

Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities



2025 Annual Report



Facilitator

Neil Hohenstein

Dear Christian County CEO Community,

As we conclude the 2024–2025 school year, I am honored to reflect on what has truly been a groundbreaking year for Christian County CEO. Now in our tenth year, we marked a historic milestone. For the first time, we operated not one but two CEO classes, each filled with eager, driven students. With expanded enrollment came expanded opportunity, and with that, both the rewards and challenges of growth.

Facilitating two classes allowed for more student-led ventures, deeper community connections, and a broader scope of experiences. The two classes collaborated on some projects while working independently on others, learning the importance of communication, adaptability, and leadership in real time. Whether planning events together or building their individual businesses, these students continually demonstrated the entrepreneurial mindset: recognizing opportunities, managing risk with purpose, and embracing innovation.

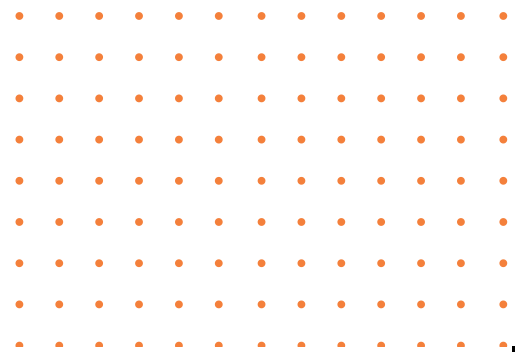
This year's classes collectively launched several, profitable class businesses, both product-based and service-based, each showcasing unique talents and creative energy. These ventures brought together students from different backgrounds, schools, and schedules, yet they found common ground through shared goals and entrepreneurial spirit. They were willing to take initiative, make decisions, and refine their thinking through hands-on experience... a hallmark of the CEO program!

Throughout the year, our students also engaged with local businesses through site tours, hosted guest speakers, and met regularly with mentors who provided personalized insight and support. These elements continue to be the heart of what makes CEO transformational: real-world experience, connection to community, and meaningful relationships.

The culmination of the year was once again the annual Trade Show, held at the St. Mary School gym just off the Taylorville square. This event gave students the chance to present their personal businesses, connect with the public, and showcase everything they've learned, from marketing and finance to time management and customer service.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the Christian County CEO board, our investors, mentors, parents, guest speakers, and the many community partners who make this program possible. Thank you for embracing our expanded vision and for continuing to support the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders.

With appreciation,
Neil C. Hohenstein
Facilitator, Christian County CEO



Students

Hello! I'm Addison Tarr, a senior at Taylorville High School. I've lived in Taylorville all my life and began school at St. Mary's. I play basketball and am part of an Indiana AAU team. I maintain a 4.0+ GPA while also attending Lincoln Land Community College. I work at Gliks and for a UK-based fragrance company. I love mentoring young athletes and plan to study exercise science at a university. **Fuel Station Vending** provides student-athletes and health-conscious individuals with personalized snack and drink plans tailored to their sport or lifestyle. Our nutrition-based service supports performance, reduces injury risk, and boosts cognitive function. What sets us apart is convenience—each plan is delivered right to your door, saving time and eliminating the hassle. Let us fuel your goals with healthy, effective options. Contact us via Email, Facebook, or Instagram to schedule your consultation today!

Hello! My name is Anthony Rivecco, and I am currently attending Taylorville High School as a senior. I participate as an athlete on the Boys Soccer Team, this will be my second year playing the sport. I am in TommyTV, which since freshman year has helped me learn and develop my passion for media, journalism, and content creation. **Square One Apparel** is a clothing brand built on the belief that every journey starts from the ground up. We are more than just apparel—we are a movement that inspires individuals to embrace new beginnings, chase their passions, and take the first step toward their goals. Our designs reflect ambition, resilience, and self-expression, empowering our customers to wear their journey with confidence. At Square One Apparel, we believe success starts with a single step—what's yours?


My name is Avery Ellis. I am currently a senior enrolled at Taylorville High School. Throughout my high school years, I have been involved in Student Council, FFA, Purple Reign, Unified Tornadoes, Key Club, and the Taylorville track team. I have served on the executive board of St. Mary's Youth Group for several years. For the past three summers, I have worked at The Manners Park Pool as a lifeguard. Along with that, I have worked at Angelo's Pizza as a cashier and waitress for two years. **Mary Kay Inc.** is a global leader in the beauty and skincare industry, founded by Mary Kay Ash in 1963. The company's mission is to enrich the lives of women by offering high-quality skincare and cosmetics while providing an opportunity to own and operate their businesses as beauty consultants.

Students

Hello, my name is Ayanna Jeffrey, a senior at Faith Bible Christian Academy in Rosamond, Illinois. I was born and raised in Taylorville in a family of 11, and as the middle child, I've learned to appreciate both chaos and connection. I accepted Jesus as my Savior at age 5 and have since devoted my life to Him. Through my walk with Christ, I've grown in kindness, compassion, self-control, and gratitude. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 reminds me to rejoice and give thanks in all things. I'm honored to be part of the Class of 2025 CEO program and excited to learn from the experiences of others while pursuing success with joy and purpose. **Cottage Cookies** is a home-based bakery in Taylorville dedicated to spreading comfort and joy through freshly baked, homemade treats. Whether for celebrations or everyday moments, our cookies bring warmth and sweetness to the community

Hello, my name is Ben Wamsley. I am a senior at Taylorville High School and have lived in Taylorville my whole life. I'm involved in numerous organizations such as FFA, Tommy TV, Tommy Awards, NHS, 4-H, FCA, and the IHSA as an official. In addition, I help raise sheep at my grandparents farm, and show them at local and national contests. **Forest Blue's Candy** offers unique, simple candy using nostalgic recipes from my great grandfather. My great grandfather was known for making candy for his friends and family. Now, I want to dust off his recipes to offer to everyone. It is my hope that you will find these time tested recipes just as delicious as I do. Whether you want to fill your craving with a smooth piece of fudge or some crunchy peanut brittle, I have something to satisfy everyone's sweet tooth, so don't wait to satisfy yours.

Hi, I'm Blake! Blake's Bold Jerky was created to challenge the status quo of store-bought jerky. Most brands rely on preservatives, mass-produced meat, and artificial ingredients, resulting in a snack that's less healthy, overly processed, and lacking real flavor. Blake's Bold Jerky, we use premium, locally raised beef to craft small-batch jerky that's high in protein and free from unnecessary additives or fillers. Every strip is carefully marinated, seasoned with bold flavors, and slow-dehydrated to lock in both taste and nutrition. Whether you're an athlete looking for clean energy, a student needing a protein-packed bite, or just someone who appreciates quality food, Blake's Bold Jerky delivers. We take pride in making jerky that's handcrafted with care. Choose bold. Choose better. Choose Blake's Bold Jerky—where real flavor meets real quality.



Hello, my name is Brody Harker and I am a senior at Taylorville High School. I reside on our family farm in Morrisonville. I attended St. Mary's school through sixth grade, then transferred to Taylorville Junior High for seventh grade. Outside of academics, I'm passionate about running and athletics, cross country and track. These sports have taught me valuable lessons in discipline, teamwork, and perseverance. **Brody Snacks** is a dynamic and innovative business specializing in gluten-free, freeze-dried snacks. Each product is carefully crafted using high-quality ingredients and advanced freeze-drying. Whether you're on the go, at work, or simply looking for a tasty treat, Brody Snacks offers a variety of options that cater to your dietary needs without compromising on taste.

Hi, I'm Brooke Heimsness, a senior at Taylorville High School and a member of the Christian County CEO program. I play soccer and enjoy staying active and involved in my community. Through CEO, **I started Charmed and Dainty**, a jewelry business focused on creating unique, handcrafted pieces that let people express their personal style. My slogan, "Jewelry as unique as you are," reflects the individuality I aim to highlight in every design. CEO has helped me step out of my comfort zone, build confidence, and learn what it takes to run a business. I'm excited to keep growing and see where this journey takes me.



Hello, my name is Cameron Adams and I am a Senior at Taylorville High School. I have lived in Taylorville nearly my entire life and am very active in sports and the community. Beyond the classroom, I am a member of the school's track team, where I continue to learn that hard work and determination help in achieving goals and build character. **Cam's Luxury Detailing** offers premium in-shop and mobile detailing services, ranging from quick clean-ups to advanced paint correction and ceramic coating applications. We cater to clients who demand the highest level of quality and convenience, offering detailing solutions at our facility or at your preferred location. Experience the ultimate in automotive care with Cam's Luxury Detailing where excellence, precision, and customer satisfaction come first. Book your next detail with us and see the difference!

Students

Hi, I am Drake Howard, I am the founder and owner of Servant's Foundation. At Servant's Foundation, our mission is to spread the Word of God and plant those spiritual seeds all over the world. We make shirts with biblical sayings and/or verses on them. The money made from these shirts go to financing mission trips for individuals who apply. Our goal is to build athletic complexes inside and outside the United States for a mission field. This will allow Christians from all over to spread the Gospel while having a connection with the children and families of the area. If you are interested in learning more, visit us on instagram at [servantsfoundation](#) or email me at servantsfoundation@gmail.com
Thank you!

My name is Liz Martin, and I'm the proud founder of Blue's Biscuits—a healthy homemade dog treat company inspired by my own picky pup, Blue Bell. After struggling to find treats that didn't upset her sensitive stomach, I realized just how many harmful chemicals and artificial ingredients are packed into store-bought options. That's when I decided to create something better. **Blue's Biscuits** are made with natural, wholesome ingredients designed to support your dog's health without sacrificing taste. They're so fresh and delicious, humans could eat them too—though we don't recommend it! Whether your dog is a picky eater or has dietary issues, Blue's Biscuits offers a tasty, nutritious solution you can feel good about. Each batch is made with love and care, because your furry friend deserves the very best. Give us a try—order today or check us out on Facebook to learn more!

Greetings! My name is Ella Hohenstein and I am a junior at Taylorville High School. I was born and raised right here in Taylorville, Illinois. Growing up, I always was in sports and tried every sport my mother would let me join. Along with sports, I competed in pageants. With those activities, I learned communication skills and coordination. **Here at Head-Turners Hatworks,** I don't do basic – I do BIG, I do FUN, I make it all for YOU. Custom trucker hats, made just the way you want them. Want to rock your own slogan? Go for it. Need a hat that screams your unique vibe? I got you. From bright colors to funky designs and all the crazy patches in between. We make sure your hat is as one-of-a-kind as your style. Comfy? Heck yes. Ready to turn heads and have people asking, "Where'd you get that hat?" Yeah, I thought so. Let's make it happen! Reach me at (217)827-7002!

My name is Finn Swinger, and I am a senior at Edinburg High School with a strong passion for agriculture and a vision for building a successful career. Through the Christian County CEO program and the ownership of my business, Cutting Edge Lawn Care, I have developed valuable skills in leadership, entrepreneurship, and customer service. **Cutting Edge Lawn Care** provides professional lawn maintenance and exterior cleaning services to Edinburg, Taylorville, and the surrounding areas, specializing in precision mowing, weed eating, and trimming for both residential and commercial properties. A commitment to quality, reliability, and customers distinguishes my business within the community. I am dedicated to exceptional service and building lasting relationships for future success.

Hello, my name is Gabriella Heinrich, and I am a senior at Pana High School. I was born in Texas but moved to Pana, IL when I was 7. When I moved, my parents put me into sports immediately so I could work on my communication and meeting new people. **Polish Me Up Buttercup** is a custom bow-making business specializing in handcrafted, high-quality bows for all occasions. Our focus is on combining creativity and attention to detail to produce unique, beautiful products that stand out. Customers can choose from a variety of colors, styles, and embellishments to create bows that are truly one of a kind. At Polish Me Up Buttercup, my mission is to bring joy and personality to life's moments with custom-made bows designed with care.

Hi! My name is Grayson Good and I participate in many clubs at the high school, including Unified Tornadoes, Prom Committee, and being an MC for the Purple Reign! In previous years I have been a part of the volleyball and soccer team, but now I am playing my third year on the varsity tennis team! I also participate in the School to Work program where I am employed at the Animal Kingdom Veterinarian Clinic. **My business, Washed Up Thrifting** is a sustainable clothing resale brand focused on offering secondhand clothing at affordable prices. I provide a unique shopping experience for my consumers by offering a wide selection of vintage, classic, and trendy pieces, through Depop @graysongood. My mission is to promote sustainability while making fashion accessible to all, regardless of style or budget. With a commitment to reuse and recycling what is already made.

Students

Hello, my name is Heith Rahar. I'm a dedicated and ambitious individual whose work and educational pursuits reflect my strong commitment to personal and professional growth. I currently work for my grandfather's pest control business, a role that has been both influential and inspiring. **Rare Powerwashing** is a newly established business dedicated to providing top-notch power washing services. Our mission is to offer affordable, efficient, and reliable cleaning solutions for both residential and commercial properties. Whether it's removing dirt, grime, mold, or stains, Rare Powerwashing delivers outstanding results every time. We take pride in our attention to detail and always strive for customer satisfaction. Our services are designed to tackle any power washing job, big or small. Choose Rare Powerwashing for a cleaner, more vibrant space at an unbeatable price.

My name is Jacob Franklin. J. Frank's Mulch and More is a service-based business dedicated to enhancing residential and commercial landscapes by selling and installing high-quality mulch and sod. After struggling to decide on a business idea, I found unexpected motivation when Taylorville experienced a heavy snowfall. Helping clear driveways and seeing the immediate impact of my work in the community inspired me to pursue a service that improves outdoor spaces year-round. I offer a natural mulch, which will be healthy for plants. Whether customers want to refresh their landscaping, control weeds, or create polished look, they will receive a quality product and the best service. I hope to provide a product that will be sought after and will offer something that is truly helpful to my customers.

My name is Laura Wayman, and I'm a senior at Taylorville High School. I was raised on a corn and soybean farm in Taylorville, which taught me to be driven and hardworking. I stay busy as vice president of Tommy Photo Club, co-reporter of FFA, captain of the golf team, a softball player, member of Lakeshore Women's Golf League, and part of St. Mary's youth group. I will soon begin showing livestock and plan to attend Lakeland College, then transfer to Western Illinois for a degree in ag business with a minor in agronomy. Agriculture is my passion because I believe it's the future. **My business, Farm Girl Flowers,** creates custom, rustic floral arrangements with fresh, hand-selected blooms. Each piece reflects warmth, beauty, and meaning—perfect for special moments or everyday joy.

Hi! I'm Lillian Voudrie, a senior at Taylorville High School and a student at Lincoln Land Community College. I stay involved through academics, extracurriculars, and creative pursuits. I'm part of the Varsity Girls Tennis team, while also actively participate in Key Club, Library Club, and the Social Media Advisory Council. I also support our journalism class and spring musicals. Outside of school, I enjoy nail art, embroidery, exploring unique shops, and traveling with friends. **My business, Welcoming Windows**, grew from my love of art and design. I specialize in hand-painted window art for homes and businesses, helping spaces stand out with custom, designs. As a one-person business, I'm always learning and growing, working closely with clients to bring your vision to life. Whether it's curb appeal or event decor, I will make sure you have windows that welcome @WelcomingWindows !

Hello, my name is Livia Havera, and I am currently a senior at Taylorville High School. I stay active in our school and community by participating in numerous clubs and sports. I am continuing my passion for volleyball next year as a part of Lincoln Land's volleyball team. I also play softball where I am a first and third baseman. Although sports and clubs are both very important to me, furthering my education is my priority. CEO allowed me to create a business that is in line with my future plans of becoming a veterinarian. **My business Tails on Trails** is a dog walking and pet sitting business that prioritizes our clients and their pets' comfort. Our mission is to provide comfort to both the pet and the owner by caring for the pet in their home. We also provide walking services for when the work days are long and your pet is energetic. Remember, the happiest tails are the ones on trails.

Hi, my name is Macy Wagahoft, the owner of Wander and Graze! Wander & Graze is a mobile charcuterie cart service designed to elevate events with customizable and visually stunning grazing boards. Our goal is to provide a stress-free, memorable culinary experience for both hosts and guests. I cater to weddings, birthday parties, baby showers, bridal showers, and a wide range of other celebrations, offering a unique and interactive food option that stands out. Each grazing board is thoughtfully curated with high-quality ingredients and artistic presentation, allowing guests to build their own mini boards or enjoy pre-arranged selections. Whether it's an intimate gathering or a large celebration, my charming mobile cart brings flavor, flair, and convenience to any venue, creating a one-of-a-kind experience that everyone will savor.

Students

Howdy! I'm Nellea Polley, a senior at Taylorville High School and lifelong Taylorville resident. My journey began at Visionway Christian School and continued through public education, where I've grown as a student, athlete, leader, and follower of Christ. I'm active in volleyball, FCA, NHS (President), Phi Theta Kappa, CEO, LLCC College Now, Unified Tornadoes, and more. I'm also blessed to be able to help my family raise bison and serve in my youth group. **My business, Refined**

Hat Co., is a faith-based brand that turns hats into personalized art through burned-in designs. Rooted in creativity and purpose, our slogan, "Forged by Grace and Refined for His Purpose," reflects our mission to inspire bold, faith-driven self-expression. I'm grateful for the CEO program and all it's doing to help shape my future!!

Hello, my name is Rylie Butterfield, and I'm a senior at Taylorville High School. I've lived in Taylorville my entire life and stay active in Madrigals and Choir. Being part of CEO has opened my eyes to local businesses and opportunities I never knew existed. It's helped me build valuable skills in public speaking, networking, and leadership that I'll carry with me after high school. After graduation, I plan to attend college and pursue a career in criminal justice. **My business, Chubby Bunny Sweet Delights**, gives the traditional Chinese Tanghulu a bold, modern twist. We offer a variety of fun flavors and creative toppings, making each treat unique and memorable. Our mission is to bring joy and sweetness to everyday moments through hand-crafted candied fruits. Whether it's a special event or a personal treat, our goal is to deliver bright, flavorful, high-quality confections you'll love.

Hello, my name is Sophia Thomas, and I'm a senior at Taylorville High School. I participated in Madrigals as the head jester, Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Musical, Journalism, and now CEO. This class has taught me so much about business and just life in general and I'm so lucky I got to experience it. I plan on attending U of I for Music Business where I will be apart of the Marching Illini. **My business, Melted Chords**, is a music themed candle and wax melt business made to give an aroma to your favorite song. I made this business because I got tired of trying to find genuine music themed candles that fit the music and weren't just generic. I have a scent for pretty much everyone and I've made everything myself. I use a coconut-soy blend and wooden wicks to be sustainable and high quality. Music is my passion and this is my way of sharing it.

Hi, I'm Sydnie! Showing sheep and working with cattle through FFA and 4-H have been big parts of my life. From daily care and feeding to halter breaking and fitting for show, I've developed strong livestock handling skills. My passion for the show industry inspired me to create **Syda Mae's Showbox**, a custom leather business that offers handmade leather goods for fellow livestock exhibitors. This venture allows me to blend creativity with agriculture. I plan to become an Agricultural teacher to inspire future generations, share my knowledge, and show students how agriculture can open doors to leadership, innovation, and personal growth.

Hello, my name is Wade Sorrill, and I'm a senior at Taylorville High School. Since seventh grade, I've been actively involved in Soccer, Baseball, National Honor Society, FFA, FCA, TommyTV, and Purple Reign. I first heard about the Christian County CEO program from some upperclassmen friends who highly recommended it, and I'm grateful to now be part of such an incredible experience. I'm excited to learn from local business leaders and grow both personally and professionally. As part of the program, **I started Twister Metal Works**, a custom metal sign business based in Taylorville, IL. I use a CNC plasma machine to create high-quality, personalized metal signs—from family names and sports décor to business logos and custom ornaments. Every design reflects my passion for craftsmanship, creativity, and customer satisfaction, with the goal of delivering pieces that are both meaningful and long-lasting.



Facebook Manager	Addison, Anthony, Rylie
Social Medias Manager	Brooke, Gabby, Livia, Macy
Photographer	Laura, Lillian, Sophie
Accountant	Blake, Heith, Jacob
Thank You Manager	Ayanna, Ella
Recruitment Advisors	Ben, Brody, Cameron, Drake, Wade
Google Drive Consultants	Ben, Nellea
Investor Relations Coordinator:	Ben, Cameron, Elizabeth, Sydnie
Memorable Moments	Brody, Finn, Gabby, Nellea
Annual Report Coordinator	Lillian, Sophie
Calendar Manager	Gabby, Grayson
Agenda Manager	Ella, Grayson
Tour and Guest Speaker Coordinator.....	Anthony, Avery



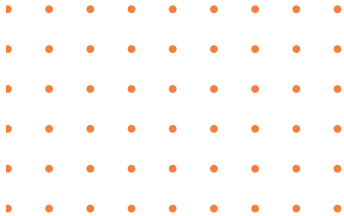
Tours & Speakers

Speakers

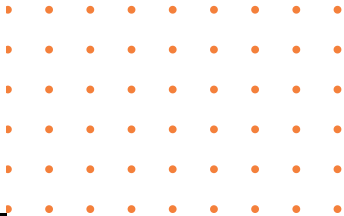
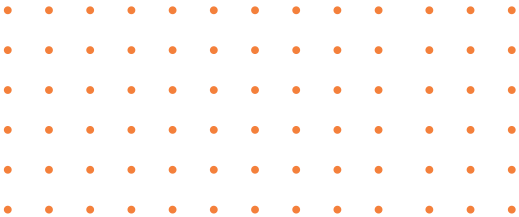
• • • Adam Vocks - 8/29/24
• • • Alexandra Everly - 4/29/25
• • • Audrey Curtin - 1/23/25
• • • Avery Stephens - 1/9/25
• • • Barb Behrends - 9/17/24
• • • Billy Williams - 8/29/24
• • • Blake Davis - 11/20/24
• • • Chris Vickery - 3/5/25
• • • Daniel Sloan - 5/7/25
• • • David Thomas - 11/18/25
• • • David Weintraub - 1/27/25
• • • Dick Wamsley - 10/31/24
• • • Dr. Curry - 4/11/25
• • • Jeff Stauffer - 11/7/24
• • • Joe Torres - 4/29/25
• • • John Perles - 9/11/24
• • • Mary DelValle - 11/22/24
• • • Matt Hart - 5/5/25
• • • Mia Morelock - 1/15/25
• • • Mike Specha - 4/2/25
• • • Mylie Sims - 1/15/25
• • • Ryan Foils - 3/12/25
• • • Skip Klinefelter - 1/14/25
• • • Mr. & Mrs. Southworth - 4/1/25
• • • Trina Casner - 2/24/25

Tours

Ahlstrom - 3/27/25
Angelo's - 9/30/24
Bespoke Collective - 2/27/25
Beyers Chiropractic - 3/24/25
B & R Marine - 1/16/25
Coal Miners Museum - 3/6/25
Corteva - 4/28/25
CC Mental Health 9/16/24
CTI - 9/10/24
FCA - 12/11/24
Locked & Loaded - 3/11/25
Loving Arms - 3/19/25
McLane - 1/24/25
Miller Media Group - 9/26/24
Nolen's Plumbing - 3/28/25
Pana Community Hospital - 3/31/25
Pizza Man - 2/25/25
Regional CEO Event - 10/2/25
Roseland Theater - 1/15/25
Taylorville Food Pantry - 11/21/24
Timi's Tours - 10/10/24
Transcoastal Supply - 11/4/24
Whiskey Bills - 3/17/25
Uprooted - 11/14/24



Chicago Trip



Class Businesses

CEO Donut Delights

Just two weeks into class, we began planning our first business. Inspired by the class of 2024 CEO, we created “CEO Doughnut Delights” to utilize Taylorville’s annual Chillifest. After brainstorming ideas, we partnered with Mel-o-Cream and Ron’s Produce to sell apple cinnamon doughnut holes and apple cider.

To prepare, we divided into five committees: finance set the budget and tracked spending, marketing handled flyers and social media, decorating designed a fall-themed booth, scheduling organized shifts, and operations secured production equipment. During the two-day event, we sold doughnuts and cider, offered free samples around the square, and used social media to attract more customers. On Saturday, October 5, many people visited our booth, and by the end of the weekend, we sold a large amount of doughnuts and cider, earning the majority of our profit.

With extra product left, boxes of doughnuts and jugs of cider, we decided to sell the remainder during Taylorville High School’s lunch periods. Over several days and three lunch periods each day, we sold out at a discounted price

Cocoa On The Go

This year the Christian County CEO program offered both AM and PM class. The first solo business for the PM class was a traveling hot cocoa business, “Cocoa on the Go.” This business partnered with Angelo’s to get hot cocoa for Taylorville events and partnered with Pizza Man to supply hot cocoa for the Pana events.

We were inspired by last years class’ “Cocoa in the Park,” but wanted to add a twist to it, so we traveled to different events to sell. We offered regular and sugar-free hot cocoa and toppings such as whipped cream, crushed peppermint, and marshmallows.

Our highest grossing event was we when we sold at Vision Way’s Christmas concert and from that we net \$300.25 alone. We sold our hot cocoa at the AM’s Christmas Bingo where we net \$206.95. This business taught us customer service, how to work well under pressure, communication, and teamwork. Overall we net \$1311.93 by selling at a total of 9 events.

Christmas Bingo

Less than a month after CEO Doughnut Delights, the morning CEO class launched its second business: Christmas Bingo at the Moose, a holiday-themed event aimed at bringing the community together while raising funds. We began by securing the Moose Lodge as our venue and deciding on a simple pricing model \$15 tickets in advance and \$20 at the door, which included a bingo dobber and one pack of number sheets. Attendees could also purchase additional packs for more chances to win. To build anticipation, we launched a 12-day social media countdown, teasing details about the event each day and encouraging community engagement.

Instead of cash prizes, we worked with local businesses and secured gift cards from shops, restaurants, and boutiques. This not only supported small businesses but also encouraged winners to explore local places.

To boost revenue, we added a \$50 raffle for four floor seats (thank Barry family) to an Illini basketball game and a \$100 Texas Roadhouse gift card. We also sold a \$7 meal, which included a BBQ sandwich, chips, and a cookie. The event drew a large crowd and created a warm, festive atmosphere. By the end of the night, we had sold out of bingo packs, bringing our total net profit to \$6,370.58.

Cupid's Night

Cupi 's Night

On Valentine's Day, we hosted Cupid's Night at Pillar's Event Center a formal dinner and trivia night designed to bring the community together and raise funds. After our Bingo event, we wanted something more elegant, and this was our chance to elevate our business experience. For \$50, guests enjoyed a catered meal from Angelo's, Valentine's-themed trivia, and a classy atmosphere. We even offered babysitting services so parents could enjoy their evening. Our trivia shifted into a spontaneous karaoke night, which was definitely the highlight of the event.

We partnered with businesses for sponsorships, and purchased gift cards from local restaurants to offer as prizes.

Planning Cupid's Night taught us valuable lessons about event coordination, flexibility, and teamwork. Despite unexpected challenges, we created a successful, memorable evening that brought people together and helped us grow as entrepreneurs. The venture net \$7,250.00 in profit!

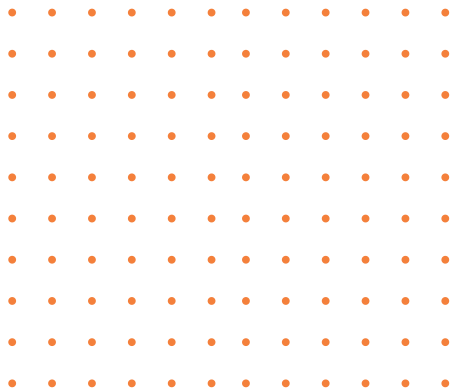
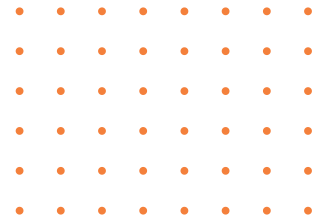
Class Businesses

Paddle Up! King of the Dill

The PM CEO Class decided to were away from product business and decided to do Paddle Up! King of the Dill Pickleball Tournament. This tournament was planned in about two months and hosted at the YMCA. This business was the last one of the year for the 2025 Christian County CEO class and it had a great turn out.

At this tournament there were 18u and a 19+ brackets so the playing field was even. There was also a calcutta before the tournament for only the 19+ bracket, where our very own Anthony Rivecco won \$189 because he bid the highest on Austin Brooks who's team won the tournament. The tournament offered cash prizes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams.

This tournament also held a raffle which local businesses and some of our CEO businesses were showcased and raffled off. This tournament had many sponsors and to those we send a very large thank you to, as we wouldn't have been able to really do this tournament without them. This tournament net \$2,754.44 and had a total of 20 teams.



Class of 2025

Board Members

Our CEO Board members are the backbone of our program, bringing dedication, leadership, and a deep commitment to the success of students. These engaged community leaders volunteer their time and talents to ensure the program runs smoothly and continues to grow. From supporting our facilitator and planning events to recruiting students, mentors, and investors, they handle the vital behind-the-scenes work that makes everything possible. Their efforts help connect schools, businesses, and the community, and create meaningful opportunities for young entrepreneurs. We are incredibly grateful for their service, passion, and unwavering belief in the power of the CEO experience.

Dr. Bill Beyers

Amy Hagen

Randy Miller

Kirby Casner

Ken Hart

Pam Moses

Joe Curvey

Jennifer Ippolito

Benjamin Robinson

Mary DelValle

Chauntel Maroon

Adam Vocks

Ashley Francis

Kevin McDonald

Ashlee Vocks

Investors & Contributors

Our CEO investors and contributors play a vital role in shaping our community. Through their generous support, they help nurture the entrepreneurial spirit of students, equipping us with the real-world skills needed for success beyond the classroom. They empower the next generation of leaders by fostering critical thinking, leadership, and financial literacy, skills that directly strengthen our local workforce. Their support not only fuels hands-on business education but also creates meaningful connections between students and local businesses. We are deeply thankful for our investors and contributors, whose commitment drives lasting economic growth and ensures a thriving future for Christian County.

Advanced Title	FNB Pana	Pana Community Hospital
Amy Hagen & Keith Waterman	FNB Taylorville	Ron's Produce Co.
Angelo's Pizza, Express, Catering	Hopper Foundation	Shelby Electric Cooperative
At Your Service Roofing	IFBW-Taylorville Chapter	Spurling Title
Battery Specialists + Golf Cars	Illinois Trucking Association	TCCU
Beyers Chiropractic	Indoor Storage Shed	Taylorville Kiwanis
Central Commodities	Ken & Janice Hart	Taylorville Public Schools Foundation
Christian County	Kirk and Kathy Vocks	Timi's Tours
Cliff & Diane Beatty	Lake Land Community College	Trans Coastal Supply Co.
Cleeton Sanitation	Legacy Grain Cooperative	United Way of Christian County
CNB Bank & Trust	McDonald's – Taylorville and Pana	US Bank
Community Foundation of the Land of Lincoln	Midland Bank	Vocks, LLC
Corner Carriers Brokerage	Miller Communications	Vollintine Trust
Curvey Real Estate	Nolen Services	William & Marilyn Hopper
Dr. Bill Beyers	P.L. Butterfield	Barry Family
Dr. Rick & Mary DelValle	Pam Moses	Yard Heating

What CEO is

The CEO Program is a groundbreaking approach to entrepreneurship education. It's a collaborative, community-driven model that brings together schools and local business leaders to equip high school students with the tools, mindset, and real-world experiences needed to become tomorrow's innovators and change-makers.

Shaping the Future

The CEO Program does more than teach business, it inspires vision. By immersing students in the real world of entrepreneurship, it helps them discover their potential and develop critical skills like leadership, ingenuity, and resilience. These future-ready students go on to shape communities, drive innovation, and lead with purpose.

Impact on the Community

By engaging with the CEO Program, your community takes an active role in shaping its future. It empowers the next generation, creates stronger connections between education and business, nurtures a skilled and forward-thinking workforce, and drives economic growth through the development of new businesses and leadership talent.