



SOUTHWEST MN



CREATING
ENTREPRENEURIAL
OPPORTUNITIES

Annual Report 2022–2023



CEO teaches big and little lessons worth remembering for a lifetime

This year we celebrate the 5th year of the Southwest Minnesota CEO program! It all began when one person heard a presentation about the CEO program and thought it sounded wonderful. That person came back to her community and started talking to community members about how this program can impact young students and change the way we think about education. Those people connected with Midland Institute and approached other members of surrounding communities.

After all the leg work, talking, and figuring out the details we now have an established program that has been influential in young people's lives and gives them perspective, knowledge, and connections to help them be successful in the future, and know failure will happen. It's a part of everyone's life.

Truly the icing on the cake is hearing from alumni about how they feel the CEO program has assisted them in their journey of life. Many times it can be as simple as making the cold call to make a connection with someone – something that may seem easy at the end of the year but in the beginning made most young professionals feel nervous. Perhaps it is staying connected with their mentor to help make



Katie Baustian
SWMN CEO Facilitator

“Truly the icing on the cake is hearing from alumni about how they feel the CEO program has assisted them in their journey of life.”

college or career decisions, or to have someone to turn to when life gets rough. Maybe it is just the knowledge of the hard work, passion and determination behind business doors to ensure the business is successful. ... Sometimes it may be just the knowledge that each person has a credit score and it is looked at for various different situations, so pay your bills on time.

It could be the confidence that they are able to take charge of their own lives.

The impact is different for all alumni but, the fact is, all have learned something – one little thing that a business owner or guest speaker shared with them, that down the road they will remember as they have a fond memory of their CEO experience.



Our Mission

Entrepreneurship education seeks to prepare people, especially youth, to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs or *entrepreneurial* thinkers and contribute to economic development and sustainable communities. The CEO program is much more than a textbook course. Rather, students are immersed in real life learning experiences with the *opportunities* to take risks, manage the results, and learn from the outcomes.

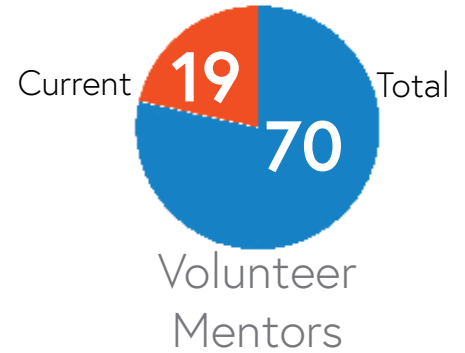
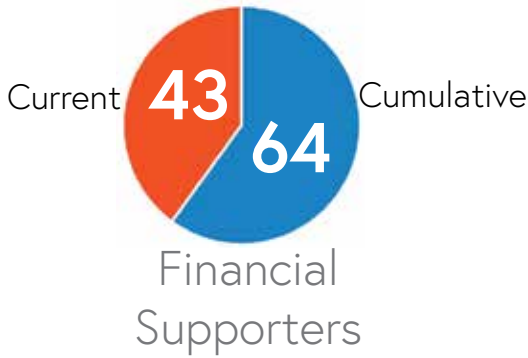
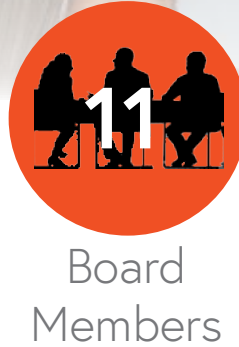
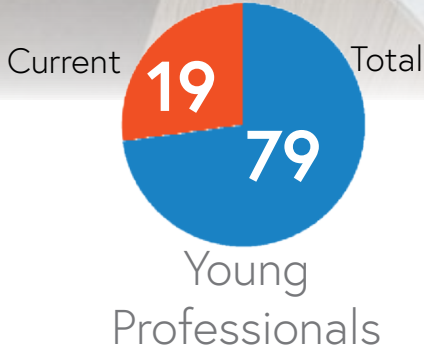
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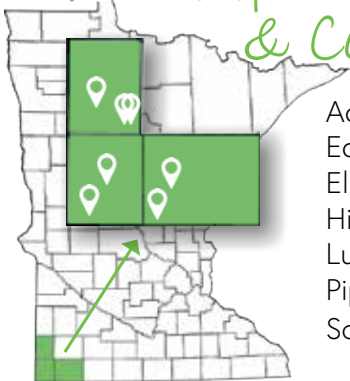
CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES

SOUTHWEST MN CEO

A big impact in the **FIRST 5** years



Participating Schools & Communities



- Adrian
- Edgerton
- Ellsworth
- Hills-Beaver Creek
- Luverne
- Pipestone
- Southwest Christian

Class revenue is used in part to jump start the individual business and to donate to charities. SWMN CEO has given **\$22,480** back to our communities.

Income isn't really the endgame of the CEO program. CEO guides young professionals to become responsible, enterprising individuals who think like entrepreneurs. We hope our young professionals grow to contribute to their economy and become leaders of sustainable communities. **This is real-life learning with risks and rewards.**

AUSTIN TAYLOR
CEO CLASS OF 2020
The skills and connections I made from CEO have put me steps above others my age and given me a strong foundation.

COLBY CRABTREE
CEO CLASS OF 2020
Even though you learn about various businesses in CEO, it taught me how the real world works and ways to successfully navigate life.

HERMELLA SUDA
CEO CLASS OF 2022
CEO has opened my eyes to what's in my community and showed me that success can be found right where I'm at.

We are blessed with time, talent and treasure that makes CEO what it is

It is a true honor to be serving as the current Chair of the Southwest Minnesota CEO Program. I am humbled to work alongside a tremendous board of directors blessed with successful business, education, and civic leaders from across SW Minnesota. In addition, the leadership demonstrated by our facilitator, Katie Baustian, is definitely one of our greatest strengths.

We could not be as successful as we've been without a healthy stable of exceptional volunteer mentors, supporters and board alumni who give selflessly of their time, talent and treasure to assist our young professionals. All in all, our program is blessed at every level with talent, expertise and heart for helping the students of SW Minnesota learn the art & skills of entrepreneurial business.

Speaking of our young professionals, we are excited to share some statistics with you as we wrap up our 5th year of operation. I invite you to spend some time with our new CEO Infographic to get a good feel of just what kind of impact the combination of talented students, committed business leaders and the cutting-edge school districts of SW Minnesota can do to help strengthen our region both economically and even charitably.

Consider these for just a minute. Our class has hosted more than 75 young professionals in our first 5 years. Our program is fortunate to have key financial supporters each

"Our program has visited and learned key business skills through nearly 300 regional business visits in our first 5 years, some of them multiple times."

year. Better than 50 mentors have assisted the young professionals over that time. Our program has visited and learned key business skills through nearly 300 regional business visits in our first 5 years, some of them multiple times. It's all impressive.

In addition, the young professionals in our program are a part of a much larger network of more than 70 additional programs, similar in nature, across the country. This network is called the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship headquartered in Illinois. Each year, Midland hosts a national

competition showcasing the individual businesses created by each young professional in the entire network. Overall, there are nearly 250 entries submitted for review each year.

We're pleased to share in each of the past 4 years, our program has placed at least 1 of our young professionals in the Top 18 and 1 in the Top Alternate class. This means that in each of the past 4 years, a total of 7 business models have placed in the Top 10% in the entire country. That is incredible work for a young program and wonderful news highlighting the entrepreneurial spirit of the high school students in SW Minnesota!

Each year, we will continue to grow and learn better ways to teach, mentor and guide each class of young professionals. As a board, we continue to be impressed with the noticeable difference in the maturity levels and business savvy of each student as they move through the program over the course of their school years. We believe this work will only help them become engaged members of their respective communities moving forward, and we are honored to be a part of helping them strive for success in the world of business in our everchanging world.

Respectfully,

Dan LaRock
Chair
SWMN CEO BOARD OF
DIRECTORS



Our Class

Kayla Bloemendaal is a junior at Luverne High School. She is the daughter of Cory and Paula Bloemendaal. She participates in cross country, basketball, track, choir, Student Council, peer tutoring and Youth Group. Kayla has gained many leadership and communication skills thanks to her time in CEO. During the class business, she served as the COO. She has grown her network and met many mentors that have helped her along the way. Her biggest takeaway from the CEO experience is to fight through the valleys, and have work be a place you enjoy. Kayla's individual business is Macra-kay & Co. Macra-kay is a business that produces and sells macrame keychains, home decor, wall-hangings and more. Each keychain is handmade and made to fit your desires! Kayla's favorite memory from CEO is having a Christmas fun-day in Luverne during December. The class got to visit many businesses and participate in many fun challenges. Kayla is very grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow through CEO.



Anika Boll is a junior at Luverne High School. She is the daughter of Scott Boll. Anika is involved in softball, hockey, choir and is volleyball manager. Anika's biggest takeaway from CEO is the connections she made through the mentor program and business visits. She also learned to speak in front of a big group of people without laughing. Anika is undecided for college but plans on becoming a family therapist. Anika's business is called Simply Crafted, a charcuterie board business, which makes boards for events or just a hangout with your friends. Anika has enjoyed CEO and all of the connections she has made.



Abby Boltjes is the owner and creator of Connected Creations. She is the daughter of Marti Boltjes and Darryl Boltjes. Abby is involved in track and field, dance, theatre, and various church/community activities. Abby works at The Bean in Luverne. Abby has learned how to be a part of the real world through CEO. She can now start up a conversation with anybody. She has learned how to be responsible and present herself in a professional manner. Abby's business is a card business. She is focused on bringing others together and connecting others through her business, Connected Creations.

Morgan Bonnett is a junior at Luverne High School. She is the daughter of Jamie and Annie Bonnett. She is involved in Luverne trap shooting, FFA, 4-H, and many other activities. Morgan's biggest takeaway from the CEO is her ability to speak in front of a large group of people and being better at time management. Morgan plans to attend SDSU and go into animal science and pre-vet, then advance into veterinary school. She also plans on being involved in college rodeo at SDSU. Morgan's business is called Memories by Morgan. Memories by Morgan is based around memorabilia: baby statistical stuffed animals, stuffed animals for any occasion that you want to capture, and measuring boards for children's heights. They make everything by hand but they do order the stuffed animals. They use a Cricut to set up their layouts. Morgan has loved that she created bonds with students from other schools. The valuable skills she learned in CEO have already helped and will continue to help her in the future. She also enjoyed many of the business visits from around the area.



Olivia Bork is a senior at Hills-Beaver Creek High School. She is the daughter of Stacey and Lisa Bork. Olivia is involved in volleyball, basketball, trap shooting, FFA, FCA, and other academic programs. Her favorite thing about being a part of the CEO program has been learning about each community and making new connections. Olivia plans to attend South Dakota State University and major in animal science as well as a minor in agriculture business. Olivia's individual business is called Liv Cleanly. This company is a residential cleaning business. Olivia provides many services for her customers and is trying to focus on having the best customer service possible. Her business has just begun, but she can not wait to see where it takes her. The skills Olivia has learned from CEO will help her tremendously in the future, and she will feel better equipped with her new skills to accomplish whatever goal she has in life.



Kai Buss is a junior at Luverne High School. He is the son of Troy and Niki Buss and is the third of three Buss kids to go through the program. He is involved in baseball, hockey, Student Council, CEO, and works at Big Top Tents. After high school, he is going to Iowa Lakes Community College to study aviation. Kai's favorite thing about CEO was being the CEO of the class business and getting the firsthand experience of running a business. He started his individual business called Airrends which is an airport food delivery service. He will use all of the information he learned throughout the year to do what he can to make his business successful. Kai plans to keep his business going even after being finished with CEO. He is excited to see where his CEO experience will take him in the future.





Conner Connell is a junior at Luverne Public Schools. He is the son of Chris and Jenny Connell. Throughout high school, he was involved in baseball, SWMN CEO, football and student council. Conner's biggest takeaway from SWMN CEO is that people are behind every business, no matter how big. Another thing he learned was that businesses are more likely to succeed if the owner is passionate about them. Conner's favorite aspect of being in CEO was getting to see all of the unique businesses in southwest Minnesota. He plans to apply what he has learned in this class to the real world after school. Conner's own company, CK Baseball Academy, provides baseball lessons and camps for kids in southwest Minnesota.



Kristofer Eischens is a junior at Pipestone Area High School. He is the son of Todd and Elsa Stogdill. He enjoys playing a variety of sports and hunting and fishing. His business is Sled X which is a kids' plastic sled company. He plans on going into the Air Force, either full time or the reserves. After the Air Force, he plans on going into college for his agricultural engineering degree. He feels that the lessons he has learned in CEO will carry with him for a long while.



Jacie Graham is a senior at Luverne High School. She is the daughter of Randy and Leslie Graham. She is involved in peer helping, peer tutoring, concert choir, golf and National Honor Society. She is employed at the Luverne Pizza Ranch. Jacie's favorite part of CEO was learning about businesses in the surrounding communities that she never knew existed and making lifelong connections. Throughout CEO her communication skills have grown as well as her leadership skills. Next year, Jacie plans to attend Minnesota State University, Mankato. Her individual business is called Sweet Creations by Jacie, which sells homemade suckers and candy bouquets. Her business strives to put a smile on every customer's face and provide them with a sweet treat they can enjoy. She will continue to use all of the valuable skills she has learned for the rest of her life.

Mason Hamm is a senior at Southwest Minnesota Christian High School. He is the son of Derek and Cayla Hamm. He is involved in cross country and track. His favorite thing about the CEO program was all the businesses he got to tour and learn more about. Mason will attend Lake Area Technical College and major in Diesel Technology. Mason's individual business is called Polar Fury Rods. Polar Fury Rods specializes in making custom open and ice fishing rods. He is thankful for all the opportunities he was given this year through the CEO program.



Lauren Hansen is a Senior at Luverne High School. She is the daughter of Adam and Tracy Hansen. She participates in basketball, golf, student council, concert choir, peer tutoring, National Honor Society, Youth Group, and CEO. Lauren was voted in as the CFO of this year's class. Her favorite part about CEO was learning more about her community and the businesses in her community. She also learned from this class that there is always room to grow and more to learn. She noticed as the year progressed her confidence level increased. Lauren will attend South Dakota State University in the fall to major in business economics. The business Lauren started is called Front Porch Market. Front Porch Market is a personalized doormat company based in the home decor industry. She can create personalized or non-personalized doormats for her customers based on their wishes. Lauren will use the lessons and skills she has learned through CEO for the rest of her life.



Henry Hartquist is a Junior at Luverne High School. He is the son of Jeff and Sara Hartquist. Henry is involved in hockey, golf, student council, National Honor Society, and the CEO business program. His favorite parts of the program were creating a mentor relationship, seeing businesses that he never knew existed in his community, and growing as an individual. Henry's individual business is called Outdoor Apparel. Outdoor Apparel specializes in creating clothing that give people a sense of pride in their community. They also do custom work with businesses to create personalized products and designs. The CEO program has provided Henry with important communication skills and taught him to create a professional appearance that he will use for the rest of his life.





Camden Hoven is a senior at Luverne High School. He is the son of Perry and Stephanie Hoven. He is involved in cross country, student council, peer helping, National Honor Society, choir and peer tutoring. Camden's favorite part of CEO is learning about businesses that are unique to the area and making connections. His favorite memory from CEO is waiting in the Walnut Grove Mercantile with his fellow classmates and snacking on fudge. Camden plans to attend the University of Minnesota to major in finance. His individual business is called Mocked. Mocked sells customizable glass cups that come in pint glasses or coffee glasses. Camden's business focuses on creating a fun sipping experience for the customer. Mocked caters to young and old with the different customizations and the different styles of glasses. He learned valuable skills throughout the process of creating his business that will last a lifetime. Camden would like to thank his classmates, facilitator, board members and especially his mentor, Tammy Loosbrock.



Chloe Olivier is a junior at Pipestone Area High School. She is the daughter of Rodger and Trava, and the sister of Tylor, Alex, and Sophie. She participates in various activities, including band, speech, FFA, and 4-H. She learned a multitude of skills from the CEO program such as leadership and accountability. She started the business Prairie Winds Lamb Supply, which sells leg wraps and halters for sheep. Her favorite part of the class was setting up the CEO sign in the Adrian Campground for Christmas and then getting donuts and hot chocolate from the gas station to warm up afterwards.



Isabella Oye is a senior at Luverne Public Schools. She is the daughter of Jayne Brouwer and Eric Oye. She is involved in track, peer helping, choir, peer tutoring and National Honor Society. Throughout Isabella's time in the CEO program, she has learned communication, leadership and teamwork skills. Isabella's future plans are to attend Minnesota State Mankato to major in nursing. Isabella is the owner of B's Blankets. B's Blankets is a double-sided, two-yard hand-tied fleece blanket business. Isabella is promoting her business on instagram @bs.blankets. One of Isabella's favorite things about CEO was touring the many businesses in her nearby communities that she was unfamiliar with before. Isabella has created many lifelong relationships throughout the CEO program that she will cherish forever!

Gavin Reisch is a senior at Luverne Public Schools. He is the son of Josh and Sue Reisch. Throughout this year he has been involved in football, hockey and peer helping. He is employed at The Verne Drive In, McClure Plumbing & Heating and plans to get an internship over the summer with Missouri River Energy Services. Gavin's favorite part of CEO has been the connections made through his mentor and business owners. He will use those connections and advice for the rest of his life. His future plans are to go to Mitchell Technical Institute for Powerline-Construction and Maintenance while also running Get Money Golf. Get Money Golf offers a unique design for all of your golfing apparel. His business wants to give everyone that look good play good feel on and off the course.



Will Serie is a junior at Luverne High School. He is the son of Dan and Christal Serie. He is involved in baseball, football, hockey and CEO. He has also worked at Big Top the last couple of summers. Will's favorite thing about CEO is that he has met a lot of new people in the southwest Minnesota community. Will hopes to be able to use these connections in the future. Will plans to attend a four-year college but doesn't know what he wants to study yet and where he wants to go. His individual business is called Serie Socks. He is creating premade designs of schools and the state of Minnesota, he will also have the option of custom designs where customers can send him a picture and he will put it on socks.



Belle Smidt is a junior at Luverne High School. She is the daughter of Jordan and Stacey Smidt. Belle is involved in softball, volleyball, choir and National Honor Society. Belle's biggest take away from CEO is being able to talk freely and hold a conversation with others, as well as becoming more confident as an all-around person. On top of all the activities she is involved, the activity that influenced her business is her involvement in church. Belle's business is called Carried by Christ. The business sells canvas tote bags with Christian verses or quotes, and also has a customization option as well. Carried by Christ's goal is to spread the Word of the Lord one bag at a time. A great memory that she has from CEO is all the business visits from all around the area. She has appreciated the opportunity CEO has given her to build connections in the surrounding areas.





Ana Wolf is a Junior at Adrian High School. She participates in volleyball, club volleyball, Student Council, National Honor Society, and is a manager for the wrestling team. She also is a nanny for two families and a lifeguard. Ana's favorite part of CEO has been the mentor relationship she has built. Aside from the mentor relationship she has enjoyed learning about all the different businesses in our communities and growing her social network. Her business is called Elation Gifts. Elation Gifts is a gift box business that offers women, baby, and mini-me boxes with the option to customize the box. She is grateful for getting to be in CEO and wants to thank everyone who helped along the way.

Guest Speakers and Business Visits – Inspirational and Informational

Meinder Library

Grand Stay

First State Bank

McDonald's

Magnolia Cafe

Ron Honken

Ron Menning

DeBoer Chevrolet

Mark Nelsen

Wendy Alexander

Carl's Farm Store

Barn on 60th.

Big Top Tent & Events

Adrian Auto

Adrian Family Dental

Sailor Plastics

Rock River Ag

Dayton Avenue Orchard.

Pipestone Helping Farmers

Midwest Fire

Buffalo Ridge Insurance

Quality Printing

S&S Locker

JBS

New Vision Co-op

Fey Industries

Tyler Bush

Doug Eisma

Cox Realty

FBT Sawmills

Sunshine Foods

Rock Ranch

Salon 75

Adrian Building Center

Clothier by Dawn

Dr. Mike Smith

Sioux Valley Energy

Pizza Ranch

VanderStoep Furniture

Farmhouse Market

Main Street Financial

K&M Concrete

Mike Cox

Kanaranzi Creek

Papik Motors

Edgerton Bakery

Blac-X-Farms

Terry Nelson

Dahl Farms

Holly Sammons

Rock Ranch

Henning Construction

Blake Klinsing

Sanford

C&B John Deere

Dari King

Our Mentors – Making the difference



A *mentoring program* provides an effective networking model for Southwest Minnesota CEO students. Establishing effective one on one connections, that will strengthen the student's awareness of employment opportunities in our County and develop greater social skills through this mentorship experience. Every Southwest Minnesota CEO student, known as a young professional, is matched with a mentor from the business community. Ultimately, these relationships strengthen the CEO program's success and builds generational bridges between the student and the business community.

Responsibilities and activities:

- Meet with the student for scheduled meetings to discuss what they are learning in CEO
- Attend Monthly Mentor Mornings
- Review the student's business plan for their individual business
- Experience the weekly progress of their Protege through reading their journal entries of what they experience each day in CEO



Mentors

Jordan Papik – Papik Motors
Ellen Wenninger – Professional Ag Marketing
Annie Opitz – Quality Printing
LaDonna Van Aartsen – First Farmers & Merchants Bank
Dan LaRock – SilverStone Group/HUB International
Kevin Paulsen – Retired banker
Gary Papik – Papik Motors
Ann Miller – Retired Educator
Emily Crabtree – Luverne Area Community Foundation

Ross Fey – Insurance Industry, LLP
Stacie Busse Remme – Busse Plumbing and Heating
Ron Honken – AON
Tammy Loosbrock – Sanford Health
Sue Hauptert – J&S Logos
Stacy Smidt – Big Top Tent & Events
Quinn Buss – McClure Plumbing and Heating
Jordan Smidt – Big Top Tent & Events
Molly Schilling – Adrian Public School



Our Days

During the *CEO* year there are four types of days: class day, business visit, guest speaker and fun day. The majority of our days involve visiting businesses in our five communities. The students have the opportunity to meet many business owners, hear their story, and learn how they operate their business. The students also learn about various *career possibilities* in Southwest Minnesota.



Some guest speakers visit the class to share their stories along with life wisdom and advice. On class days CEO meets in assigned locations in each community. On these days, the students may learn a skill, work on their class or individual business. Every once in a while they need to *have fun!* These days are designed to build rapport within the group and have a more casual encounter.

Financial Data

Since its reception in 2016, the SWMN CEO program has been strengthened by tremendous support from organizations, area businesses and dozens of generous individuals of our region. Support for the program is generated from nearly 40 contributors in communities throughout southwest Minnesota. Some of those communities include Adrian, Beaver Creek, Edgerton, Ellsworth, Hardwick, Hills, Jasper, Leota, Luverne and Pipestone. All funding is provided through community donations, in-kind gifts and grants. These gifts are made in support of one of the top entrepreneurial exploration programs available for high school juniors and seniors in the country today, and its curriculum continues to improve each year!

Contributions are received by the Luverne Area Community Foundation on behalf of the SWMN CEO program. The services provided by the foundation are deeply appreciated and necessary for the continued success of the program. Their efforts, accounting and administrative support are superior for organizations like this one.

The school districts who participate in the program are not asked to provide any funding. They are asked, however, to help provide interested students with an opportunity to apply for acceptance and administrative support for those who are selected each year. Participating districts are appreciated for the additional time and resources they've made available from counseling and administrative staff to help ensure each student has had as successful an experience as possible.

What follows is a financial summary for the most recent calendar year 2022.

Each year, the program relies on renewing the financial commitments made through annual or 3-year periods from its supporters. For 2022, the total amount includes dollars received by the program from supporters adding contributions, investment results and pledges. The total operational cost for the program includes things such as facilitator compensation, class business marketing and supply expenses, educational tools, computer hardware and software and the rental costs of facilities throughout the year.

Beginning Balance on January 1, 2022	\$139,233.36
Total revenues for 2022 combined	\$38,500.00
Total expenses for 2022 totaled	\$56,075.12
Balance end of 2022	\$121,658.24
Current Total Balance as of 4.1.2023	\$109,855.53

As the current academic year comes to a close, the SWMN CEO program has a healthy reserve balance, thanks in part to a past successful years of corporate support. Our balance is adequate to handle the expenses for the forthcoming year. Over the past couple years, the expenses of the calendar year have been greater than the revenues brought in. The board is looking to increase the financial support to be closer to a break even each year. The board appreciates the support of previous generous and entrepreneurial communities in helping the class secure a sound financial footing moving forward.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Tyler Bush, Treasurer**

Class Business

Elected to lead the class business

Lauren Hansen, CFO

Kai Buss, CEO

Kayla Bloemendaal, COO



The class business started as an idea to make an advent calendar for Christmas time. This ended up not working as we didn't have enough time to get everything ready by November to start selling.

As a class, we decided to transition into making *coupon bundles*. We were going to make two different bundles, one for businesses and one for restaurants, and sell them together. We created a huge list of businesses

and restaurants in Luverne, Pipestone, Adrian, Ellsworth, and Hills that we could ask to be in our coupon bundle. We divided up the business list into small groups and took a few days to get in contact with all of the business owners. After a while, we noticed we weren't getting as many businesses as we would have hoped to be in the bundles. This made us make the tough decision to combine both bundles into one. This choice was a huge teaching moment for everyone because it taught about how taking risks is highly necessary in business. It ended up working out and we had 32 businesses on the coupon bundle, which we sold for \$20 each.

We sold 648 savings bundles

for \$20 per bundle. This made us a revenue of \$12,960.

We sold advertisements to businesses for \$200 for two spots in our bundle. From selling advertisements to businesses we made a revenue of \$6,400.

Our expenses for our class business were the printing costs. We had \$2,632.45 in printing cost expenses. Our profit from our class business was \$16,727.53. We were left with \$5,346.55 after everyone received \$599 for their individual businesses.

We will use this leftover money for charities within our communities and to put it towards a fun day at the end of the year.

Our class business was split into

The finished product: coupon bundle.



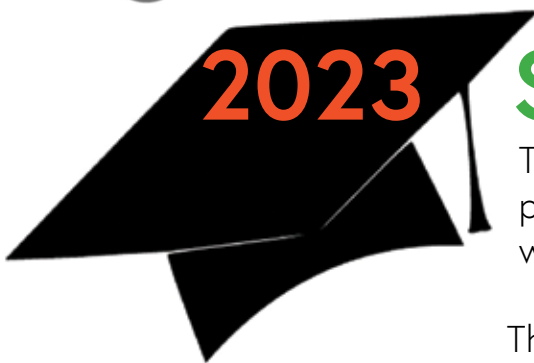
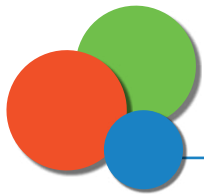
many different groups in order to be more productive. We had three different committees that were responsible for sales, design, and marketing. We split up the class in thirds and began to work.

The sales team found businesses to talk to about being in the coupon book as well as then splitting the students up into regions of selling. The design committee helped put together all of the coupons/

bundles and then worked with Quality Printing to get them made. Finally the marketing group helped create posts for social media and school advertising. Splitting up into different groups made it easier to communicate and manage getting work done. In the end, designating committees was a great decision for making the SWMN CEO Savings Bundle become more successful.

Overall, creating our own group business was very educational

and beneficial. As a group, and individually, we were all able to learn and grow. Throughout the business, we were able to gain more knowledge about communication, working with others, and more. We learned through mistakes and successes to help advance us for the future. As a group, we are grateful for the amazing opportunity.



Scholarships

The SWMN CEO board created a scholarship for those who participated in the program. **THREE \$1,000 scholarships** were awarded.

The application included writing an essay about their experiences in SWMN CEO, as well as their participation and attendance throughout the year.

This year's winners are:

Jacie Graham – Luverne

Lauren Hansen – Luverne

Ana Wolf – Adrian

Our Supporters

Buffalo Ridge Concrete

Carl's Farm Store

Cattnach Insurance Agency

City of Luverne

Continental Western Group

Dan and Marie LaRock

DeBoer Chevrolet

Fey Industries Inc.

First Bank And Trust

First Farmers and Merchants

First State Bank Southwest

Jaycox Implement

K&M Concrete

Luverne Area Chamber

Luverne Area Community Founda-
tion

Luverne Body Shop

Luverne Building Center

Main Street Financial Services, Inc

McClure Plumbing and Heating
Inc

Meulebroeck Taubert & Company

Midwest Fire

Minnwest Bank

New Horizon Farms

Papik Motors

Pipestone County Medical Center

Quality Printing

Sanford Luverne

Security Savings Bank

Skattum Confinement

Southwest Initiative Foundation

Sunshine Foods

Wilson Manufacturing

Woodstock Communications

Would you like to support Southwest Minnesota CEO?

Southwest Minnesota CEO program is fully funded by community businesses. This support covers the salary of the facilitator and program expenses while allowing the students to learn about how a business is operated and the opportunities available to them in Southwest Minnesota.

A supporter commits to a three-year contribution of \$1,000 each year.

Please contact Dan LaRock if you are interested in becoming a supporter.

Board Members



Jill Wolf – Luverne City Administrator

Lisa Dinger – Retired Educator/Dinger Sales & Service

Joe Douty – Wilson Manufacturing

Cate Koehne – Adrian Public Schools

Terry Nelson – Woodstock Communications

Tyler Bush – First Interstate Bank

Blake Klingsing – Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co.

Ross Fey – Insurance Industry, LLP

Dan LaRock – SilverStone Group/HUB International

Craig Oftedahl – Luverne Public Schools

Isaac DeBoer – Frontline Risk Management

SWMN CEO could change your life!

Sophomores and *Juniors* from Luverne, Pipestone, Edgerton (both public and private), Adrian, and Hills are encouraged to apply for the CEO program. The program is an opportunity unique to students in our area that will allow students to learn life skills, broaden their social capital, engage with business leaders in each community and use their creativity to start their own business. The application process will open in the fall.

To apply for SWMN CEO go to www.southwestminnesotaceo.com and click on the student application banner. Each applicant will need two references and a recommendation from their school counselor.

If you have any questions contact Katie Baustian at facilitator@southwestminnesotaceo.com.



Alumni

2019

Sixta Barrios
Claire Baustian
Lilli Donohue
Courtney Fey

Audra Homandberg
Kiara Honken
Halle Hough
Sara Knips

Beau Loosbrock
Mallary Remund
Josie Scholten
Oscar Serreyn

Madison Spath
McCall Stegenga
Joseph Van Essen
Matthew Ziegler

2020

Brinna Bloemendaal
Quinn Buss
Colby Crabtree
Jonathan Eisma

Regan Feit
Rylee Gee
Brenna Henning
Teagan Leusink

Bryn Mongeau
Nathan Nekali
Scott Nolan
Isabel Smeins

Austin Taylor
Lindsey Trujillo
Cade Wenninger

2021

Kaden Anderson
Reghan Bork
Kendall Buss
Wyatt Decker

Keegan Fey
Elli Kracht
Shelby Kracht
Allison LaRock

Elsie O'Neil
Jayson Rops
Haleah Soto

Jori Strasser
Cybil VanderTop
Mia Wenzel

2022

Hunter Ahrendt
Julianne Eisma
Hiltyn Heitkamp

Ellynor Klosterbuer
Jocelynn Mann
Noah Mehlhaff
Samantha Moser

Mallory Nelson
Mary Opitz
Melody Remund
Braydon Ripka
Rogen Smidt

Hermella Suda
Kamryn VanBatavia
Owen Vogel
Mallory VonTersch
Mackenzie Voss



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