

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CENTRAL ILLINOIS 

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL
OPPORTUNITIES



 Powered By: **Midland** 
Institute for Entrepreneurship

WWW.CENTRALILLINOISCEO.COM

What is CEO?

CICEO (Central Illinois Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) is based on the successful program in Effingham, Illinois. The communities of Blue Ridge, Clinton, Maroa-Forsyth and Warrensburg-Latham School Districts have worked together to establish the CICEO program to serve students from their high schools, beginning in the fall of 2019.

The CICEO Program:

- Is funded by business investors, and organized by the CICEO Board which is not part of any school board or school district.
- Is open to high school juniors and seniors from Blue Ridge, Clinton, Maroa-Forsyth, and Warrensburg High Schools
- Select Students through a rigorous application process.
- Meets for 90 minutes each day and provides 2 high school credits.
- Utilizes area businesses as classrooms; does not meet on a school campus.
- Visits dozens of area businesses each year and hosts more than 50 guest speakers each year.
- Provides an opportunity for each student to start their own business.
- Provides a mentor from the business community for each CICEO student.
- Hosts an annual Trade Show to showcase students businesses.

***Lots of great information about the CICEO program
can be found at***

<https://www.centralillinoisceo.com>

A circular portrait of Justin Fentress, a man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie. The portrait is set against a blue circular background.

A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIRMAN JUSTIN FENTRESS

The last year's pandemic has presented numerous challenges to the future of business and how it operates. Small businesses and entrepreneurs will have to be more resilient in this new norm. Central Illinois CEO provides an opportunity for students to see the business world from the inside. To learn what it takes

to run a business and see how businesses have adapted to the recent challenges. The knowledge and experience from this last year will be invaluable to the students as they move forward into the future. Whether they become entrepreneurs or decide they want to work for a local business, they will have a better understanding of their role in business.

I would like to thank all the current and future investors in this program for their dedication and donations to the program. This program was not only started for the students but for the benefit of local communities and business. Without your support it would be very difficult to keep the program alive.

I would also like to thank the board of directors and Melanie for their dedication to the program. We have a great team of experienced board members and Melanie's tireless efforts have made the program a success.

Finally, I would like to thank the students. This year's class was a great group of young adults that worked through quarantine challenges and still made the program work. This will be a successful group of people that brings hope for the future of small business.

A NOTE FROM OUR FACILITATOR MELANIE BROWN

If I had to select one word to describe the 2020-2021 CEO Class it would be Perseverance. Throughout the obstacles we faced this year this class persevered; which is defined as “continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition.”

This group of students learned to become experts in Zoom & online meeting platforms. They pivoted a lot and while it was frustrating at times, they stayed positive and worked together as a unified team. The students were also very committed to providing a COVID friendly activity for people to participate in and successfully executed a Drive-In Bingo event as their group business. These students showed up, worked hard and were determined to make CEO happen and I believe this has been the best lesson they learned all year!

Our communities and schools are truly fortunate to have such an opportunity for our students. Even with COVID, the CEO students were able to meet &/or tour over 50 local businesses, host 2 Investor Open House events, have monthly Mentor Day meetings, and meet in person most of the year. It is truly remarkable that we were able to do so much given the restrictions we have faced with COVID. This would not have been possible without the support of the schools, the CEO Board, our many investors and friends of CEO.

Thank you for being a part of this great program!



INVESTORS

Area Disposal Services, Inc

Baum Chevrolet

Bayer Monsanto

BKD CPAs & Advisors

Chastain & Associates

Clinton Chiropractic Center

Clinton Community Education
Foundation

Corn Belt Energy

Crawfords Pizza

Dan Caulkins - Outreach 101

David and Susan Wilson

Dewitt Savings Bank

Kim and Lori Ekena

Exelon

Farm Credit Illinois

First National Bank of Clinton

GSI Group, LLC

Heartland Ag Group, Ltd.

Hickory Point Bank

Home Sweet Home Realty

Horve Construction LLC

J.L. Hubbard Insurance and Bonds

Jake and Katherine Brodbeck

Marco NPK, Inc.

Maroa-Forsyth Educational Foundation

Maxwell Counters

Moore and Warner

Northwestern Mutual

Nutrien Ag Solutions

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Rainstorm Carwash

Regions Bank

Risinger Bros. Transfer

Save-a-Lot

State Farm

Taylor and Lynch

Van Horn Inc

Warrensburg-Latham Educational
Foundation

Wilson Chrysler Jeep

*thank
you*

THIS YEAR AT A GLANCE...



Project 2020

The students had 2 weeks to turn \$1 into \$100.

Team Building Activities

Each quarter we took a break from our "work" and participated in a team building exercise.



Met Online

MEET THE CLASS OF 2021



Left to Right:
Marina Rohman,
Rheys Sams-Moore,
Emma Culbertson,
Mackenzie Willoughby
(1st semester student),
Emmah Cook & Jordan Gearlds

Emmah Cook

Emmah is a Senior at Warrensburg-Latham High School. She invests her time in softball, volleyball, and participates in cheer. She is a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, and yearbook staff as well. After high school career, Emmah plans to major in Health Sciences and would like to go medical school to become an anesthesiologist.



Emma Culbertson

Emma is a Junior at Clinton High School. She works at Coffee Corner in Clinton which is what sparked her interest in the world of business. After high school, Emma plans on going to college and majoring in Business Administrations.



STUDENT BIOGRAPHIES

Jordan Gearlds

Jordan is a Senior at Blue Ridge High School. Throughout her high school career she participated in band, softball, theater, choir and BACC. Jordan hopes to go to EIU or Eureka and earn a degree in criminal justice.



Marina Rohman

Marina is a Junior at Maroa-Forsyth High School. She is a varsity pitcher for MFHS softball team and a National Honors Society member. Marina signed up for CEO to help her become a better leader. After high school Marina plans to go to college and one day she hopes to become a pilot.



Rheys Sams-Moore

Rheys is a junior at Maroa-Forsyth High School. He plays on the Varsity baseball team and is a catcher. Rheys also participated in Future Farmers of America (FFA) and the Maroa-Forsyth High School golf team. He works for J&S Roofing and has chosen to start his own remodeling business, After high school he plans starting his own construction business in Clinton, Illinois.



BUSINESS VISITS & SPEAKERS

Julie Scheuler Photography
Curt Nettles
Tom Kopeika
Economic Development Corp
of Decatur-Macon County
Shirley Stelbrink, Learning
Alliances Co
Bruce Nims
Little Galilee
Coffee Corner
BB Farms
Regions Bank
Perfect Pair
Chastain & Associates LLC
TS Institute
First National Bank of Clinton
WHOW
Farmer City City Hall
Chick Fil A
Carpet Weavers
Boy Scouts of America
SCORE
Small Business Development
Center
Colee Pharmacy
Lindsey Wise of Brown, Hay &
Stephens LLP
The Brass Horn
The Garden Shop

Farm Credit
SolvR Group
Hickory Point Bank
BKD
Wilson Chrysler of Clinton
Tim Sinclair with CSI Living
The Vault
Barclay Library
Horve Builders
Anne Matalonis
Megan Myers
Clinton YMCA
Aaron Rehberg, Capitol City
Speakers Bureau
Crawfords Pizza
Play it Again Sports
Clinton Chiropractic
Murphy & Co.
Baum Chevrolet
May, Cocagne & King PC
Doug Villard, Washington
University
Papa Murphy's Pizza
Jackalope Wild
Kim Ekena
Mr. Howard Buffett
Maxine Clark, Founder of
Build-A-Bear

BUSINESS VISITS & GUEST SPEAKERS

Business partners can be involved in several ways...

- Serve as a site for students to visit
- Visit the class as a guest speaker
- Serve as a mentor for a CICEO student



CLASS BUSINESS



The class chose to host an event, CICEO Bingo for their group business. This event was held on January 31st at 2:00 p.m at The Clintonia Eagle Theater in Clinton, IL. CICEO Drive-in Bingo allowed friends and families of surrounding communities to come together and enjoy a COVID-19 regulated event. Despite the cold temps & technology obstacles, the CICEO students executed a successful event!

GAME SPONSORS

Dewitt Savings Bank
First national Bank
Richards Building Supplies
Crawfords Pizza and Pub
Carpet Weavers
Ace Hardware
Homewood and Suites

PRIZE SPONSORS

Martys Auto Sales
YMCA

BREAK SPONSORS

Nate Ennis, State Farm
Alec Martin, Edward Jones
TLC



Class Officers:

Emma Culbertson, COO
Jordan Gerald, CEO
Marina Rohman CFO

INDIVIDUAL BUSINESSES



RD Remodeling,
Rheys Sams-Moore, CEO
RD Remodeling focuses on offering high quality services at affordable prices. We believe the customer is first and we want to exceed the customer's expectations.



JG's Stickers
Jordan Gerald, CEO
JG's Stickers are a hand-crafted stickers, designed to make your day a little brighter. These custom made stickers can be put on water bottles, laptops, or other surfaces.

FOR THE LOVE OF
SIGNS

by em

By em
Emma Culbertson, CEO
By em is a custom sign business that will bring light in your homes with the love of signs. These signs are hand crafted and custom made so your house will seem like a home.



Rosie's Resale
Emmah Cook, CEO
Rosie's Resale is an online resale shop that is on mission to provide a place for women & teens to purchase affordable items.



Flights & Delights
Marina Rohman, CEO
Flights & Delights is your local cupcake expert. They offer a variety of flavors inspired by locations around North America..

CICEO SHARK TANK PITCH PRESENTATIONS



On Thursday, April 15 the CICEO students participated in a Shark Tank Pitch Presentation. The event was hosted at First National Bank of Clinton and sponsored by Northwestern Mutual. Each student gave a 2-3 minute pitch about their business to our sharks. Then they answered questions and received comments from our sharks. We want to thank our sharks for their time and expertise! They helped to make this an amazing learning opportunity for our students! The sharks evaluated the students on originality of their business, feasibility and over pitch. Emmah Cook was the winner and received \$250 from our sponsor, Northwest Mutual.



Wanda Timmons of the Perfect Pair,
Scott Baum of Baum Chevrolet,
Gary Birschbach of McDonalds Co.,
Gretchen Murphy of Murphy & Co.,
Bruce Nims of Millikin University and
Kevin Maxwell of Maxwell Counters.



MENTORS

**Marina Rohman & Stephanie Brown of
Chastain & Associates**

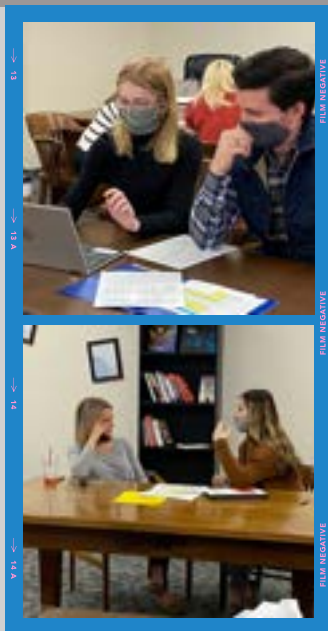
**Jordan Gearlds & Rachel Costello of First
National Bank & Trust Co**

**Emmah Cook & Dr. Stephanie Cluver of Clinton
Chiropractic Center**

**Emma Culbertson & Drew Moore of Advance
Trading Inc.**

**Rheys Sams-Moore & Reed Sullivan of Interior
Specialty Construction, Inc**

**Mentor Tom Kopeika, Retired Computer
Programmer, fills in anytime we need him!**



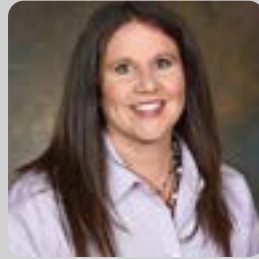
BOARD MEMBERS



Justin Fentress,
Dewitt Savings Bank,
Chair



Kraig Ritter,
BKD,
Vice-Chair



Angi Carter,
Farm Credit IL,
Treasurer



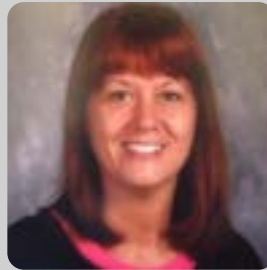
Katherine Brodbeck,
Secretary



Ryan Aupperle,
Heartland Ag



Curt Nettles,
Superintendent,
Clinton Unit
School District



Shelli
Billingsley,
Warrensburg-
Latham CUSD
#11



Tim Followell,
City of Clinton



Susan Wilson



Hillary Stanifer,
Superintendent,
Blue Ridge
CUSD #18



Cheryl Warner
Superintendent,
Warrensburg
Latham CUSD #11



Gary Birschbach,
Owner,
McDonald's

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID TORBERT



David was one of the first people to hear the initial Midland Institute presentation back in 2016. He was intrigued by the program and what it could do to educate future business leaders. "I wish this program would have been around my senior year of high school," David said. "You're teaching young people business practices and giving them tremendous hands-on experience while allowing them to network with some great business leaders in an area."

David served on the CICEO Steering Committee and was an active board member. We appreciate his dedication & service to this program and he will be greatly missed. The CICEO Board made a gift to the Clinton YMCA Strong Kids program in his memory.

ALUMNI



Class of 2020

Brenden Flannell (Blue Ridge HS), Trenton Sanders (Clinton HS), Gabriel Jenkins (Blue Ridge HS), Madison Miller (Warrensburg-Latham HS), Cameron Reynolds (Maroa-Forsyth HS), Terry Hendriex (1st Semester student, Clinton HS), Vince Baldassari (Clinton HS), Colton Hoback (Maroa-Forsyth HS), Max Stauffer (Clinton HS), & Ruslan Turner (Maroa-Forsyth HS)