
Christian County



21 ANNUAL
22 REPORT

CEO[®]

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Midland 
Institute for Entrepreneurship
AN ENTREPRENEURIAL
EDUCATION PARTNER

From Our Facilitator:

The 2021/2022 school year was a year of change for the CEO program. My name is Neil Hohenstein and I am honored to be the new Christian County CEO facilitator. Mr. Dick Adams was instrumental in the transition as he guided and mentored me through the process, and to him I would like to extend a gracious thank you. To start the year, we dealt with COVID: face masks, absences, quarantine, illness, and remote learning. However, by the time the school year ended, we were changing back to what we call normal. This was a new, changed normal, though, and the CEO class of 2022 handled it with grace. Are there opportunities with this new normal? Was there a potential to monetize those opportunities, and how do I use my strengths to my advantage while I discover those opportunities? These were some of the questions our newly minted entrepreneurs answered and I got the pleasure of watching it happen in real-time! Ironically, change will forever be a constant, and because of CEO, our students were uniquely equipped with the necessary skills to succeed in this new business landscape.

As the world changes, students' abilities to successfully navigate those changes with the help of CEO are rooted in time tested strategies. The entrepreneur mindset is studied and ways of providing value to customers is considered. Students are encouraged to exceed expectations. They become self aware and understand that developing relationships is the key to happiness and success both personally and in business. Students learn to handle success as it happens knowing that success is a pursuit and not a destination and that giving back is part of that pursuit. In practice, we call it 51/49 (thank you Gary V)! We do not have a textbook per se, rather we are doing hands-on work and learning real life lessons. The class of 2022 successfully hosted a 20's themed banquet on November 20th that realized a net revenue of over \$20,000! Proceeds from the endeavor provided each of the twelve students with seed money from which he/she created his/her own business. Those businesses were on display at the yearly Trade Show that was held on April 22nd.



Lastly, what really makes CEO unique is that students learn these life-long lessons by going out into our community and talking with leaders and business owners. They see and hear first-hand from other entrepreneurs who are doing it! Each student gets paired with a mentor. We go on business tours throughout the county and we have class speakers that educate and motivate on a variety of topics. The CEO support system is incredible! As facilitator, I am truly humbled and grateful for all the people that make the program a success and I know the CEO class of 2022 feels likewise. To the parents, contributors, investors, mentors, and stakeholders: Thank You! To the CEO class of 2022: Be happy and kind. Thanks for an awesome first year!

Neil C. Hohenstein

MISSION

To provide a comprehensive educational experience for the community's high school students, equipping them to be the enterprising individual and entrepreneurial thinkers who contribute to the economic development of Christian County.

VISION

CEO Graduates demonstrate entrepreneurial thinking and a thirst for life-long learning. They are ready to compete in the global economy and are inspired to contribute to the economic development of Christian County.

CULTURE

We have a very active and accountable Board of Directors with excellent communication. We are a working board continuously involved in our class and in collaboration with our facilitator.

**Christian County CEO
2021-2022 Financial Report**

Funds Available - April 1, 2021	\$97,270
Income:	
New Pledges	\$37,850
Total Income	\$37,850
Expenses:	
ROE #3 - Facilitator Salary (16 months)	\$49,879
Franchise Fee - Midland Institute	\$3,000
Insurance	\$1,689
Administrative	\$2,611
Program	\$3,889
Total Expenses	\$61,068
Funds Available - March 31, 2022	\$74,052

INVESTORS



Our Program Investors provide support to our community driven program. An annual investment of at least \$1,000 provides the necessary resources for current-year facilitator salary and operating expenses, and ensures the sustainability of the Christian County CEO class for future students. Investors also contribute their time to the program: hosting business visits, providing guest speakers, and serving as mentors... all crucial to the success of Christian County CEO.

AGCO	CTI	TCCU
Taylorville Sertoma Club	Christian County	Midwest Meter Inc
Anderson Jewelers	City of Taylorville	Miller Media
Ahlstrom-Munksjo Filtration LLC	Cleeton Sanitation	Milling Millworks
US Bank	CNB Bank & Trust	Pana Community Hospital
Page's Body Shop	Curvey Real Estate	Peoples Bank & Trust
Louis Marsh	DelValle, Dr. Richard & Mary	Ron's produce
Battery Specialist & Golf Cars	First National Bank of Taylorville	Shelby Electric
Beatty, Cliff & Diane	Hart, Ken & Janice	Allied Title
Bertrand Hopper Memorial Foundation	Hopper, Bill & Marilyn	McDonalds of Taylorville and Pana
Bill Beyers	Landmark	Taylorville Memorial Hospital
Blakley Heating & Cooling	McClure Funeral Home	Triple A Asbestos
Blue Stone Farms	McLane	Sean Fairclough & Julie Lilly
First National Bank of Pana	Midland Community Bank	Vollintine Trust
		Barry Family

CONTRIBUTORS



Our program contributors provide support to our community driven program including time, expertise, goods, services, and monetary contributions throughout the year.

Sutton's Funeral home	Beth Lindvahl	United Way of Christian County
Taylorville Optimist Club	Bob Ridings Ford	Kiwanis
Hamer, Robert	Hickman Steiner Specha & Beckley LLP	Brotherton, Greg
Pana Township	Gill, Dr. Pavi & Amy	Butcher, Tim
Rene's	Citizens Bank of Edinburg	Bruce and Meg Kettlekamp
Village of Edinburg	Dimond Bros Insurance LLC	Christian County Economic Development Corporation
Mary Renner	Mary Becker	Davis Memorial Christian Church
Advanced Title Group	Taylorville Public Schools Foundation	Freij, Yasar MD
Jacque Willison		Mike and Jan McClure

Illinois Federation of Business Women's Clubs, Inc.

Christian County CEO[®] Class of 2022



Summer Brandis

with mentor Kyle Anderson

My name is Summer Brandis and I am a senior at Taylorville High School. Throughout high school, I have been very involved in clubs and sports such as volleyball, basketball, student council executive board, purple reign executive board, national honor society, and Springfield Shock Volleyball Club. After graduating high school I plan to further my education and volleyball career at Illinois College in Jacksonville.



My love for volleyball has been huge since the first day I picked up a volleyball. I have learned endless life lessons throughout my seven years of playing school and club volleyball. With Summer's Lessons, I plan to share the life lessons I have learned. I want to grow and teach the future generations of volleyball players one lesson at a time. I offer one on one, group, and team lessons. Follow my Facebook account Summer's Lessons for lesson dates and times or text me at (217) 825-0063 for more information.



Kennedie Cearlock

with mentor Kathy Fergin

Hello, my name is Kennedie Cearlock. I am in the graduating Class of 2022 at Taylorville High School. During my high school career, I have been actively involved in Student Council, serving on the executive board for the past three years, this year, specifically as the President. I also have played volleyball and soccer and am a member of National Honor Society, Key Club, Purple Reign, and of course, the Christian County CEO program. After graduating, I plan to attend Florida State University, majoring in Biology on a pre-med track with aspirations to pursue a career in the medical field.



With the help of the CEO program, I established my first business, Cearlock's Car Candies. Living on such a busy schedule and with little ones at home, I recognize how much a car's smell is affected. With Cearlock's Car Candies, no longer will you have to worry about the smell of your car being influenced by the hustle and bustle of life. Hand-crafted with organic fragrance oils in a large variety of fun designs, Cearlock's Car Candies are guaranteed to make your car stand out in both smell and style. If you would like to purchase my candies, please follow my Instagram page @cearlocks.car.candies or Facebook page @ Cearlock's Car Candies. You can also contact me by phone at (217)823-6479 or email at cearlockkennedie@gmail.com.

Christian County CEO[®] Class of 2022



Colin Hardin

with mentor Brent DeMichael

My name is Colin Hardin and I am a senior at Edinburg High school. Throughout high school, I have been involved in numerous activities such as basketball, baseball, bass fishing, and National Honor Society. After graduating I plan to further my education at Illinois State University.



I have loved fishing ever since I first picked up rod fishing with my grandpa. In doing so, I started to ponder the idea of making my own baits, so when I had the opportunity to do so in the CEO class, I created Triton Fishing. At Triton Fishing I hand make my own jigs in three different models, the swim jig, heavy cover jig, and the arky jig. If you are interested you can contact me through Instagram and Facebook at tritonfishingusa or at (217) 823-2429.



Kadan Moon

with mentor George Yard

My name is Kadan Moon and I am a student of the graduating class of 2022 at Pana High School. I was born in Mattoon, but I have lived in Pana nearly my whole life. While at Pana High School I have been active in the Pana FFA chapter, Pana Boy Scout Troop No. 99 where I have reached the rank of Eagle Scout, and the Pana Fire Department Explorer Post where I serve as Chief.



Since I was 15 years old I have operated a lawn care business and I have expanded to Moon's Lawn Service and Landscaping out of Pana IL. Some of the services that I offer are mowing, cleanups, hedge trimming, powerwashing, and landscaping. I can be reached at (217)-820-9215 or moonslawnservice@gmail.com

Christian County CEO[®] Class of 2022



Evan Morgan

with mentor Mike Assalley

Hello, my name is Evan Morgan and I am currently a senior attending Taylorville High School. I have lived in Taylorville, Illinois my entire life. I don't have many hobbies besides running. I started running back in middle school and that is when I started getting into track and cross country. While I ran cross country in high school, I started hearing about the CEO program through my teammates. I have only heard good things about the CEO program. This made me decide to do the program this year. I believe that I will learn many useful lessons and skills that I will use throughout my life by being apart of this program.



Lake Shore Spores is an upcoming mushroom cultivation business. We aim to produce fresh gourmet mushrooms for consumers.



Averi Noreuil

with mentor Amy Hagen

I was born in Springfield, Illinois and raised in Taylorville, Illinois. I am grateful to my parents, my grandparents, and my boss because they have been instrumental in my growth and supportive throughout all my failures and successes. My main achievements in life include being an honor roll student and working as Co-Childcare-Coordinator at the Christian County YMCA. My long term goals are to continue in my current career path, start a family, and help others in the process. My lifelong dream is to become a multi-millionaire.



I launched my business, "Averi's Authentics" in 2018. I create beautiful, decorative signs, custom paintings, and trendy keychains. My business initially started out as a hobby that I soon learned I can profit from. I have created a number of pieces ranging from sunflower paintings to sparkly keychains. My mission is to provide anyone seeking artwork with quality, affordable pieces. If you have any questions or wish to place an order please contact me at 217-825-8382, averi.noreuil@gmail.com, or check out my facebook page at Averi's Authentics!

Christian County CEO[®] Class of 2022



Keegan Norris

with mentor Blake Davis

Hello, name is Keegan Norris. I was born on May 8, 2004 in South Korea. I am currently attending Taylorville Highschool and live in Taylorville, Illinois. My main achievement in life is to generate enough generational wealth so my grandchildren's kids do not have to work. My mother is Tarra Norris and Father is Kevin Norris. I also have a sister whose name is Shelbi Turner. I joined CEO because I was always interested in the business side of the world and this was the perfect opportunity.



I started NFTeaches, a business designed to give people the opportunity of a lifetime. We will teach you what we know about NFT's and even what the safest place to store your NFT's are. If you buy a cold storage wallet, we will offer a service that will set it up for you. NFTeaches also has their very own NFT's we offer to people.



Emma Pennock

with mentor Katie White

Hi! My name is Emma Pennock and I am currently a senior attending Taylorville High School. My parents are Sara Pennock and Bob Pennock who have both pushed me to be the best version of myself while growing up. I enjoy participating in school and community activities. For example, I am in National Honors Society, Key Club, and Purple Rein at the High School. I have also worked at the food pantry since I was in middle school. I work at Angelos Pizza here in town and I have learned some great "people skills" from working there for two years. I plan to go to an out of state college after graduation and study to become an Occupational Therapist. I have always wanted to find a way to help others in my future career and I feel that this option will be both successful and rewarding!



My CEO business is named Ep Jewelz. I started this business in 2020 and have continued throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic. I aim to create and sell unique jewelry for women all over and around Taylorville, IL.

Christian County CEO® Class of 2022



Daniel Sloan

with mentor Dan Raab

Hello! I'm Dan Sloan, a senior at Taylorville High School. Throughout my high school career, I have involved myself in various activities, ranging from cross-country to student council. However, I have also been interested in one other area: professional style. I have learned that anyone can wear a suit and look good, but most people neglect to wear accessories, such as wrist watches. These watches not only tell time, but they play an integral part in a person's overall appearance, and the watch should reflect that person's characteristics.



After long consideration, I decided to start Watch List, a business centered around all aspects of timepieces. Mainly dealing with wrist watches, I provide the three R's: repair, resale, and rental. With the first R, I will service watches that belong to customers for a fair price. Whether the task be as simple as battery replacement and calibration, or as complex as glass repair, I can meet my customers' needs. With the second R, I will have a selection of watches that customers can buy from. The selection will include men's and women's watches, classic and modern, new and old, and expensive and inexpensive. With the final R, I understand that not all people want to own a watch, but perhaps wear something flashy for a one-night event. As such, I offer rentals, ranging from one night to one week timeframes. The rental selections will consist of the same watches that are available for sale, should the customer decide they wish to keep the watch. Above all, my goal is to help all people either find or maintain their unique watch, which accents who they are in a subtle, yet effective way.



Averi Stephens

with mentor Kim Bourne

Hello! My name is Averi Stephens and I am a part of the Taylorville High School graduating class of 2022. I enjoy participating in several extracurricular activities such as Student Council, National Honors Society, and Purple Reign. I have been the president of Purple Reign for 2 years and a Student Council executive board member for 2 years. In the fall I will be attending Illinois State University with a major in Business Administration. I also enjoy watching Netflix, hanging out with my friends, and playing with my pets. However, there is one thing that I LOVE, and that is my Jeep. This is how I came up with the business Sunshine Car Company.



Sunshine Car Company was founded in March of 2022. The purpose of the business is to provide customers with cute and customizable car charms. You may be wondering, "What are car charms?" Car charms are decorative hangers that hang from the rearview mirror of your car. I make designs such as cancer ribbons, flowers, quotes, sports logos, animal prints, and many many more. I also take custom orders that can be placed through messaging me on my Facebook or Instagram @sunshinecarcompany! You can also reach out to me at my email which is stephensaveri@gmail.com. Remember: When you can't find the sunshine, be the sunshine:☀️

Christian County CEO[®] Class of 2022



Meah Wagahoft

with mentor Jennifer Nagle

My name is Meah Wagahoft. I am originally from Springfield, IL but live in rural Taylorville. My parents are Holly and Trevor Wagahoft. I have two younger siblings Macy and Shea, and a dog named Dixie as well as three cats and several goats, sheep, and other farm animals. I am currently a senior in high school and in my free time I enjoy spending time on the farm, hunting, and fishing. I plan to go into sonography and to become a physician's assistant.



The mission of Wagahoft Friendly

Farms is to foster an appreciation for livestock while providing a fun service to others. My business is a portable petting zoo featuring goats, sheep, a pig, and rabbits. I absolutely love my animals and am extremely passionate about raising them and sharing them with others. Follow me on Facebook : Wagahoft Friendly Farms!



Alyson Williams

with mentor Tyler Frump

Hi, my name is Alyson Williams. I was born on February 10th, 2004. For my whole life, I have lived in Taylorville. I am currently a Senior at Taylorville High School. My parents are Billy and Pamela Williams. My family has two cats and two dogs. Our cats' names are Elvis and Tigger, and our dogs' names are Scooter and Darla. In school, I am involved in Bowling, Purple Reign, and Student Council. I enjoy being a part of these extracurricular activities because I interact with other students and teachers and make new friends. I will hopefully be attending college at Lincoln Land Community College to get my degree in Accounting. After graduating from college, I plan to get married and have my own family.



Founded in 2022, I create and bake delicious treats catered to your pup's taste. Every treat is made of organic ingredients with flavors like beef with sweet potatoes, chicken with apples & carrots, chicken with bananas, and much more! I also make Carnivore chews out of beef, chicken, ham, and turkey. It's a little something for the meat-eaters and a taste your pup will beg for! Prices start at \$3.50 for a six-pack, \$6.50 for a twelve-pack, and just \$1.50 for a Jumbo Meaty Treat! All flavors have been sampled by many of our furry friends, and each pup has given the same review... nummy yummy in our tummy! I am also open to flavor suggestions. To try our treats, contact Nummy Yummy Pup Treats at 217-825-4695 or alyson@nummyyummypuptreats.com.

Business Visits

An important piece of the CEO experience is visiting local businesses in Christian County. 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.

Angelos

Battery Specialist

Carriage Crossing Rochester

Christian County Coal Mine Museum

Christian County YMCA

CTI

Pana Community Hospital

Pizza Man

McLane

Miller Media

The Equity



Speakers

CEO participants have a unique experience with guest speakers serving as instructors for the program. Community leaders present life stories, share entrepreneurial journeys and provide career lessons on a variety of business topics.

Dick Adams

Trina Casner

Ryan Follis

Amy Hagen

Lou Johnson

James Malayter

James Moon

John Perles

LaVonna Roth

Jordan Ruppert

Mike Specha

Tyler Stephens

Ben Thompson

Sarah Van Huss

Doug Villhard

Adam Vocks

Kody Walters

Jacque Willison

Roaring 20's Banquet

The Christian County CEO Class of 2022 hosted a Roaring 20's Themed Banquet at the Pillars venue in Taylorville on November 20th, 2021. Along with a delicious dinner catered by Angelo's, the evening consisted of a silent auction, a live auction, an exciting raffle, and a photo booth. To top it off, singer Izzy Miller performed live music throughout the entire evening. The night was a roaring good time filled with good friends, food, prizes, and laughter.



A special thanks to our sponsors & to those who made our event possible...

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Taylorville Memorial Hospital | US Bank |
| Pana Community Hospital | Powderkeg |
| Richard and Sandy Hooper | US Bank |
| Christian County YMCA | Higgy's |
| The Davis Family | County 5 |
| LLCC | McLane |
| Taylorville Park District | Bob Ridings |
| Carriage Crossing | Taco Bell |
| Moon 's Lawn Service | Subway |
| Moweaqua Packing Plant | Walmart |
| Taylorville Home Source | Nesty's |
| Down to Earth Sustainability | Lilly Signs |
| Christian Community Seeds | CTI |
| Center Pointe Dance Academy | TCCU |
| Trexler and Company | Dunns |
| Animal Kingdom | Ag Co |
| Todd and Julia Atkins | Julie Lilly |
| Pennock Hydraulics | Maurices |
| Designed with Detail | OldeBowI |
| Mary and Rick Devalle | Window Genie |
| HappyBakedGoods | Helen Kennedy |
| Peoples Bank & Trust | Keith Chase |
| Battery Specialist | THS |
| Brandis Aircraft | Bruce Barry |
| Kennedy Realestate | Schafer Farms |
| Arpeggio Winery | Izzy Miller |
| Lanham Farms | NHS |
| Tanners Tints | Linda Allen |
| Spring Garden | P.S. Printing |
| Daisy Delights | Miller Media |
| Angelos | Joe Curvey |
| Pizza Man | James Moon |
| McDonalds | Dick Adams |
| CCEDC | Breeze Courier |
| Dairy Queen | Sarah Van Huss |
| Grant Farms | Steve Milling |



Christain County CEO
Class of 2022 cordially invites
you to join us at our

Roaring 20's Banquet

November 20th, 2021
Doors open at 5:30 pm
Event starts at 6:00 pm
At the Pillars Event Center
Catered by "Angelo's Catering"
\$50 per person
Masks are preferred

Tickets will be available until 11/12/20

If you have any questions contact a CEO student or The Greater Taylorville Chamber of Commerce at 217-824-4919

Live Auction
Silent Auction
50/50 Raffle
Live Music



Randy Miller

Chairman

Miller Media Group

Joe Curvey

Vice-Chairman

Curvey Real Estate

Neil Hohenstein

Facilitator

TUSD #3

Adam Vocks

Board Member

CTI

Mary DelValle

Board Member

Bill Beyers

Board Member

Beyer's Chiropractic

**Chris Clark /
Jennifer Ippolito**

Board Member

SFUSD #14

Amy Hagen

Board Member

US Bank

Ben Robinson

Board Member

Spurling Title Services

Ashley Francis

Board Member

Edinburg CUSD #4

**Kevin McDonald /
Priscilla Maxwell**

Board Member

Pana CUSD #8

Myah Miles

Board Member

Dick Adams

Co-Facilitator

Ken Hart

Member Emeritus

Ashley Lalich

Board Member

Lacy Glenn

Board Member

TUSD #3

CHRISTIAN COUNTY 



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