



# Annual Report

2016-2017

*Christian County CEO is a transformational educational experience using our community's best resource-its people-to connect with its best hope for a vibrant future-its young people.*



## From Our Facilitator

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Imagine yourself starting, owning and operating a business, before you graduated from high school! That is exactly what eight students from Taylorville and Edinburg high schools have accomplished. These students are unique, multitalented and very hard working entrepreneurs. They think, act and conduct themselves like professionals. They are all curious, respectful, responsible, self-reliant and there is not a problem that they are unwilling or unable to solve. It has been my privilege to have the honor, of serving as their facilitator. They have navigated the CEO experience using 3 core values, as their foundation:

- Do what you say you are going to do.
- Do it when you say you will do it.
- Communicate while you do it.

CEO is successful in Christian County because of the support given to us, from our business community. They provide the resources, business experience, expertise and are always willing to share that GREAT knowledge with our CEO students. By example, they help our students move toward a successful path for their businesses and for their lives.

Obtaining the necessary skills to meet the challenges of the 21st century, is made possible for our students by our investors, contributors, board members, mentors, class speakers, and business owners who allowed us to tour their businesses, hosts who allowed our class to meet at their businesses and by all of our other supporters. The students and I would like to say that we appreciate what you have done for the CEO program and we want to collectively say, "Thank You."

Dick Adams

CEO Facilitator



# Mission, Vision and Culture

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## **Mission Statement**

*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 Statement**

*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.*



*Photo by MH Photography*

Front Row: Samantha Hafliger, Kyle Woods, Alexis Gibson

Back Row: Rhett Molen, Matthew O'Brien, Dalton Lingl, Brendan Watson, Zebert Dunaway

## 2017 Christian County CEO Class



Photo by MH Photography

### Zebert Dunaway

Zebert always loved learning how things work and working with his hands. Sometimes he would just take something apart and put it back together just to see how it works, and he loves a challenge. At Zebert's business, **Bert's Odd Jobs**, there is no such thing as a job too small. Although, he is not an expert at everything, he promises to do his best on any job he receives. Zebert's handyman business, relies on two main priorities - communication with customers and being on time. Ultimately, customer satisfaction is Zebert's main goal. Zebert can be reached at 217-820-2920 or via email at [bertsoddjobs@gmail.com](mailto:bertsoddjobs@gmail.com).



Zebert states, "The two major takeaways I received from CEO are that networking can be one of your most valuable assets and the first seven seconds when meeting someone for the first time, are the most important."

After graduation, Zebert plans to attend Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and major in business.



Photo by MH Photography

### Samantha Hafliger

Samantha Hafliger of Edinburg created a business named **A Sweet Stem**. In this business, Samantha makes saddles and bouquets that can put on top of graves or can be used for weddings, prom, special occasions, banquets, etc. Samantha can be contacted at [asweetstem@yahoo.com](mailto:asweetstem@yahoo.com) or by phone at (217)-832-2126.

Samantha states, "CEO has taught me how to be more confident in myself. It has also helped me with public speaking and selling things. CEO is a great class and I would recommend it to anyone."

Samantha will be graduating from Edinburg High School in May. After graduation, Samantha plans to go to Lincoln Land Community College for two years then transferring to a university.



# 2017 Christian County CEO Class



Photo by MH Photography



## Alexis Gibson

Alexis is a student at Edinburg High School. Alexis states, "The CEO program was a perfect fit for me this year! My dream is to own a bakery one day. The CEO program coupled with culinary arts classes at Capital Area Career Center means my dream is closer to reality every day." Alexis recommends the CEO program to anyone who wants to get a head start on making your dreams come true.

Alexis lives in a single parent household with a fraternal twin brother. Alexis enjoys playing any and all sports even if it's considered a "male" sport. Alexis states, "I enjoy working with my hands so culinary arts is a good field for me!"

Alexis' business **Bake Me Away** can be contacted at 217-823-5333 or via email at [lexiegibson328@gmail.com](mailto:lexiegibson328@gmail.com)



Photo by MH Photography



## Dalton Lingl

Dalton Lingl, a senior at Taylorville High School, recently announced his new business called **Noble Customs**. At **Noble Customs** used motorcycles are purchased and flipped for profit after being restored. At some point, Dalton would like to see the business grow into a shop and be able to make cafe racers. Dalton can be reached at 217-827-2769 or [noblecustoms@gmail.com](mailto:noblecustoms@gmail.com)

Dalton states, "CEO resonated with me personally for the fact I have always known regular school wasn't for me. I never wanted to go to college until this past year. I am a firm believer schooling is not the end all when it comes to being rich and successful and I've met many great men to back that statement. I wish to see CEO grow and continue to shape great minds that have the same view I do."

After graduation, Dalton plans on attending SIUe for exercise science or music production. Depending on which major he chooses, he may transfer to Northwestern Missouri for his last two years.



## 2017 Christian County CEO Class



### Rhett Molen

Rhett Molen, son of Mark and Cathy Molen is a native to Taylorville. Rhett comes from an entrepreneurial family. Rhett's oldest brother operates Seth Molen Construction, and sister Kayla is an instructor at Rock Steady Boxing in Taylorville. Grant works as a bartender while Luke is currently attending SIUe rounding out the family of five siblings.

Rhett will graduate from Taylorville Senior High School in May and plans to attend Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. Rhett states, "Going into the CEO program I didn't know exactly what to expect, but CEO has sharpened my communication skills and taught me how essential networking skills that any successful person needs. Along with various other lessons, I have learned that in any business it is critical to do whatever it takes to keep your customers happy."



Rhett is starting a food delivery service for the Taylorville area. **Taylorville Food Delivery** customers will be able to view local restaurant's menus at [taylorvillefooddelivery.com](http://taylorvillefooddelivery.com). Convenient online ordering will be available and orders delivered within one hour. Rhett would like to his expand his business with local grocery stores. Rhett can be contacted at 217-801-9603.



*Photo by MH Photography*

### Matthew O'Brien

Matthew O'Brien of Stonington is a senior at Taylorville High School. CEO inspired Matthew to start **O'Brien's Salvage**. O'Brien's Salvage is a resale business where items are bought and clean them up to be sold again. Contact Matthew via email at [obrienssalvage@gmail.com](mailto:obrienssalvage@gmail.com).

Mathew states, "CEO was better than I expected. The experience I got from this class will help me for the rest of my life. I have learned so much about business and how to handle myself professionally. The biggest takeaway from CEO for me was how much of a better public speaker it made me.

After graduation from Taylorville High School, Matthew plans to attend University of Illinois at Springfield and major in accounting.



# 2017 Christian County CEO Class



*Photo by MH Photography*

## Brendan Watson



**Tidal Computer Technologies (TCT)** has been operational since late 2016, and sets out to provide excellent service in the realm of computer repairs and e-recycling. This is achieved by personally visiting the areas of need, as requested, and performing service with quality. TCT provides reimbursement for specified recycled scrap for qualifying businesses and schools. One of our major beliefs is the prospering of schools, so every school will qualify for the reimbursement program. Contact Brendan at 217-623-5718 or at [bwatsonpersonal@gmail.com](mailto:bwatsonpersonal@gmail.com) for business inquiries.

Brendan was raised in Bulpitt, but spent most of his life in Edinburg Illinois. Brendan states, “I grew up enjoying the technology around me. As a child, I would disassemble box televisions and put them back together. CEO helped me understand what it was that I needed to do to start my own business.”

After this school year, Brendan will be moving both himself and his business to the Champaign, Illinois area. Brendan plans on earning a Ph.D. in computer science and one day becoming a professor.



*Guest Speaker Retired Judge Ron Spears*



*Guest Speaker Mike Specha*

# 2017 Christian County CEO Class



## Kyle Woods

Kyle Woods is a Junior at Taylorville High School. Kyle is starting a drone photography business called **KW Aerial Photography** specializing in small events, family outings, etc. Kyle can be contacted at 217-820-7023 or via email at [kyle.woods.ap@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.woods.ap@gmail.com)

Kyle states, "I was inspired to join CEO by my grandmother Patty Hornbuckle. She is a very hard working individual and she pushed me to strive to be great. I am extremely excited to get my business started. After high school, I fully intend on going to college. I plan on using some of the revenue I gain from my business to help me get through college with minimum debt."

Kyle shares, "CEO is a great class. It has pushed me to try harder in school and strive for perfection with my business. My favorite thing about the class is being able to control my personal business schedule for each and every day. I decide what I want to do and when I want to do it with my business as my top priority. I love having my business as a big aspect of my life."



*A little drone fun*



*2017 Winter Banquet*



# 2017 Christian County CEO Activities



Mayor Brotherton, City of Taylorville Tour



Business Tour, GSI/AGCO



Brent DeMichael, CCMHA Tour



Kevin Lust  
LLCC Small Business Development Center

**48** business Investors and other contributors, funded a second-year CEO operations budget of approximately **\$63,000.00**. There were no expenses to the two participating school districts or the students.

**Four** businesses served as our classroom sites during the school year: **Taylorville Memorial Hospital, Greater Taylorville Chamber of Commerce, Battery Specialists & Golf Cars and McLane.**

Students visited **22** Christian County businesses.

Over **20** speakers, from the Christian County business community, came to our class and shared their business wisdom and experience with the students.

Students had the opportunity to speak publicly about their CEO experience at **12** different community events or public speaking engagements.

There were approximately **25** guests and visitors to our classroom sites.

Students created, developed and implemented **three** separate business plans.

Students created and managed a hoodie/sweatshirts business, hosted a class business event and started their own personal business.

As a result of the above-mentioned business related activities, students created gross revenues of approximately **\$18,700.00**.

They created from business related activities, net profits of approximately **\$13,100.00**.

Understanding the importance of “giving back” to their communities, students donated from their net profits, **\$1,000.00** to Shelby County CEO startup and **\$1,000.00** to Christian County CEO program.

Each student received **\$1,000.00** to start their own businesses.

Students participated and sold hoodie/sweatshirts at the Taylorville Chillifest and at other events, during the school year.

**Eight** business people from Christian County donate their time and serve as mentors for our students.

Students have formed long lasting relationships with business leaders, those in education, and community leaders from throughout Christian County.

Because of their business contacts and relationships, students have evolved into confident, capable business people, before they graduate from high school.

# Business and Individual Investors

## Business Investors

Advanced Title Group  
Ahlstrom Filtration LLC  
Anderson Jewelers, Inc.  
Anonymous  
Battery Specialists & Golf Cars  
Cliff & Diane Beatty  
Bertrand Hopper Memorial  
Foundation  
Blue Ston Farms  
Bob Ridings Family of Dealerships  
Breeze Courier  
City of Taylorville  
Cleeton's Sanitation Service  
CNB Bank & Trust, N.A.  
Computer Techniques, Inc.  
County of Christian  
Curvey Real Estate  
Dr. & Mrs. Rick DelValle  
Eric Kahle State Farm Insurance Agent  
First National Bank in Taylorville  
First National Bank of Pana  
Hickman, Specha, Steiner and Beckley  
Landmark Automotive Group  
Louis Marsch, Inc.

McLane  
McMillan Landscaping Co.  
Midland Community Bank  
Miller Media Group  
Milling Millwork Contracting Inc.  
Pages Body Shop  
Pana Community Hospital  
Pana Palladium  
People's Bank & Trust  
Shelby Electric Co-op  
Spurling Title, Inc.  
Taylorville Community Credit  
Union  
Taylorville Kiwanis Club  
Taylorville Memorial Hospital  
Taylorville Sertoma Club  
US Bank, N.A.  
Yard Heating and Cooling

## Individual Investors

Anonymous  
Janice Hart  
Ken Hart  
Bill Hopper  
Marilyn Hopper



*David Cowell, Anderson Jewelers Business Tour*



*Ahlstrom Filtration Tour*



*Coming fall 2017  
CEO Networking Event*



*Spurling Title Business Tour*



## Contributors



*Bob Ridings Business Tour*



*Cheryl Mitchell, Midland Institute, Guest Speaker*



*Milling Millwork Contracting Business Tour*

Anonymous

Greg Brotherton

Tim & Janet Butcher

Christian County CEO Class of 17

Citizens Bank of Edinburg

Davis Memorial Christian Church

Dimond Bros. Insurance

Edinburg Herald Star

Yasar Freij, MD

Amy Gill

Pavi Gill, MD, JD

Robert Hamer

Illinois Federation of Business Women

Bruce & Meg Kettelkamp

Dee Krueger

Craig & Beth Lindvahl

McDonald's of Pana

McDonald's of Taylorville

Midwest Meter, Inc.

Mike & Jan McClure

Pana Township

Rene's Drug Store

Mary Renner

Sutton Memorial Homes, LTD

Taylorville Optimist Club

Taylorville Public Schools Foundation

United Way of Christian County

Village of Edinburg

***"The BIGGEST benefit to the Christian County CEO Program, is to see the CHANGE in participating students' view of our county, of business, and of what the future holds for THEIR career!"***

**Randy Miller**

CEO Board Member

CEO Investor

## Board of Directors

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Chair

**Dee Krueger**

Lincoln Land Community College

Vice Chair

**Brenda Spurling**

Spurling Title, Inc.

Treasurer

**Ken Hart**

People's Bank

Secretary

**Patty Hornbuckle**

Greater Taylorville Chamber of  
Commerce

Administrative Agent

**Marchelle Kasselbaum**

Regional Office of Education

Board Member

**Greg Brotherton**

City of Taylorville

Board Member

**Joe Curvey**

Curvey Real Estate

Board Member

**Mary DelValle**

Community Representative

Board Member

**Lacy Glenn**

Taylorville School District

Board Member

**Randy Miller**

Miller Media Group

Board Member

**Michelle Reiss**

Edinburg School District

Board Member

**Heather Strom**

Pana School District

Board Member

**Adam Vocks**

Computer Techniques, Inc.

Ex-Officio

**Mary Renner**

Christian County Economic  
Corporation

*"The CEO program prepares you to be ready for change,  
but also to set goals you want to accomplish. It teaches you  
that the most rewarding paths are the ones with a prize at  
the end, even if that path splits or becomes a mountain.*

*Know what you want and have some idea of how you will  
get there, but never stop moving forward."*

*Patty Hornbuckle, CEO Board Member/Secretary*

***We're not the only ones excited about the Christian County CEO program...***

**8**

Current Year Students

**17**

Total CEO Students

**48**

Total CEO Investors



## Class Speakers

**Chris Biondolino**

JJ Adventures

**Avery Bourne**

Illinois State Representative

**Danny Coker**

Battery Specialists and Golf Cars, Inc.

**Lacy Glenn**

Lu La Roe

**Amy Hagen**

US Bank

**Myra Hoffman**

HIP Advertising

**Patty Hornbuckle**

Greater Taylorville Chamber of Commerce

**Lou Johnson**

McLane

**Kevin Lust**

LLCC Small Business Development Center

**Seth McMillan**

McMillian Landscaping

**Randy Miller**

Miller Media Group

**Cheryl Mitchell**

Midland Institute of Entrepreneurship

**John Perles**

Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship

**Bob Ridings**

Bob Ridings Ford, Inc.

**Ed Sakorski**

U of I Professor

**Josh Shallenberger**

Shelby Co-op

**Retired Judge Ronald Spears**

**Mike Specha**

Hickman, Specha, Steiner and Beckley LLP

**Adam Vocks**

Computer Techniques, Inc.

**Patrick Wambler**

Jimmy John's

**Tara Winter**

Illinois State Historical Society



*Guest Speaker Josh Shallenberger  
Shelby Electric*



*Lou Johnson, McLane - CEO Host*

## Business Tours

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Ahlstrom Filtration	Jensen's
Anderson Jewelers	McLane
Battery Specialists	McMillan Landscaping Co.
Behind Closed Doors	Milling Millwork Contracting Inc.
Bob Ridings Ford	Miller Media Group
Breeze Courier	Oak Terrace
CCMHA	Spurling Title Company
City of Taylorville	Taylorville Correctional Center
Computer Techniques, Inc.	The Equity
Domino Engineering	
GSI	

## Financial Report

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		Expenses
<b>Revenues</b>		Facilitator Expense \$32,641
		Midland Institute Fee \$ 3,000
		Administrative Support Expense \$ 1,800
		Professional Fees \$ 1,000
		Web Site Support \$ 340
		Student Support & Supplies \$ 1,350
		Classroom Supplies \$ 225
		Annual Report and Trade Show \$ 3,000
		Cash Balance Forward <u>\$39,847</u>
		\$82,843
Cash Balance	\$54,148	
Investor & Contributor Donations	<u>\$28,195</u>	
	\$82,843	

Company/Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Web Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Donor(s)**

I/We wish to contribute to the Christian County CEO Program as follows:

**Investor**☐ \$1,000 annually for three years (\$3,000) total**Contributor**☐ One-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**Payment Method**☐ My check for the entire pledge is enclosed☐ Please bill me☐ My check for the first of three annual payments is enclosed

(please send me an annual reminder)

**Acknowledgements**

I/We would like our name/company name to be listed in the acknowledgements:

☐ I/We wish to remain anonymous

Please make checks payable to **Christian County CEO, Inc.** for the benefit of the Christian County CEO Program. Christian County CEO, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature\_\_\_\_\_  
Date**Participant(s)**

I/We would like to be considered for: (check all that apply)

☐ Hosting a CEO class☐ Having a CEO class visit my organization☐ Speaking at a CEO class☐ Mentoring a CEO student**Return this form to:**

Dee Krueger  
Lincoln Land Community College  
800 South Spresser Street  
Taylorville, IL 62568

email: [dee.krueger@llcc.edu](mailto:dee.krueger@llcc.edu)  
phone: 217.786.2778



*Lisa Moses, Behind Closed Doors Business Tour*



*The Equity Business Tour*

*CEO takes a community. There are countless community members who attend CEO events, provide auction items, provide business tours, purchase from CEO businesses, sponsor CEO events, or simply spread the word of CEO, that we are forever grateful to. Christian County is a great place for business.*

### *CEO Board of Directors*



*Katie Olmus, Oak Terrace Business Tour*



*Larry Peterson, Domino Engineering Business Tour*

CHRISTIAN COUNTY **CEO**®

108 West Market Street ■ 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Taylorville, IL 62568

217.824.4919

[www.christiancountyceo.com](http://www.christiancountyceo.com)