



KNOX COUNTY IL **CEO**[®]

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL
OPPORTUNITIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

LETTER FROM THE FACILITATOR

**Scott Cramer,
Facilitator 2021-2022**



Year four of the Knox County CEO program is in the books. This year's class included some of Knox County's finest students.

What a privilege it is to be the CEO facilitator. It has been a joy to watch yet another group of motivated students move through the CEO process as they struggle, mature, blossom and appreciate all the opportunities that Knox County has to offer.

Our community has once again outdone themselves in their generosity to our students and this program by sharing their time, treasures, and talents with us. This year's team gained such an immense amount of life knowledge crammed into just 33 weeks. This could never be mimicked inside of any other life experience.

To our investors: Your financial commitment to the future of our community through these students does not go unnoticed. We are so fortunate to live in a community where people such as you choose to hang a shingle and do business. Thank you!

To our mentors: Thank you for caring enough to invest large blocks of time from your schedules to spend pouring into our CEO students about their individual businesses and many other life adventures. Your commitment to their success is making a difference!

To the Knox County CEO board: Your dedication and commitment to making sure we are able to continue our program through financial commitments, introductions to our new connections and always being willing to help wherever you're needed.

To each of you reading this annual report I look forward to our fifth year where we will have students representing Galesburg, ROWVA, Abingdon & Williamsfield. None of this would be possible without individuals like you that are passionate about their business, this community and the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Looking forward to facilitating the Class of '23!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Cramer', written in a cursive style.

Scott Cramer

KNOX COUNTY IL CEO ALUMNI

2018-2019

MASON MARTINEZ
BENJAMIN BEEBE
BRAYDEN BLEDSOE
DALTON SIMS
DJ GAIN
GRACIE GIBBONS

2019-2020

GRANT ROBINSON
JAKE POTTER
JANICE ABEL
KYLER SMITH
LUCAS KELSO

2020-2021

ALEXANDRA CAIN
CASEY FOLGER
CONNOR STERR
DASHA PAIGE
DONAVON HENRY
MACKENZIE MUSSER
NATHANIEL BEEBE
RYAN NASH
TOBY HENRY

2021-2022

CLARA ASPLUND
STERLING GRAMER
JORDYN CROOKS
MIA HANEGHAN
CLARA KUELPER
LILYAN MCNALLY
EMMA SEIBOLDT





Clara Kuelper, a student at R.O.W.V.A High School, is involved in many extra-curricular activities such as: Varsity Golf, Football Cheerleading, Basketball Cheerleading, FFA, 4-H, and more! She is very involved with agriculture in her community. She was the R.O.W.V.A FFA Chapter Reporter and the Section 4 FFA Reporter. She is hoping that one day she will be able to be an Illinois State Officer for FFA! In her free time she enjoys competing in pageants, reading, showing livestock, and hanging out with friends. Currently she is working toward gaining her Associates Degree before the end of High School. In the future she plans to attend the University of Iowa and study biochemistry. She joined the CEO Program because she wanted to learn more about the fundamentals that go into starting and having a successful business.



Sterling Cramer, a ROWVA High School student, loves acting and photography and tries to do those two things as much as he can. He started taking acting classes at The Performing Arts Academy of Galesburg when he was in the fifth grade and has done it every year since. His interest in photography sparked when he saw how much fun it was for his older brother, Skylar. In 2018 he got his first camera and since then he has upgraded to a Sony a6300, an assortment of lenses, and a MacBook Pro for editing. You can see some of his pictures on his Instagram: @sterlingjcramer. He is also a part of the RW Baseball and Golf team and the ROWVA Trap Shoot team. Inside and out of school he is a pastor's kid in a family of nine trying to figure out life. He joined the CEO program to learn about business, management, meet new people, and hopefully to create a business out of photography and build a client base for the future.



Emma Seiboldt, a ROWVA High School student, is an extremely active person in and out of school. She participates in cross country, track & field, basketball, and football cheerleading. Not to mention, her first year of cross country, she made Sectionals! Within school, she was a class representative, student council member and on the scholastic bowl team. She was the secretary of the ROWVA FFA Chapter, and vice president of the Walnut Grove Progressors 4-H Club. She was the reporter for the Knox County 4-H Federation Board, and a member of the UCA Mission Team. Her plans are to attend medical school to become a pediatric oncologist while continuing life on her 7th generation, family farm. Emma joined the CEO Program to learn life skills, business skills, and public speaking skills. She was excited to use this opportunity to grow connections with the other students, as well as business owners.





Jordan Crooks

Pop
Printing

Jordyn Crooks, a recent graduate of Galesburg High School, is usually busy at school, TRIO Upward Bound, or sewing, painting, or looking up more colleges to go to. In school she participated in Theater and Scholastic Bowl. She joined CEO to help her grow as a person as well as a business. She feels that the CEO Program is an amazing program and opportunity.



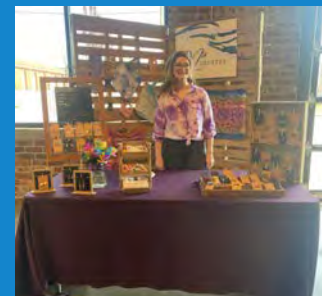
Mia Hanaghan

Mia Haneghan is a recent graduate of Galesburg High School. Her favorite subjects at school are ELA - based courses due to the extensive amount of creative freedom and expression present. With her time outside of school, she plays soccer, is an activist for social change, participates in Scholastic Bowl, and spends the remainder of her time doing various activities with friends/family. She believes community is an important aspect of her life and wishes to create a positive impact on her community. One of Mia's most recent accomplishments was winning first place in the Galesburg Public Library's Poetry Contest of 2021. As for her future plans, she will be a first generation college student. Being in the CEO program, Mia aims to meet new people in her community to uplift each other, further her career plans, learn more about business and economic opportunities, and to take a personal, yet collaborative approach to becoming a CEO!



Lilyan McNally

Lilyan McNally is a recent graduate of Galesburg High School. She has been running her small business, LMC Creates, for three years. Doing that and illustrations for children's books takes up most of her time these days; other than that, she enjoys doing theater, singing, dancing, and art! She plays competitive volleyball and soccer, and loves playing sports like tennis and badminton for fun. She was extremely excited to learn and grow during her time in the CEO program!



Clara Asplund



Clara Asplund, a ROWVA High School student, is involved in many extracurriculars both in and out of school. Outside of school she served in many roles with 4-H, her church and is a full time chicken and turkey owner. Inside of school, she participated in Cross Country, Marching Band, Student Council, Scholastic Bowl, FFA, and Academic Challenge. She is also the FFA Historian and a Class Officer. Once she graduates High School, she plans on attending U of I for Agricultural Education and Agricultural Business. Her current plan is to be an Ag teacher while owning her own business and helping on her family farm. She joined CEO with the hopes of improving her business knowledge and skills to be able to better communicate with her peers. She also hopes to make new connections while forming her own individual business.



HINCHLIFF- PEARSON- WEST



G&M DISTRIBUTORS



ORANGE CUP JAVA STATION



GALESBURG BROADCASTING



CITY OF GALESBURG



PURLEE FARMS



THE ORPHEUM THEATRE



DERBY INDUSTRIES

From franchises to mom and pops, from large businesses to small, the Knox County IL CEO program benefits from their over 60 site visits. Each year, students drive before school starts to meet and receive the behind the scenes expertise of some of Knox County's top business leaders. Students learn things like the importance of a good website, handshake, or personal letter. They also learn how to treat your employees and how to take those first steps into owning a business.

STARTS WITH THE BEST



52

Packages sold

Students are shown constructing the Treats and Traditions Box. The class recorded videos to help guide customers during the baking process.



MISSION

"Our package is intended to give your family an authentic multicultural experience. It includes various games and treats from the following cultures, which all are represented within our class: African Ameican, Mexican and Swedish"



CLASS BUSINESS



It truly takes a village in the Knox County IL CEO Program. When this class isn't at a site visit, speaking engagement or working on their businesses, they are learning life long skills. Midland Institute has provided over 71 key concepts to touch on throughout the year. Some topics include hand shaking, team building, creating your "Elevator Pitch," and many more. These skills are what this program is known for in the community. Some of these photos show students practicing speaking in front of a small audience, introducing themselves and having short conversations, collaborating and more. Also pictured is Mentor, Chris Bayer, giving the student's their class business checks.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT



MENTORS

Each student is paired with a local, background checked professional to mentor them throughout the year. These mentors work with the students by providing insight on markets, plans, marketing, and getting their student ready for their trade show. They also ensure the student is supported through their individual business launch process.

LAURA ANDERSON

CHRIS BAYER

ANDREW BOWMAN

KARLIE BOWMAN

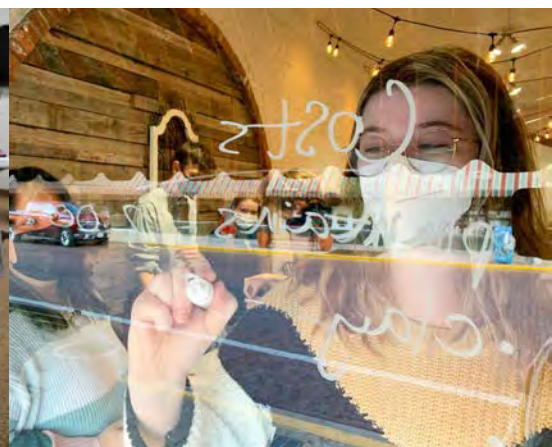
CANDACE D'AGNOLO

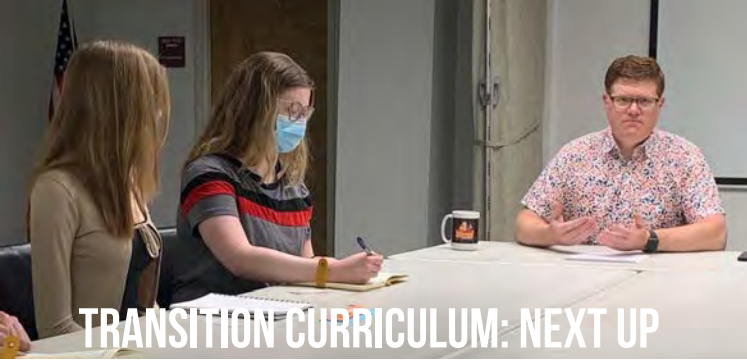
TIFFANY SPRINGER

RHONDA TEMPLETON

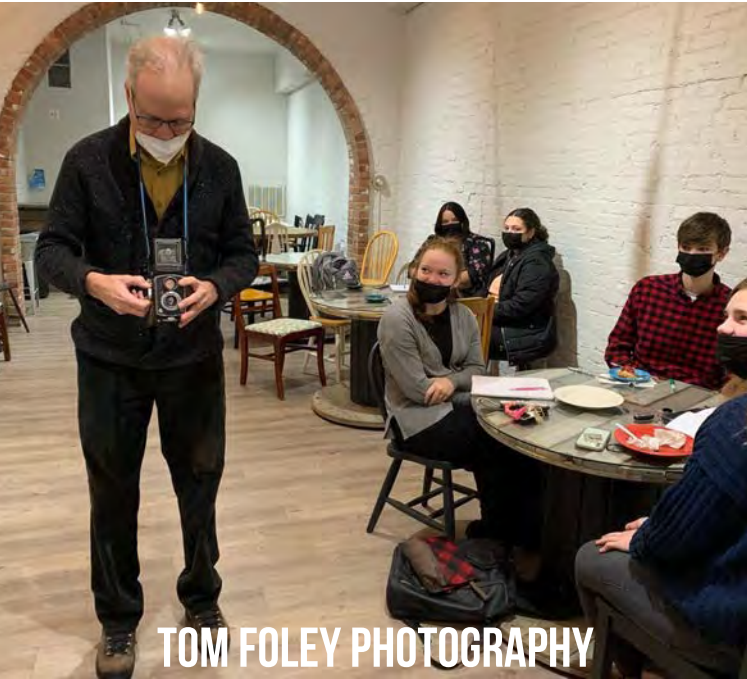
DAMON TOMEO

SARA VARNER





TRANSITION CURRICULUM: NEXT UP



TOM FOLEY PHOTOGRAPHY



KNOX COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

Guests speakers provide some of the programs best lessons.

Some of the pictures shown are of businesses like the small business development center that aides in launching small businesses

Another is the Young Professional Network of Galesburg speaking on how to dress for success. Our Speakers teach lessons with hands on examples that the CEO students remember for years.

CEOS BR LE KE A LE DE S

INVESTORS

We would like to thank each and every one of our investors. Without these partners, this program would not be able to be facilitated as a dual credit, competitive program, at no cost to the student or school district.

Thank you for your continued investment in these students.

ANDERSON STATE BANK

BONDI BUILDING CORP.

BLICK ART MATERIALS

F & M BANK

MIDWEST BANK

KCAP

TOMPKINS STATE BANK

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #33

ANONYMOUS ON BEHALF OF GCF

UNITED WAY OF KNOX COUNTY

GALESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

OSF

RSM US

ADVANCED BUSINESS SYSTEMS

ORANGE JAVA CUP STATION

GALESBURG BROADCASTING

ORION RENEWABLE RESOURCES

PLATINUM KEY REAL ESTATE LLC

KARLIE AND ANDREW BOWMAN

GALESBURG COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

ROWVA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

LANDMARK CAFÉ

PET BOSS NATION

G & M DISTRIBUTORS

DAVES AUTO BODY / MASTERS CLASS

JAMES AND SUELLEN PURLEE FARMS

CITY OF GALESBURG

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO INVEST IN THE KNOX COUNTY IL CEO PROGRAM CONTACT US AT:

abbyeknoxpartnership.com

309-343-9908

knoxcountyilceo.com

HOW TO STAY ENGAGED

Sign up for our newsletter at www.knoxcountyilceo.com

Follow Us on:  Facebook @knoxcountyLceo

 Instagram @knoxcountyceo

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO:

- Attend a Class
- Become a Speaker
- Become a Site Visit
- Become a Mentor
- Become a \$100 or \$500 Friend & Family Donor
- Become a \$1,000 or \$3,000+ Program Sponsor

Contacts us at
309-343-1194
or
abby@knoxpartnership.com
to learn how!