

# GRANITE CITY CEO®

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL  
OPPORTUNITIES

## 2019 Annual Report





Elf on the Shelf at Calvary Life Church opened their doors and welcomed CEO on December 18. Granite City CEO appreciates Calvary Life Church and their staff for sharing their morning with CEO Students and being an investor in our CEO program. We appreciate our local business community for opening their doors for CEO and investing in our young entrepreneurs and future leaders.

Granite City CEO is forever evolving just like business and life. We are proud to be completing our fifth year of CEO in 2019. We are one of fifty CEO programs throughout the midwest under the umbrella of the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship. Our Granite City area business community always opens their doors and welcomes CEO students every day. Being part of the Gateway to the West region, our students are exposed to the outstanding combination and diversity of businesses in our industrialized area, which features river and railway opportunities. We sincerely appreciate every door that opens and every opportunity provided by all our community stakeholders and CEO board members.

The daily journal recorded by students from each business leader are words of wisdom for business and for life. This class of seniors has unlimited potential to be game changers and leaders in our community. They raised nearly \$7,000 from their class business, Savor the Season, which was held December 5, 2018. This year the class business was changed to first semester, which allowed students more time and preparation for their business plans and start up businesses. The venue also changed and Savor the Season was held in the cafeteria of Granite City High School, which had been renovated about five years ago. In previous years, our venues were the Granite City Township Hall and St. Gregory Armenian Community Center. This allowed the opportunity for students to meet with and work with the custodial staff, members of Local 98, for the set up of Savor the Season and our CEO Trade Show. Students transformed our high school cafeteria into a winter wonderland and welcomed all ages for a holiday atmosphere. The success this location provided helped us make the decision to host our CEO Trade Show on campus and in our gymnasium lobby, which creates good visibility for our community members.

Briana Davis, alumna of our first CEO Class of 2015, attended our Savor the Season event, as a business owner. She is the sole proprietor of Everything K&E, which offers custom products from t-shirts to mugs to party decor. This is the essence of CEO, changing our young adults into entrepreneurial thinkers and doers. Briana developed the skills in CEO to take risks and start another business. This is our goal for our CEO students to become life long learners and young entrepreneurs in our Granite City community and become our future leaders.

Forever grateful,  
Karen Greenwald  
Granite City CEO Facilitator



## Mission

To provide a comprehensive educational experience for Granite City High School students, equipping them to be the enterprising individual and entrepreneurial thinkers who contribute to the economic development of our community.

## Vision

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 the community.

## Class Information

Granite City CEO is one of fifty programs across the Midwest encompassing participants from one high school, Granite City High School. The CEO class is a business elective at Granite City High School for seniors. The seniors, along with their facilitator, meet for first and second hours off-campus every day from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Students then travel to the high school to attend their 3rd through 7th hour classes. This program allows students to participate in all school activities. Students complete an application for the CEO program at the beginning of the second semester of their junior year. The class is hosted by a different business every nine weeks and the students meet at the host business when the class is not on a business visit.

## Highlights of the Granite City CEO Program:

Funded by business investors	Open to Granite City High School seniors
Selects students through a rigorous application process	Meets for 90 minutes each day off campus
Provides 2 high school credits for two semesters	Utilizes area businesses as classrooms
Provides 4 hours of Southwestern Illinois College Dual Credit	Hosts 50 - 60 guest speakers each year
Hosts an annual trade show to showcase student businesses	Visits 25 - 40 businesses each year
Provides the opportunity for each student to start their own business	Emphasizes 21st century learning skills
Provides a mentor from the business community for each CEO student	Offers honor credit for a weighted grade

## Class of 2019 Students



**Ryan Boschert** grew up in Granite City with his parents, Kevin and Michelle Boschert, and his older sister, Anna. Football has been a passion for Ryan, having played all four years of high school. He loves to hang out with friends and have a good time, but during deer season he cherishes his time hunting with his father and grandfather. Ryan is very outgoing and jumps at any opportunity to help those in need. A great leader with a strong work ethic, he's a catalyst thinking outside the box and bringing new ideas to the table. He's very excited to see what the future holds, as he prepares to attend Ranken Technical College for Electrical Engineering. Ryan's business, Paz-az, originated the summer before his junior year. **Paz-az** is an e-shop for a variety of products from clothing to kitchen supplies to electronic devices. "CEO has taught me many entrepreneurial skills: public speaking, professionalism, and punctuality. I can't wait to see where my business takes me and what it'll become."



Over the years **Jade Heuer** has grown not only academically but musically. A member of the academic National Honor Society, she has also participated in many musical honor ensembles. These include ILMEA concert bands, ILMEA jazz bands, the Granite City High School Wind Ensemble, and the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. She has a big heart and loves to volunteer her time. Over the summer, her church travels to Carlinville, Illinois, to serve food and help with activities for children. Jade is very passionate about serving God and tries to exemplify that in everything she does. She is very excited for the future and hopes that she can help many people in her lifetime. Through CEO, she has learned soft skills, business terms, and how to be more professional. Along with her mother, Jade has always had a passion for yard sales and resale stores, like Goodwill and the Salvation Army. "**Glad Rags by Jade**," is her resale and vintage clothing shop. She does what she knows best and shops at area Goodwills and garage sales to find her product. Thorough research, educated decisions, and reasonable price points, sets "Glad Rags by Jade" apart from typical resale stores. She manages her business, extracurriculars, and academics while holding a job at the Granite City Cinema. Though busy, she's very driven. Ms. Jade said, "CEO has taught me the importance of numbers and keeping track of things more precisely." She plans to attend McKendree University in the fall to study music education and further her love for music and teaching.



Proudly balancing a busy schedule with high school classes, park district baseball, an elite fishing team, and a job at Ravanelli's Restaurant, **Toby Jones** is a successful senior at Granite City Senior High School. With his charismatic and engaging personality, he uses those qualities to enhance his ability to build stronger relationships through the CEO class. In his free time, he enjoys fishing, camping and spending time with family. His business, **Flippin' Lures**, developed out of his passion for bass fishing. His participation on Empire Fishing Team has led to Toby's goal to become a professional fisherman in the future. Toby wants to help the community as much as possible by volunteering at GCAPA, and also being a volunteer firefighter for Madison. Future plans include attending Southwestern Illinois College to earn his EMT certification. "I would just like to make the world a little bit better day by day."



With two years work experience at the local Jan's Hallmark, **Brooke Meyer** has utilized her bubbly personality and charisma to develop her sales and customer relations skills. She loves to try new things and be adventurous. Through the CEO class, she has learned many new things. She has put her sense of humor to the forefront to help create sustainable conversations. Her confidence has greatly heightened and she is now able to speak in front of a crowd. She has many new perspectives on life. Ms. Brooke has said, "While being in CEO, it has shown me the importance of punctuality. I understand that being on time sets the tone for who I am and how people perceive me." She plans to attend Southwestern Illinois College to begin her college career. She will further her education at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to study pharmacy. Brooke has decided to use her unrelenting knowledge and love for lip scrubs to create her own business: **Xfolicious**. She will be making sugar based scrubs in hopes that these products will impact someone like they did her. Brooke is a positive young woman and has high hopes for her future.



A guitar player since fifth grade, **Logan Smith** found a way to combine his passion and his business in CEO. Logan has been active in his community, participating in the Boy Scouts of America and volunteering at Community Care Center. Inspired by his father, Logan learned how to create cigar box guitars. **Gust Guitars** is a custom cigar box guitar, amplifier, and accessory business. In addition to music, Logan enjoys other creative ventures in art and writing. In CEO, Logan has learned essential lessons from community professionals. "I now know how to manage a successful business and understand how to be a responsible adult and community leader." Logan plans to use what he's learned in CEO to continue Gust Guitars and navigate college and beyond.



**Joseph Thomas** is a very involved student at Granite City High School. He is the senior yearbook editor and president of the science club. He was selected by his peers to appear on homecoming court and was chosen to participate in this year's Mr. Warrior Pageant as Mr. CEO. **Shnapping Shweaters** is Joseph's business which began as a hobby his freshman year. He made sweaters for each holiday in hopes to help rebrand himself and make people smile. Starting out using hot glue to create these sweaters, now advancing to clothing snaps in his production, thus Shnapping Shweaters. Joseph Thomas plans to earn his associate in business at Southwestern Illinois College, finishing with a bachelor's degree in business education at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. "CEO has taught me what I want to do for the rest of my life." One day he hopes to be the facilitator of his own CEO class.

Our CEO Class Business

# Savor the Season

Come All Ye Faithful for a Night of Holiday Fun



A special thank you from the Class of 2019 to Carl Yount and Port Harbor Railroad Corp. for sponsoring our event and the following companies for their participation in our class business:



- 1st Mid America Credit Union
- 3 Little Birds 4 Life
- Bindy's
- Century 21 Bailey & Co.
- Community Care Center
- Darin Chiropractic
- Dixon Mechanical and Rental
- Duke Bakery
- Everything K & E
- First Bank
- GCS Credit Union
- Granite City Park District
- Illinois Electric Works
- Itty Bitty Restaurant
- Jerry's Cafeteria
- Kool Beanz Cafe
- Lascalles
- Local Business Patriots
- Nicol Financial Services
- Port Harbor Railroad Corp.
- Push Media Solutions
- Ravanelli's Restaurant & Catering
- R & B WoodArt
- Shipley Chiropractic
- Shirts Galore and More
- Six Mile Regional Library District
- TheBANK of Edwardsville
- The Nicol Foundation



## Guest Speakers in our CEO Classroom

Tina Hubert, Executive Director, Six Mile Regional Library District  
 Alicia Lignoul, 1st MidAmerica Credit Union  
 Business Foundry, Rene Vidal, Execute to Win, How Leaders Get Results  
 Karen Rosene Millsap, Email Etiquette, Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals  
 Juliette Douglas, Six Mile Regional Library District  
 John Perles, Your Life is Your Business  
 Marc Voegele, Generations, Express Employment Professionals  
 Michael Halbbrook, Adobe Consulting  
 Rene Vidal, Execute to Win, How Leaders Get Results  
 Alicia Lignoul, Networking & Etiquette, 1st MidAmerica Credit Union  
 Amy Tarr, Midland Institute  
 Karen Rosene Millsap, Social Media, Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals  
 Amanda Guinn, Southwestern Illinois College  
 Karen Rosene Millsap, Resumes, Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals  
 JoAnn DiMaggio May, Small Business Development Center  
 Karen Rosene Millsap, Interviews, Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals  
 Rene Vidal, Confidence  
 2015 CEO Alumna Briana Davis, Everything K & E  
 Kevin Nicol, Nicol Scholarship, Nicol Financial Services  
 Business Foundry, Alex Smith, Fighting Fake News  
 High School Cafeteria, Carl Yount, Teri Gonterman, Laura Boyle  
 Tim Barnes, Daryl Munger, Gloria Harrison, Pam Cook  
 Laura Dumonceaux, LJW Tax Service  
 Ashley Swip, 3 Little Birds 4 Life  
 Dale Hamil, Illinois Electric Works  
 Alicia Dawson, Williamson County CEO Alumna  
 Alicia Lignoul, Table Topics  
 Gail Mueller & Dr. Almeda Lahr-Well  
 Alicia Lignoul, Make Every Day Super Bowl Sunday  
 Gail Mueller & Dr. Almeda Lahr-Well, Direct Marketing  
 Marcus Taylor, Film Everything  
 Trent Hamil, Personal Balance Sheet and Net Worth  
 Jo Ann May, Small Business Dev. Center  
 Tom Cholevik, Shark Tank Prep  
 Kate Kite, Alicia Lignoul, Review Bios  
 Cindy Gagich, Review Bios  
 Bob Richardson, Outdoors in the Heartland  
 Melissa Erker, Phillips 66  
 Tom Adamitis, The Yield Lab  
 Dawn Mushill, It's All About the WOW!



## Our CEO Business Visits



Stephanie's Spiritual Therapy  
 Six Mile Regional Library  
 Business Foundry  
 Prairie Farms  
 Mr. Twist  
 America's Central Port  
 1st MidAmerica Credit Union  
 Six Mile Museum + Work Day  
 Nicol Financial Services  
 Dixon Heating & Cooling  
 Chestnut Health Systems  
 Happy Trails Farm  
 Port Harbor Railroad, Corp.  
 Shirts Galore & More  
 KraftHeinz  
 First Bank  
 icon Mechanical & Engineering LLC  
 Petri's Cafe  
 Calvary Life Church  
 Illinois Electric Works  
 SunCoke Energy  
 Silverback Video  
 Community Care Center  
 Pizza World  
 Cortex Innovation Community, STL  
 Holt Shoe Shop  
 Jim's Pawn Shop  
 US Steel  
 B Auto Parts  
 Weber Chevrolet  
 Granite City High School Theatre Department  
 Mayco Industries  
 Phillips 66  
 Justine Petersen  
 O'Brien Tire & Service Center  
 Amsted Rail  
 Altered Grounds  
 TheBANK of Edwardsville  
 Granite City Housing Authority  
 Air Products  
 Darin Chiropractic  
 Granite City Park District



## Extra Special Events

Party at the Beach  
Granite City Business Foundry  
CEO Board Meeting  
CEO Empowerment Day  
Captured by Katie Photo Shoot  
Mentor Match  
TrepStart Day  
Alumni Gathering  
Rotary Breakfast  
Chamber of Commerce Meeting  
CEO Board Meeting  
Junior Recruiting  
BOLD Conference, Macoupin County CEO  
Rotary Club Mayors Prayer Breakfast  
CEO Banker Day  
Mentor Connects  
Shark Tank  
Rotary Breakfast : Featured Speakers



**Our CEO Hosts Businesses**



**Six Mile**  
Regional Library District



*Illinois*  
ELECTRIC WORKS

**CHESTNUT**  
HEALTH SYSTEMS





### Developing Our CEO Team Building Skills



### Building Our Mentor Relationships



### Building Our Banking Relationships



## 2019 CEO Advisory Board

Marc Voegele Board Chair	Express Employment Professionals Owner, President
Tom Schooley Secretary	Law Offices of Thomas E. Schooley Attorney, President
Jenny Hamilton Treasurer	icon Mechanical Construction & Engineering, LLC AR Manager
<b>MEMBERS</b>	
Keith Burton	GCS Credit Union CEO/President
Pam Cook	Granite City Community Unit School District #9 Guidance Counselor, Granite City High School
Alex Doolittle	TheBANK of Edwardsville Branch Manager
Cindy Gagich	Madison County Regional Office of Education Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools
Jamie Hoge	First Bank Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager
Dr. David Keel	Granite City Community Unit School District #9 Director of Secondary Education
Kate Kite	Six Mile Regional Library District Research and Instruction Librarian/Teen Services
Alicia Lignoul	1st MidAmerica Credit Union Community Relations Coordinator
Roger Miller	Gateway Packaging Company Founder and Chairman
Kevin Nicol	Nicol Financial Services, The Nicol Foundation CEO and President
Don Scaturro	Illinois Electric Works Corporate Secretary, Mechanical Specialist



## **Our Granite City CEO Business Investors**

CEO Business Investors are the heart of the Granite City CEO program. Their annual investment of \$1,000 for three years provides the necessary resources for the current year expenses and sustainability of the CEO class for future students. Business Investor commitments of time and energy are also critical to the success of the Granite City CEO class.

1st MidAmerica Credit Union  
Altered Grounds Outdoor Services LLC  
America's Central Port  
Amsted Rail  
Calvary Life Church  
CEO Class of 2015  
CEO Class of 2018  
CEO Class of 2019  
Cindy & Mike Gagich  
Darin Chiropractic  
Dr. Almeda Lahr-Well & Gail Mueller  
Express Employment Professionals  
First Bank  
Gateway Regional Medical Center  
GCS Credit Union  
Glik's  
icon Mechanical & Engineering LLC  
Illinois Electric Works  
Irwin Chapel  
Justine Petersen  
Karen & Jim Greenwald  
Law Offices of Thomas E. Schooley  
Nicol Financial Services  
O'Brien Tire & Service Center  
Phillips 66  
Port Harbor Railroad Corp.  
Prairie Farms  
Roger & Bekki Miller  
Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation  
SunCoke Energy  
TheBANK of Edwardsville  
The Nicol Foundation  
Waste Management, City of Granite City  
Weber Chevrolet

Friends of CEO  
Arnette Pattern Company  
Coordinated Youth & Human Services  
Illinois Electric Works - Brick & Mortar  
Knights of Columbus  
Medicine Shoppe  
Shipley Chiropractic  
Six Mile Regional Library District  
Tommy Brown  
Walmart



## Commitment Form

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL  
OPPORTUNITIES

Company/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Web Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Donor

I/We wish to contribute to the Granite City 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.  
 My check for the first of three annual payments is enclosed.  
 Please bill me.

I would like my name/company name to be listed in the acknowledgements as follows:

I wish to remain anonymous.

*Please make checks payable to Coordinated Youth & Human Services for the benefit of Granite City CEO. The Coordinated Youth is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that acts as the fiduciary for the CEO program. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

### Participant

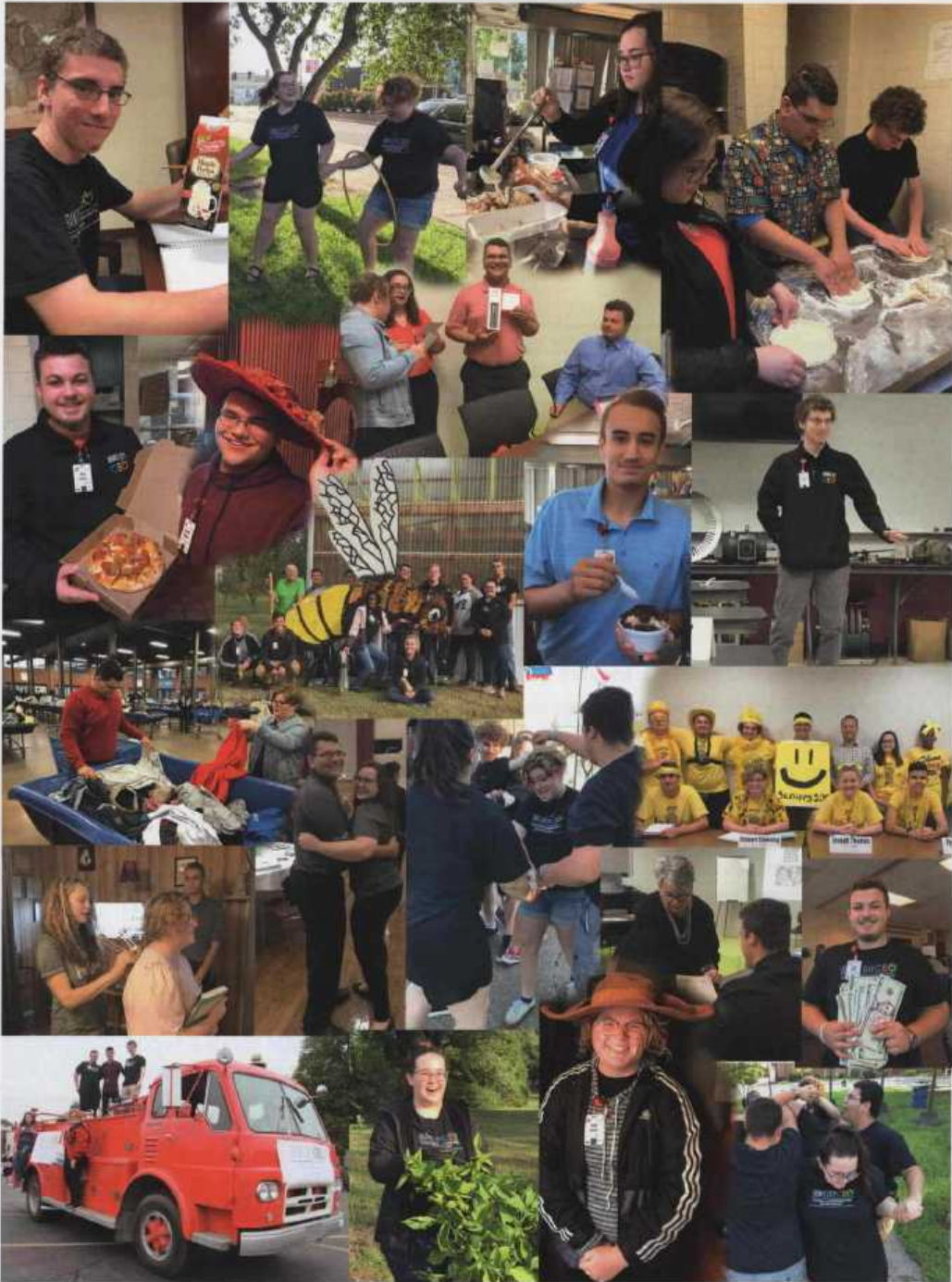
I would like to be considered for: (Check all that apply)

- Hosting a CEO Class                       Speaking to a CEO Class  
 Having a CEO Class visit my organization    Mentoring a CEO student  
 Other, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### Return this form to:

Jennifer Hamilton, CEO Treasurer  
 Icon Mechanical  
 1616 Cleveland Blvd.  
 Granite City, IL 62040

email: [jhamilton@iconmech.com](mailto:jhamilton@iconmech.com)  
 618.452.0035  
 Fax 618.452.0037



12 Granite City CEO



# GRANITE CITY **CEO**<sup>®</sup> Trade Show

Tuesday, April 23  
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Please Join Us  
Free Admission

Explore the Startup Businesses  
of our  
Class of 2019



Paz-az



Granite City High School  
Gymnasium Lobby  
3101 Madison Avenue  
Granite City, Illinois

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[granitecityceo.com](http://granitecityceo.com)

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