

2025 ANNUAL REPORT





ABOUT US

Lyon and Murray County CEO was established in 2022 with the help of numerous business investors and a solid steering committee from our counties. As we enter into our third year we are excited to add another school district to the program.

CONTACT US

facilitator@lyonandmurraycountyceo.com

OUR MISSION

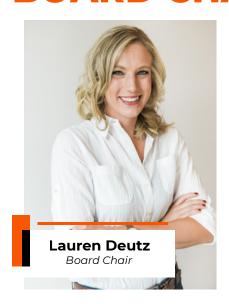
Being and developing life-long learners, owners, creators, communicators and connectors.

OUR VISION

CEO nurtures entrepreneurial thinkers who possess an awareness of themselves and their communities.



BOARD CHAIR



Our third class of young professionals has completed a year of "out of the book and out of the classroom" learning through the Lyon and Murray County CEO Program. Within these pages, you'll see the many opportunities students had to connect with community members and business leaders across four communities. This program is only possible because of the individuals, organizations, schools, and businesses that continue to share their time, energy, and expertise—we are deeply grateful for your support.

Each year brings new challenges and opportunities. With skill and dedication, our facilitator, Shanda Walker, guided students through the badge business, class business, and their own individual ventures. Rather than directing each step, she provides the tools and encouragement they need to find their own success.

Thank you for investing in the Lyon and Murray County CEO Program. Together, we are shaping the next generation of leaders and strengthening the future of Southwest Minnesota.

- Lauren Deutz

LETTER FROM THE FACILITATOR

It's hard to believe our third year has come and gone and we graduated another group of 18 amazing young adults.

Every year I'm blown away by the fortitude and effort these young professionals put towards their school work, businesses, and lives. It's such an honor to watch the growth from September to May, and even year after year.

Now that we have three groups under our belts, it's been incredible to follow their life trajectories as they make waves in our communities. I encourage you all to take a look at all the amazing things these young adults have been up to on the following pages.

And of course, thank you to all of our amazing community members, Board of Directors, Investors, Mentors, Guest Speakers, Business Tours and Class hosts. This program would not be possible without the support and dedication from our communities.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in year 4 and beyond!



-Shanda Walker



EXPENSES

CEO EXPENSES

\$57,400.56

INCOME

CLASS BUSINESS

Gross Income: \$5,139.32

BADGE BUSINESS

Gross Income: \$3,376.34

Facilitator Expenses (Salary, Mileage, Training, Tech)	\$33,639.76
Midland Fee	\$5,000.00
Admin Costs (Insurance, Events, Printing)	\$3,740.98
Funds to Class Business	\$6,000.00
Loans to Individual Businesses	\$3,502.00
Funds to Individual Businesses	\$8,487.00
College Credit Cost	\$6,600.00
Totals	\$66,969.74

Investor Income	\$54,500.00
SWIF Grant (\$10,000/3yrs	\$ 3,333.00
US Bank Grant (\$10,000/3yrs)	\$3,333.00
Payback class project	\$1,301.00
Friends of CEO	\$2,700.00
Totals	\$76,149.99



Our Program Investors provide support to our community driven program. An annual investment of \$1,000 provides the necessary resources for current-year facilitator salary and operating expenses, and ensures the sustainability of the Lyon and Murray County CEO class for future students. Investors also contribute their time to the program. Hosting host business visits, provide guest speakers and serving as mentors. All crucial to the success of Lyon and Murray County CEO.

A & C Excavating

Ace Home and Hardware

ADM

Ag-Plus Cooperative

Apollo Water

Avera Marshall

Avera Tyler

Bisbee Plumbing and Heating

Buffalo Ridge Concrete

Carlson & Stewart Refrigeration

Carr Family Foundation

CHS

Christensen Broadcasting

City of Marshall

Commodity Futures Brokerage

Currie State Bank

D&G Excavating

Evans Family Pet Care

Finley Engineering Co Inc

Fultz Farms Inc

Hoffman & Brobst

Investors Choice Financial Svcs

Kibble Equipment

Legal Estate Planning Solutions

Lockwood Motors

LYFT Career Pathways

Lyon County

Lyon Lincoln Electric

Maple Path Financial





Marshall Area Chamber

Marshall Mini Storage

Marshall Noon Rotary

Marshall Radio

MN Business Finance Corp

Minnwest Bank- Slayton

Minnwest Bank - Tracy

Monogram Meats

Murray County EDA

Murray County Medical

Murray Co Corn and Soybean

Growers

Noble Cooperative Electric

Northwestern Mutual

Prairie Lakes Family Dentistry

Ralco Nutrition

Runnings

Slayton Building Materials

Slayton Kiwanis

Smile Designers

Southwest Sanitation

Southwest Initiative Foundation

State Bank of Chandler

State Farm Insurance - Kim Hom

Subway-Key Ventures

The truShrimp Company

Tracy EDA

Tyler Bus Services

Tyler Lumber Inc

Woodstock Communications



A Mentor is a business owner, entrepreneur, or intraprenuer from the Lyon and Murray County CEO business community. A mentor is someone willing to share their time and expertise with a CEO student.



Nick Schwarz *AP Design & SendIt*



Shawna Christiansen Vivayik



Brad Gruhot *Marshall Area Chamber*



Heather Rokeh Graceful Marilyn Quilt Shoppe



Braxton SeifertSilver Dollar Auction Co.



Terry EastCity of Tyler



Pete Beerman *Plaid Moose Coffee*



Jeremy GossenCarlson & Stewart Refrigeration



Jeff CarpenterCity of Tracy



Jodi Schreurs The Marvin Companies



Desiree Petrich *Intentional Action, LLC*



Kodee Antoine *ADM*



Kandy Noles Stevens *Miz Stevens Publishing*



Janet Voges *Minnwest Bank*



Trevor Humphrey *Mears Electric*



Joel Kor *Camden Properties*



Aaron Hippe Aaron and Sons Construction

MEET THE CLASS OF 2025

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ADA MOUA - BLOOMKRAFT

Ada is a Senior at Tracy High School. Ada learned to crochet and found a love for the hobby. Her business, Bloom Kraft, offers customers the opportunity to purchase single or bouquets of crocheted flowers. Rather than purchasing live florals that will with within a few days, Bloom Kraft offers flowers that will last a lifetime and bring brightness and joy to your space.

- 507-591-0305
- (i) @Bloom.Krafts
- www.bloom-kraft.com



ADAM HIPPE - HIPPE'S WOODWORKING AND EPOXY*



Adam Hippe is a Junior at Tracy High School. His company, Hippe's woodworking and Epoxy offers cutting boards, epoxy coasters, chess boards and specialty woodworking projects.

- 507-626-4009
- ⋈ hippeswoodworkingandepoxy@gmail.com
- (a) @hippes_woodworking_and_epoxy



ANDREW HOLM - HOLM ENGRAVING*



Andrew Holm, Senior at Murray County Central.

Andrew's company, Holm Engraving, is a laser engraving business focused on providing customizable products. We are currently focused on engraving tumblers and wooden crosses.

Whether it be a Bible Verse, your name, or your logo - whatever you think we can engrave! Contact us to help you customize your gifts or products today!



(o) @holm_engraving

f Holm Engraving



BEN BRANDI - CUTTING FDGF LAWN SERVICES*



Ben Brandl, Junior at Marshall High School. Ben's company, Cutting Edge Lawn Services offers lawn care and gutter cleaning in Tracy and Marshall so you can enjoy your yard without the work. Contact Ben for a free quote on services.

507-829-7235

f Cutting Edge Lawn Services





BRAFLYN WING - LEGACY POINTING LABS

Braelyn is a Senior at Marshall High School. Braelyn's business is Legacy Pointing Labs, a premier labrador retriever breeder located in Lynd, MN. They breed each litter with a strong commitment to health, temperament, and performance. So whether you needed a hunting buddy or a family companion, Legacy Labs has what you need.

- f Legacy Pointing Labs
- (C) @legacy_pointing_labs



DAWSON DECAMP - INSIDE OUT CAR DETAILING*



Dawson is a Junior at Marshall High School.

Dawson's business, Inside Out Car Detailing aims to provide exceptional car detailing services to vehicle owners in Marshall. We enhance your vehicles appearance, maintain its value, and offer convenience with our mobile detailing options.

- 320-305-9619
- f Inside Out Car Detailing
- (O) @insideoutmobilecardetailing



3et that new car look again.....inside and out

EASTON LARSEN AND KASON DYBDAHL - PRISTINE PANES *



Easton Larsen, Senior at Marshall High School and Kason Dybdahl, Senior at RTR began Pristine Panes as an extension of the class microbusiness in the Fall of 2024. Pristine Panes offers professional window cleaning services for your home, farm, or business with free quotes and competitive pricing. Contact Easton or Kason today to set up your appointment and enjoy your views like never before!

- 507-828-9327 (Easton)
- 507-828-1985 (Kason)
- @pristine_panes_windows





ELIJAH DETERMAN - DETERMAN GUTTER ARMOR* AND MOBILE MAYHEM



Elijah is a Senior at RTR High School. Elijah started two businesses, though Determan Gutter Armor is his primary focus.

Determan Gutter Armor is a Gutter Guard installation service and gutter cleaning business located out of Tyler, MN. Determan Gutter Armor services SW Minnesota and provides free quotes from 3 different levels of gutter armor for your home or business. Contact Eli today for your free quotel





507-220-3767

🖂 elijah.determan206@gmail.com

GABRIEL GLEIS - GABRIEL GLEIS HANDYMAN*



Gabriel is a Junior at Murray County Central. Gabriel's business - Gabriel Gleis Handyman offers you the peace of mind to get those projects done, big or small. Gabriel will provide you with quality service and respect you deserve to help make your space more functional.







GRACE ROKEH - INNER GRACE JEWELRY*

Grace is a Junior at Marshall High School. Grace's business, Inner Grace Jewelry is a jewelry brand that aims to empower young women to be their true unique self and embrace their individual beauty. Inner Grace products can be found on their website and on location at Graceful Marilyn Quilt Shoppe in Marshall.

- 507-476-0389
- innergracejewelry@gmail.com
- **f** (⊙) @innergracejewelry
 - minnergracejewelry.com





JADE WILLIAMS - INFLATAFUN RENTALS*

Jade Williams is a Junior from RTR.

Jade's business, Inflatafun Rentals offers bouncy houses and other inflatable games to help make your party or event more fun. Installation is also available. Inflatafun services Tyler and surrounding areas.



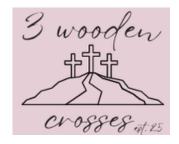
507-591-0117



JENNA KREMIN - 3 WOODEN CROSSES

Jenna is a Senior at RTR High School. Jenna's business, 3 Wooden Crosses is named after her favorite country song. 3 Wooden Crosses specialized in rustic home furniture to fill out your countryside theme in your home or office.

507-476-2073







McCoy is a Junior at Marshall High School.

McCoy's business, Guenther Cleaning Services, offers commercial and residential cleaning in Marshall, MN. Cleaning services may include vacuuming and floor care, bathroom sanitation, mirror and surface cleaning, trash removal and more. Reliable and dedicated, we offer you the opportunity for a clean space so you can focus on what matters most.

507-530-9155

guenthercleaningservices@gmail.com

(i) @Guenther_cleaning_services

■ Guenther Cleaning Services



OLIVIA LANGE - FRONT PORCH PANTRY*



Olivia is a Junior at RTR High School. Olivia's business, Front Porch Pantry started from a love of baking and wanting to share delicious recipes with simple ingredients. Whether you are bringing baked goods to a party or event, or just want to try something new, Front Porch Pantry offers a variety of options of muffin, cookie, brownie and bread mixes to enjoy!

- mail.com
- (c) @frontporchpantry.mn
- frontporchpantrymn.com



SAM DEUTZ - HERTTAGE BREED FEEDER PTGS



Sam is a Junior at Marshall High School. Sam's business specializes in raising and marketing high-quality feeder pigs for local and regional livestock producers. Sam focuses on providing healthy, well-managed pigs that are ready for finishing operations.

507-829-5487



SETH COWELL - COWELL OLD CAR REMOVAL*



Seth is a Senior at RTR High School. Seth's business takes the old cars, trucks and SUVs from your barn, yard or storage and gets them off your hands. Seth will either restore your vehicle and find a buyer, disassemble for parts, or utilize pieces for other projects.

- 507-215-2493
- **f** Cowell Old Car Removal
- (C) @cowell_old_car_removal



SYNDEY SEILER - SYDNEY SEILER BABYSITTING SERVICES*



Sydney is a Senior at RTR High School. Sydney Seiler Babysitting Services offers babysitting AND cleaning services, so while your children are being well-cared for, you can count on Sydney to help you keep your space clean and organized. Sydney provides fun and unique activities to help keep your child(ren) engaged while also allowing you the comfort of coming home to a tidy space.

- **507-591-3119**
- xydneyseilerbabysitting@gmail.com
- (C) @SydneySeileryBabysitting
- Sydney Seiler







BUSINESS VISITS

An important piece of the CEO experience is visiting local businesses. This gives the Young Professionals and opportunity to learn outside the classroom and dive into the workforce.



Ralco Agriculture Iterro Life Sciences Geske Home Improvement Slayton Building Materials Finley Engineering Lingen Dairy Marshall Municipal Utilities Murray Co. EMS ADM



Naptime Play Cafe Squatch Coffee Wing's Axe Company K-Joe Radio 5 Family Ranch

Murray County Medical Center Almich's Market Marshall Golf Club Tracy Lanes Graceful Marilyn Quilt Shoppe VIP Floral and Garden Center

Dybdahl Doodles AP Design and Send-It Christensen Broadcasting 3rd Street Creative

Deja Brew

Runnings Distribution Center Bend-Rite Fabrication Plaid Moose Coffee Atlantic Place

































BUSINESS VISITS & SPEAKERS



SPEAKERS

Aaron Ziemer - Marshall Radio Lauren Deutz - Marshall EDA Jeff Carpenter - City of Tracy Jeremy Williams - MPS Desiree Petrich - Intentional Action Tara Onken - Edina Realty Charlie Ehlers - USBank Perry McNeil - Lockwood Motors Mike Panka - Panka Insurance Eric Eben - Hoffman & Brobst Bill Toulouse - Quarnstrom & Doering Matt Ust - First Independent Bank Amanda Pudil - Evolution of Beauty Gina Meulebroeke - Mainstay Cafe Theresa Welu - Animal Health Center Troy Tommeraassen - Apollo Water Terry East - City of Tyler Nikki Hippe - Red Hibiscus Cleaning Alissa Moat - MG Designs Mark Rabaev - CEO Class of 2024 Tom Webb - SMSU Women's Basketball

John Baylor- RampUp
Ivan Vogel - VIP Floral
Kim Holm - Kim Holm State Farm
Jeff Farber - Greenwood Nursery
Drew Christianson - Northwest Lighting
Arika Sanders - Squatch Coffee
Tara Brandl - Above the Fold
Per Peterson - Above the Fold
Reid Kimball - On the Spot Handyman
Tracey Haberman - Nobles Co-op Electric

Marilyn Carlson - Maple Path Financial

Andy Easley - Iterro Life Sciences

Adri DeBoer - Red Baron Arena

Grant Moorse- KDL Insurance

Cassi Weiss - Visit Marshall

Larry Gee -

CEO participants have a unique experience with guest speakers serving as instructors for the program. Community Leaders present their life stories, entrepreneurial journeys and share lessons on a variety of business topics





Tim O'Leary- Lyon Lincoln Electric
Wally Dybdahl- Tyler Electric
AJ Peters - Tyler Police
Nick Gleis - Gleis Cabinets
Will Rutledge- Maui Wowi SWMN
Josh and Sarah Lingen - Lingen Dairy
Jenni and Jason - Stonegate Orchard
Macey Bofferding - Naptime Play Cae
David Schelkoph- MMU
Eric. Kodee, Mark-ADM
Tom & Troy- Slayton Building Materials

Brad Geske-Geske Home Improvement

Monty Leysen- Ralco
Christine Fischer-SBDC
Jett Wing- Wing's Axe
Tom Carlson- 5 Family Ranch
Brett Almich - Almich's Market
Heather Rokeh- Graceful Marilyn Quilt Shoppe
Carlene Koopman-Taylor - Marshall Golf Club
Lonnie Cochran- Tracy Lanes
Nick Schwarz - AP Design

Christopher Determan- Southwest Family Chiropractic

Creston Dalle- CDModz/3rd Street Creative



Ben, Garrett, Chris, Carter, Rachel-Finley Engineering







CUSTOM CRATES

The 2024-2025 Class Business was Custom Crates, a gift crate business that sourced local goods and CEO student talents to ease the burden of gift giving. There were 3 crate options, Men's, Spa, and Family. Each crate was hand-made by CEO student Gabriel Gleis, while Adam Hippe and Seth Cowell contributed to making the toppling blox and ornaments in the Family Crate.

Grace Rokeh, Jenna Kremin, and Olivia Lange made body scrubs and bath salts for the Spa Crates. Items from local retailers Ace Home and Hardware, Walnut Grove Mercantile, Evolution of Beauty, Nessa's Naturals, and the Varsity Pub among others were included in various baskets. A unique aspect of the business this year was the charitable giving included. Each crate sold helped purchase items for gift baskets given to local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. From crate sales and individual donations, the CEO Groups was able to provide 50 individual baskets and 4 large group crates to area facilities.





C-Suite (L to R) Ada Moua, CFO Grace Rokeh, CMO Easton Larsen CEO Sam Deutz, COO



















Lauren Deutz
Marshall EDA
Director
Board Chair Chair



Zoey Logan Investors Choice Financial Services Vice Chair



Neal Everson Minnwest Bank Treasurer



Beth RitterMarshall Public
Schools
Secretary



Mary SquiresMinnwest Bank



Jeff CarpenterCity of Tracy



Jake Scandrett MCC Schools



Alex Greenway Tracy Area Schools



Rick Gossen RTR Schools



Andy EasleyIterro Life Sciences



Terry EasyCity of Tyler



Troy Tommeraasen Apollo Water Systems



Aaron Ziemer Marshall Radio



Desiree PetrichIntentional Action
LLC



Carla Goedtke
Investors Choice
Financial Services
Past Board Chair





Since graduating High School in 2023, Braxton has taken his entrepreneurial spirit and poured it back into this life and his community.

Braxton attends SMSU full-time pursuing a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on Entrepreneurship and a Minor in Finance.

Braxton also works as a Community Banker for MinnWest Bank and runs two businesses: Silver Dollar Auction Company and Silver Dollar Property Company. Most recently, Braxton has also been named as the Campaign Manager for the re-election of Senator Gary Dahms.



Somehow, Braxton also finds time to be a Mentor for the last 2 CEO groups, provides guest speaking and alumni insight for all, and beginning in the 25-26 school year, will be on our Board of Directors as our Treasurer!

Thank you for all you do for our community, Braxton.

braxtonjseifert@gmail.com

Phone: (507) 828-1926



Prige Duthoy. Class of 2023

We asked Paige to fill us in on her recent adventures, here is what she had

"Currently I'm living on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. Filling my days by exploring the island, paddling on Hui Lanakila Canoe Club, and spending time with great people.

Right now I'm working at one of the Sunrise Shack locations, a wellness cafe on the island. Looking ahead, I plan to continue traveling the world, immersing myself in new cultures, and learn from the people and places I encounter along the way.

The Lyon and Murray County CEO Program has impacted my life tremendously. The program taught me the foundations of discipline and being independent while also learning how to help and lead others. More importantly, it made me see the importance of community and teamwork, because without that, you can't get anywhere. I am constantly grateful for the connections and knowledge I have gained from the CEO Program.

A heartfelt thank you to Shanda for her incredible guidance throughout the program. Her constant support and encouragement, especially during moments of uncertainty, truly motivated me and kept me going. Even after graduation, Shanda continues to offer her guidance, which speaks volumes about the exceptional mentor and Facilitator she is."



Keep up your amazing spirit and rest for life, Paige. We can't wait to see where you go next!





Mark Rabaey. Class of 2024 Cadet, West Point Academy

When Mark joined CEO, he wasn't really sure what to expect. Being the middle of 8 children, Mark often "went with the flow" and wasn't one to make big decisions or challenge the status quo.

Once participating in CEO, Mark was exposed to a variety of new careers, experiences, and methodologies. Mark was forced into a world where he was in charge of the decision making for himself and his business.

Through trial and error, struggle and triumph, Mark was able to learn more about himself and his abilities. Mark used his new found confidence to continue to work hard and explore his options. In the Spring of 2025, Mark was accepted into West Point Academy, the first student from Marshall High School to be accepted.

In June 2025, Mark began his journey as a West Point Cadet and is looking forward to the next chapter of his life using the skills he obtained in CEO.

We are proud of you and your accomplishments, Mark! Thank you for your service.

McKnde Gillette. Class of 2023 Owner, MG Maintenance

"CEO has helped me see all the possibilities and opportunities of being your own boss and helping your community. It has opened my eyes in more ways than one.

CEO taught me that anyone can make a change or start their own business as long as you have the right mentality and attitude. The mentors I have met at CEO have also helped push me and have kept me on the right track through times of doubt and struggle.

The people I met during CEO have made a huge impact on my life and I still think about them almost every day, and I've been able to maintain relationships with many of my peers.

CEO is the reason I wanted to pursue more schooling/education on how to open a successful business and how to manage all the chaos.

Currently, I am still pursuing my dreams to have my own land development crew/earth working crew. Since CEO I have purchased some equipment including a backhoe, dump truck, and new pick up to help me get started. I'm very goal-oriented and committed to becoming a successful entrepreneur."

Keep up the great work, McKade!



"There is no doubt in my mind, if I wouldn't have gone through CEO, there is no way I would be able to reach my full potential. I owe a lot to my mentors Shanda Walker and Brad Gruhot and so many more!"



DISCOVER HOW TO TRANSFORM OUR COMMUNITY AND GET INVOLVED WITH CEO.



GUEST SPEAKER

Come join class as a guest speaker, this is such a critical part of CEO. We love for speakers to tell us stories about how their business started, personal philosophies about work and success, life topics or specific business topics. Guest speakers are really the true teachers in CEO.





BUSINESS VISIT

Students look forward to visiting the many different businesses that create our community. Consider inviting the class to tour and learn more about your business. *Contact facilitator@lyonandmurraycountyceo.*com to learn more.

MENTOR

Become a mentor if you are ready to experience CEO right along with the students. Being a mentor is a rewarding way to get invloved.





INVESTOR

CEO is free for students and schools. The program relies on local investors to support this transformative learning experience. By helping us connect our young people with local businesses and area leaders, you can make a direct impact on the workforce and leaders of tomorrow.

BOARD MEMBER

Becoming a board member for CEO offers a rewarding opportunity to shape the future of aspiring entrepreneurs. Serving on the board allows you to contribute to the growth of the next generation of innovators and make a lasting impact on our community.





WE NEED COMMUNITY-MINDED INDIVIDUALS LIKE YOU.

CEO is free for students and schools. The program relies on local investors to support this transformative learning experience.



INVEST IN TOMORROW, TODAY.

By helping us connect our young people with local businesses and area leaders, you are making a direct impact on the workforce and leaders of tomorrow.

AS AN INVESTOR, YOU RECEIVE:

- Name/Logo Recognition on CEO Website
- Social Media Acknowledgement
- First Rights to host/visit the class



"The CEO experience has been life changing for me. I learned a lot of skills I wouldn't have been able to gather otherwise and I feel more prepared for my future. CEO opened up more doors for me than any other opportunity ever has."



"CEO is so much more than how to run a business. It is teaching students the life skills and all of the things that go into being successful in any career path you choose. It exposes all of our students to what endless opportunities are right here in our backyard."



"In 20+ years in economic development, the chamber of commerce and the economic development corporation, CEO has been the most beneficial most gratifying program I have been involved with. "

Contact us



DISCOVER HOW TO TRANSFORM OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH CEO.

The CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities)
Program gives young people hands on business
experience and transforms them into entrepreneurial
thinkers who are invested in our community.



ABOUT THE

CEO PROGRAM

CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) is unlike any other class. It is a program for high school juniors and seniors that teaches them about business. But even more, it teaches them about life.

Kids think that opportunity exists everywhere but in their hometowns. The CEO Program shows them that there are thriving businesses, opportunities for growth, and people who want to support them right here in their community - all they have to do is look. We know that where our young people have a good network, they have opportunities.

70%

Of all CEO students said they could see themselves returning to their community in the future.



CEO IMMERSES STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY.

CEO is never held in a classroom. Instead, students visit area businesses and hear from guest speakers from their community.



CEO INSTILLS AN ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET.

Each student is guided through the creation of two real businesses. Every CEO participant leaves the class with an operating business.



CEO INSPIRES THE NEXT GENERATION

It challenges young people to own their work, innovate creative solutions, and consider the possibilities available to them.