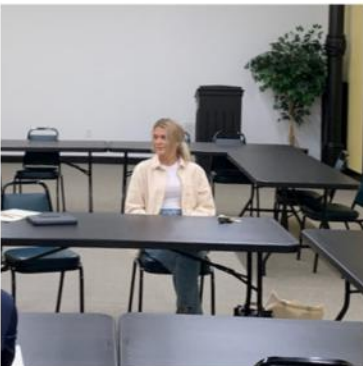
Michelle Moreno  
Mental Health Professional



Tena Hoyt  
Owner, Hoyt Advisors



Courtney Wessling  
Former CEO Participant



Damon Harbison  
President, SSM Health





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Jared Amason  
Owner, Amason's Obabikon

Marcus Holland  
Director, Centralia Chamber  
of Commerce



Aaron Lorence  
Owner, Baldy's BBQ

Christopher Lyons  
Owner, Broken Bridge Farm



**ADAPT.  
INSPIRE.  
LEAD.**

The 2022/23 CEO participants designed and produced t-shirts and sweatshirts. Overall their venture grossed over \$6500

