

Thinking Outside *the BOX*



2016 Granite City CEO Annual Report

Granite City CEO is all about seizing opportunities. Opportunities for students to think outside the box, learn in a different way, visit local businesses, listen to business professionals, develop team skills, write business plans, start a business, develop a mentor relationship, attend special events, and many more opportunities. CEO class is for Granite City High School seniors and is an opportunity to gain life skills that truly separate them from other young adults.

Our second class of CEO students, Class of 2016, is graduating from high school with a new view of Granite City and our surrounding communities, a new view of our economy, a new view of our world and a new mindset for learning. CEO provides opportunities to gain self-confidence, knowledge and the understanding of what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur.

Throughout the school year of this CEO program, seniors enjoyed the following opportunities to:

- Organize, plan and host a class business event: The Best of Granite City
- Attend TrepStart Day at St. Louis University
- Participate in the homecoming parade at Granite City High School
- Present at the Granite City Rotary Club breakfast
- Attend the Chamber of Commerce's Eggs & Issues
- Attend Southwestern Illinois College Manufacturing Day
- Attend the 25th Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
- Develop a mentor relationship with a business professional
- Listen to John O'Leary for CEO Empowerment Day
- Attend Venture Café in St. Louis
- Attend ProsperNext Event in St. Louis
- Attend Riverbend Economic Development Annual Dinner
- Participate in a CEO Board Meeting
- Connect with a network of local business professionals
- Earn 4 Dual Credit Hours at Southwestern Illinois College
- Complete three business plans
- Start their own business
- Participate in a trade show

I am deeply grateful to all our local businesses and business professionals for opening your doors to our young adults and providing them with valuable lessons and real world experiences. It is truly a privilege for me, as a facilitator, to enjoy these visits and lessons, which also help me improve as a person and an educator.

I acknowledge and appreciate the time, commitment and support of each of my CEO Advisory Board members. They each contribute in many ways to the success of our Granite City CEO Program.

I look forward to watching our Class of 2016 CEO students grow, learn and experience life as CEO graduates. Thank you for investing in our community and our young adults of Granite City.



Carpe diem!
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.

Granite City CEO Students Class of 2016



Front row: Gregory Nienhaus Jr., Kelsey Clark, Phebe Bolt, Alexis Reese, Chelsea Gould, Jared Wylde Back row: Rashaun Hall, Jacob Shemwell, Th'Adrian Hanna, Cyle Pyles, Lucas Batson, Clayton Jakul

Class Information

Granite City CEO is one of thirty programs across the Midwest encompassing participants from only 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
- Provides 2 high school credits for two semesters
- Provides 4 hours of Southwestern Illinois College Dual Credit
- Utilizes area businesses as classrooms
- Visits 25-40 businesses each year
- Hosts 50-60 guest speakers each year
- Emphasizes 21st century learning skills
- Provides the opportunity for each student to start their own business
- Provides a mentor from the business community for each CEO student
- Hosts an annual trade show to showcase student businesses



Lucas Batson established his own lawn care business when he was 16, and it has continued to grow each year. When he was 17, he started working as a tech for the well-known local band Dr. Zhivegas. This job excites him because he works among musicians and reinforces his passion for the music world. Lucas saw a huge opportunity in the CEO Program: to expand his existing company and develop his new business, **Encore Guitars**. "I knew this program would provide the tools I needed to jump start my new business and strengthen my knowledge of the business world. This new direction is allowing me to pursue my dream of taking the best of every guitar ever played and reconstruct them into a new guitar that is distinctively unique to this industry." As for Lucas's future, he will leave for the Navy on September 7, to fulfill his other passion of flying planes and defending our country.



Phebe Bolt involves herself in school and community events. Every summer since her freshman year Phebe has volunteered countless hours to the TWIGS summer food program. She was a member of student council for the past two years and her junior year she played tennis. Her sophomore and senior year she was a member of the foreign language club. In her senior year she had the honor of her peers voting her as the National Honor Society Vice President and she was a member of the photography club. Phebe embraced the CEO class as soon as she heard about it. Combining her commitment of helping others with a creative vision, she immediately came up with her business idea to develop the clothing brand **BOLT** (Be Optimistic Live True). Her purpose for creating the brand is to inspire others to keep a healthy mindset and stay true to themselves. Phebe will be attending Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to further her education in business. Phebe is very thankful for all the wonderful people and experiences the CEO class has provided. She will apply these dynamic business skills she has gained for her future endeavors.



Kelsey Clark is proud to state that the CEO class has made a bigger difference in her life than she ever expected. After the first couple of weeks, she learned more about herself as well as others. As the program progressed, she learned proper etiquette, how to be comfortable speaking to others, and shaking hands; things she would not do before this class. Kelsey reports she's gotten better at it and before she knew it she could get up in front of big crowds and speak. This class is not like a typical school course. She started her business, **Fuzion**, which produces bath and beauty products. Kelsey says "this class is teaching us to be successful and that's what everyone wants; to be our own boss, to work hard, and better our community with young entrepreneurs. We are Granite City's future."



Chelsea Gould has a sincere passion for helping people, and loves being involved in as many activities as possible. She's been performing in theatre productions at Granite City High School for four years and was in color guard for three. Because Chelsea has always enjoyed helping when it comes to events, she is developing an event planning business. Her business, **Wishful Experiences**, is her way of giving back to our community. Eventually, she wants to raise enough money to sponsor parties for people who can't afford them. Her goal is to provide people with an experience they'll cherish. In the fall, Chelsea plans to attend college, and further develop her career aspirations.

Rashaun Hall was a vital member of the Collinsville High School 400 relay team and understands the importance of being a team player. He transferred to Granite City High School prior to his senior year. During registration, he was recruited to participate in the CEO Program; he accepted, but really had no idea of what he was getting into. The CEO program helped Rashaun not only with his public speaking and professionalism, but helped him pursue his dream and get closer to his goal in life. His business, **Global Kings Clothing**, produces unisex apparel. His vision for the future of his business is to send half of the clothing proceeds to nonprofit organizations to help impoverished communities around the world. Rashaun plans on attending Southern Illinois University Edwardsville where he will pursue accounting, entrepreneurship, and acting. He will strive to maintain Global Kings Clothing for the rest of his life.



Th'Adrian Hanna is the CEO of his clothing company, **StarBlazing**. Through his brand, he wants to inspire others to live his motto of: "Not just reaching for the stars, but soaring past them." He has been highly involved in extracurricular activities at Granite City High School. Th'Adrian was voted by his peers to be on the 2015 Homecoming Court, was selected by a teacher for a personal choice award, and participated in the annual Mr. Warrior contest. He has been in the Honors Program and was a member of the speech team for three years. For his future, he plans to pursue a career in civil engineering, making a positive impact and giving back to his community.



Clayton Jakul is a proud American. Throughout high school, he was enrolled in honors classes, played soccer, and is a member of the National Honors Society, the social studies club, and was Rotary student of the month during his junior year. Seeking more experience outside of the typical classroom, Clayton joined the Madison Fire Department as a junior and is now a senior firefighter. "Soccer has taught me many life skills that I will always remember, and so has the CEO Program. In just a few months, I was able to learn lessons that normally take a lifetime." He found interest in the CEO program from already owning his own business and was seeking knowledge to improve his lawn care business. "This program is something special; there is no other class that can give a student the experience this program can provide. The amount of people willing to make an impact on high school seniors in our community is just wonderful!" Jakul's Lawn Care has been able to rapidly grow this past year due to Clayton's understanding of the business world, gained through the CEO class. As his class business, Clayton started **"United Tees."** United Tees is an online business that sells patriotic T-shirts, hoodies, and graphic tanks. Clayton plans to further his education at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.



Gregory Nienhaus Jr. is passionate about electrical advancements and is extremely thrilled about the CEO program, what it is and what he is currently accomplishing. He enjoys working with computers and all electronics. Greg plans on becoming an electrical engineer for his career. His long term goal is to run a research company based on advancements in electricity. "The CEO class has personally been the best class I have taken so far in my life. I am extremely honored that I was able to participate in this wonderful program. The skills from CEO will be remembered by myself and my classmates for our entire lives." Greg is developing a business called **Cortex Computer Assistance** with fellow CEO student Jacob Shemwell. Said company is based around helping older generations learn how to effectively use their electronic devices, anywhere from cell phones to a desktop PC. This business venture will help bridge a significant gap in the technology world.





Cyle Pyles is no stranger to entrepreneurship. In 7th grade, he profitably made and sold duct tape wallets. Today, Cyle is the owner of **Curious Collars**, a business that sells different style pet collars that can be customized with colors, gems, and whatever one can imagine. The CEO Program has opened many doors to Cyle and reinforced his belief that it is possible to start a sustainable business as a high school student. Cyle has always been a little shy; participating in the CEO Program has made him more comfortable with meeting new people. College has always been a thought in the back of his mind but now, Cyle plans to attend Southwestern Illinois College and to later transfer to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Because of his passion for the CEO Program, Cyle intends to continue to share his entrepreneurial spirit with his colleagues and future classes.



Alexis Reese is proud to be a student in the CEO Program and is grateful for all of the experiences it has provided. She has been a part of many different organizations throughout her high school career. Alexis played soccer her freshman year and softball her junior year, and has been actively involved in renaissance and varsity club for two years. Her business, **Reese Translations**, is a company that is based on translating written materials into different languages. Her goal is for people to be able to communicate with each other despite any language barriers. After high school, Alexis plans to attend North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, and major in Spanish and either International Business or Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management.



Jacob Shemwell was born and raised in Granite City and is proud of his hometown. The CEO class has helped Jacob manage his time better, resulting in less procrastination. For three years he was on the speech & debate team and is an accomplished public speaker. Jacob plans to attend Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to pursue a degree in Business Administration. In his free time, he likes to play video games, paintball, read, and collect coins. He said the CEO class "showed [him] the true value of this city" and has given him a new desire to try to improve it. His business, **Cortex Computer Assistance**, was founded with his lifelong friend Gregory Nienhaus Jr. and is based around teaching senior citizens how to use modern devices such as phones, tablets, and computers. The founders hope their lessons will allow the senior citizens to connect with their families via social media.



Jared Wylde is a young adult with aspirations to one day own Google. He is a very ambitious young man who is enthusiastic about anything involving engineering and computing. He plans to attend Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to major in Computer Science, and minor in business. His short term career objective is to acquire an entry level position within the powerhouse company, Google, and work his way up to the CEO seat. Currently, he loves the CEO Program for the skills and contacts that he is establishing. "I have said it the whole year, this class is a huge opportunity. This class will put me years ahead, and I am blessed to have this chance." Jared is in the process of starting **The Supply Depot**, a tripartite business that will provide specialty drinks, school supplies, and spirit wear to the community of Granite City High School. His store will be stationed within the high school, providing an enormous competitive edge. He wants to become the central "nerve center," connecting all the clubs and students together in a common place. Jared plans on expanding his business to potentially franchise his business model. Using the skills he has learned in this class, he hopes to excel into the business realm, and one day have his name known throughout the world.

Photos courtesy of entrepreneur Katie Guenther capturedbyKatie.com

The Best of Granite City



Be the first to know, come to the GC Expo

Tuesday, January 19, 2016
St. Gregory's Armenian Community Center

Music by Marcus Barnes and Fiona Green
Photos courtesy of Brenda Kelly Photography

A special thank you from the Class of 2016
to the following companies for their
participation in our class business:

3 Little Birds 4 Life
Arbonne Independent Consultant
Mandy Harris
Bindy's
Chantel Paris Couture
Darin Chiropractic
Dixon Heating & Cooling
Dollar Savers
Duke Bakery
GCS Credit Union
Gerber Quality Foods
Granite City Park District
Healthy Natural Sugars
icon Mechanical
Illinois Electric Works
Illinois Metro East Small Business
Development Center
Jacobsmeier's Tavern & Restaurant
Jerry's Cafeteria & Catering
Jim's Pawn & Jewelry

Kool Beanz Cafe
Nerium International Independent
Brand Partner Stacie Griggs
Nicol Financial Services
Petri Cafe
Ravanelli's Restaurant & Catering
R.E.H.A.B. Exercise Class
Shipley Chiropractic
Six Mile Regional Library District
Stephanie's Spiritual Therapy
Stopkotte's Super Skate
Talley Chiropractic
TheBank of Edwardsville
The Enchanted Chapel & Designs
The Love Tour 5K
The Nicol Foundation
Transamerica Financial Group
Young Living Essential Oils



Networking with Alumni Class of 2015



Guest Speakers in the CEO Classroom

Dwight Erskine
Jeff Smith, icon Mechanical
Steve Thomas
Ashley Swip, 3 Little Birds 4 Life

Marc Voegelé, Express Employment Professionals
Gail Mueller & Dr. Almeda Lahr-Well
Kevin Nicol, Nicol Financial Services
Katie Guenther, Captured By Katie

Entrepreneur Bob Schultz
Attorney Ron Motil
Entrepreneur Karen Wolters
Craig Lindvahl, Midland Institute

Entrepreneur John Perles
Patrick McKeehan, Small Business Development Center
Michael Halbrook, Adobe Consulting
Wendy Symer, WLS Consulting
Veteran Russell Hamilton

Janel Patterson, Frienedy
Entrepreneur Roger Miller
Scott Oney, CPA
Six Mile Regional Library-Juliette Douglas/Mary Meyer

Amanda Guinn, SWIC Dual Credit Enrollment
Tom Cholevik, Transamerica Financial Group
James Williams, McDonald's Franchisee
Dax Aurand, Tee Profits Pro LLC

Brian Rehg, Blue Stingray
Tim Stambaugh, Designland
Cheryl Mitchell, Midland Institute
Emily Gavilsky, Eminence

Superintendent Jim Greenwald
Entrepreneur Dawn Mushill
Vincent Schell, St. Louis Makes
Entrepreneur Thomas Adamitis



Guest Speakers in the CEO Classroom



Business Visits

August - December, 2015

Nicol Financial Services
 Jim's Pawn & Jewelry
 Southwestern Illinois College
 Kool Beanz
 Shirts Galore & More
 Chantel Paris Couture
 O'Brien Tire & Service Center
 Altered Grounds
 Fat Chimp Studios - St. Louis
 Uncle Linny's Restaurant
 Dixon Heating & Cooling
 Six Mile Regional Library
 Gerber Quality Foods
 GCS Credit Union
 St. Gregory's Armenian
 Community Center
 Gateway Packaging
 Irwin Chapel
 Champion's Wedding
 & Party Room
 Glik's
 Old Six Mile Museum



Business Visits

January - May, 2016



Illinois Electric Works
 Penn Station
 The Chamber of Commerce
 Tee Profits Pro LLC
 Port Harbor Railroad Corp.
 Darin Chiropractic
 Century 21 Bailey & Co.
 Stephanie's Spiritual Therapy
 TheBank of Edwardsville
 Cambridge Innovation Center - St. Louis
 Granite City Foundry
 America's Central Port
 Cedar Creek
 Gorilla76 - St. Louis
 icon Mechanical
 Mr. Twist
 Southwestern Illinois College
 Weber Chevrolet
 Aiello's Pizzeria
 Precoat Metals
 Pizza World
 Amsted Rail
 Granite City Park District
 Rudan Outdoor Power Equipment
 Mayco Industries

Special Events

Manufacturing Day - Southwestern Illinois College
TrepStart Day - St. Louis University
John O'Leary - CEO Empowerment Day
Mentor Match-up
Granite City Foundry Meeting
Billie's Kids
CEO Pitch - GCHS Guidance Department
CEO Pitch - Recruiting Juniors
The Best of Granite City
Alton High School CEO Pitch
Granite City Rotary Community Breakfast
Riverbend Economic Development Annual Dinner
ProsperNext Event Johnna Marie Custom Clothing
Effingham CEO Experience
CEO Board Meeting
Chamber of Commerce Eggs & Issues
Venture Cafe, St. Louis
Mentor Morning
Banker Day
25th Annual Granite City Rotary Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
Elevator Pitch Competition
Business Networking International Meeting
Granite City CEO Trade Show



Host Businesses

Nicol Financial Services
Six Mile Regional Library
Illinois Electric Works
America's Central Post

August 19 - October 16, 2015
October 19 - December 17, 2015
January 5 - March 11, 2016
March 14 - May 20, 2016





Developing CEO Team Building Skills



Building Mentor Relationships



Building Banking Relationships



2016 CEO Advisory Board

Marc Voegele Board Chair	Express Employment Professionals Owner, President
Adam Saltsgaver Vice Chair	TheBANK of Edwardsville Assistant Vice President Commerical Banking Group
Tom Schooley Secretary	Law Offices of Thomas E. Schooley Attorney, President
Jeff Smith Treasurer	icon Mechanical Construction & Engineering, LLC Chief Financial Officer
Pam Cook	Granite City Community Unit School District #9 Guidance Department Chair, Granite City High School
Cindy Gagich	Granite City Community Unit School District #9 Director of Secondary Education
Cindy Gavilsky	Coordinated Youth & Human Services Executive Director
Dale Hamil	Illinois Electric Works President
Tina Hubert	Six Mile Regional Library District Executive Director
Roger Miller	Gateway Packaging Company Founder and Chairman
Tim Moran	Granite City Community Unit School District #9 Assistant Principal, Granite City High School
Kevin Nicol	Nicol Financial Services CEO and President



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.

Altered Grounds
America's Central Port
Amsted Rail
Cequel III
CEO Class of 2015
Craig Lindvahl
Dr. Almeda Lahr-Well & Gail Mueller
Ehrhardt Tool & Machine, LLC
Express Employment Professionals
Gateway Regional Medical Center
GCS Credit Union
Glik's
Granite City Pickling
icon Mechanical
Illinois Electric Works
Law Offices of Thomas E. Schooley
Multicare Specialists
Nicol Financial Services
Port Harbor Railroad Corp.
Prairie Farms
Roger & Bekki Miller
Roth Law Offices
Scott Oney, CPA
Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation
Sun Coke Energy
TheBANK of Edwardsville
The Nicol Foundation
U.S. Steel
Working Class Benefits, LLC

CEO Contributors

Century 21 Bailey & Co.
Coordinated Youth & Human Services
Irwin Chapel
Six Mile Regional Library District
Tommy Brown, EA, CTRS

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Commitment Form

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

Contributor

☐ \$1,000 annually for three years (\$3,000 total)

☐ 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:

Mr. Jeff Smith
icon Mechanical
1616 Cleveland Blvd.
Granite City, IL 62040

email: jsmith@iconmech.com
 618.452.0035
 Fax 618.452.0037

On behalf of the CEO Board of Directors, I would like to thank all of our investors and contributors to the Granite City program. You have been instrumental in impacting young lives and our community for years to come. We are headed into our third year and the program continues to grow in size and stature in Granite City. Since its inception locally in 2014, five other communities have followed our lead and started their own CEO programs in the Metro East area.

This unique approach, helping students uncover and develop vital skill sets, is truly cutting-edge and greatly valued. If you have been considering becoming an investor, I invite you to join us. Most join to help others, but usually see the benefit it brings to everyone, and become passionate themselves.

If you would like to join as a host location or become a mentor there is room for you. Watch our students run a group business and then develop their own individual businesses. See them transform from high school teenagers to business minded, community oriented, young adults who are eager to embrace the challenges and opportunities that life has to offer. It is never too late to join CEO, and you will be glad you did.

Marc Voegelé, Owner
Express Employment Professionals
CEO Advisory Board Chair



GRANITE CITY **CEO**

Trade Show

Wednesday, April 27

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.



Please Join Us
Explore our
2016 Class of Entrepreneurs

Visit our Students' Booths
Discover Students' Startup Businesses
Purchase Products and Services

History Room
Sam Wolf Campus
Southwestern Illinois College
4950 Maryville Road
Granite City, IL 62040

GRANITE CITY **CEO**

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL
OPPORTUNITIES

for GRANITE CITY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



Marc Voegele, Chair
Granite City CEO Advisory Board
618.920.2705
marc.voegele@expresspros.com

Karen Greenwald, Facilitator
Granite City CEO Class
618.578.8883
karen.greenwald@gcsd9.net