



# KNOX COUNTY CEO<sup>®</sup>

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL  
OPPORTUNITIES

## *Annual Report*





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# 2017-2018 CEO ANNUAL REPORT

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I cannot believe that the inaugural CEO class from Knox County is beginning to wrap-up their year. It has been my pleasure to get to know these phenomenal young adults. They started their year as just high school students representing all four county schools and ended their year as a CEO family. Along their journey they learned how personalities are important to understand, how working together can be challenging, and how creating a “WOW” with everyone they meet is vital for successful relationships. They have above all else created life-long friendships with each other. I was blessed to get a front row seat for their transformation in this wonderful program.

This year the students visited multiple Knox County businesses and gained valuable business advice along with life lessons from 30+ guest speakers. The students have also participated in the following:

- Were guests of the management team of Holiday World and Splashin’ Safari in Santa Clause, Indiana where they spent the day learning the business of theme parks.
- Were guest speakers at the Opportunity Knox - Tour of Opportunity, a one day business opportunity for Juniors from all four county schools.
- Were guest speakers at the Knox County Development Corporation Banquet, where there were 350 business people in attendance.
- Hosted the CEO Winter Banquet, that included a silent & live auction, a dinner catered by Procopio’s Pizza and Pasta, and guest speaker, Tammy Catt.
- Were guest speakers at the Kiwanis monthly meeting.
- Were guest speakers at the Sullivan County School Board
- Completed a class business plan together and each created their own business plan for their individual businesses.
- Created their own businesses which they showcase at the CEO Trade Show.
- Developed a network with business professionals that have invested in their futures.
- Developed relationships with mentors from the business community.
- Promoted the CEO program by speaking at Knox and Greene County School to recruit future students.

The Knox County CEO Class of 2018 has matured beyond measure this year. They are strong confident young adults that are ready for either their senior year of high school or their next chapter in life as some head off to college. They owe a huge amount of appreciation to our 45 investors, board members, mentors, guest speakers and the businesses they visited because each one invested in their future. A Barbara Bush quote says it all...”Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people ~ your family, friends, and coworkers, and even strangers you meet along the way” Our Knox County community has been so supportive of this inaugural CEO class and your engagement has no doubt led to their future success. Thank you to each one of you for believing in this program, dedicating your time and resources and treating these students and program well.

Kristi Utt  
Knox County CEO Facilitator

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# CLASS OF 2018 CEO CLASS

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**LEFT TO RIGHT:**

***BRILEE ALBRECHT  
LAUREN PARKER  
ISABEL MILLER  
ISAAC BURSON  
COLETON HOSTETLER  
BENJAMIN WEBER  
GAGE COOPER  
COLLIN FAUSNAUGH  
JAREN PFOFF  
ALEX RUSCH  
LEXI WILSON  
RAHUL BAJAJ***

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## THE KNOX COUNTY CEO WINTER BANQUET

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During the first semester, the students are required to create a class business. The students considered many ideas but the consensus was to host a Winter Banquet. The students got hands on experience in many areas including: working as a team, securing over 100 auction items, selling tickets as well as table sponsorships, advertising the event, hiring a caterer, and securing a guest speaker. These pre-banquet experiences allowed the students to bond and pull together. During the event, the students set up and decorated the banquet hall, served over 250 guests, participated in running the silent and live auction, networked with our guests and cleaned up. Thank you to everyone who attended the banquet and who donated auction items.



# KNOX COUNTY CEO CLASS OF 2018



**Jaren Pfoff** is a junior at Vincennes Lincoln High School. She is currently in National Honor Society. Previously, she has taken part of National Art Honors Society, and managing the varsity wrestling team. She is interested in a health and business

career, and is undecided on a college. Her hobbies include: art, photography, and crafting. For her individual business, she created Zooly: Live Life Wildly ~ Saving Wildlife one shirt at a time. A portion of her proceeds will benefit the Knox County Wildlife Farm. She has always been surrounded by some type of animal and is passionate about the rehabilitation and conservation of wildlife. She wants to give back to people who selflessly help animals to have a better life!

**Rahul Bajaj** is a junior at Vincennes Rivet High School. He is actively participates in numerous extracurricular activities including: soccer, baseball, golf, National Honor Society, Science Olympiad, Math Bowl, & Spell Bowl. He hopes to pursue a degree in finance at an Ivy League College. Rahul is very appreciative of the opportunity to participate in CEO and hopes to continue work hard toward his business throughout his senior year. He believes CEO has opened his eyes to Knox County and helped him make many valuable strong connections, which he will use throughout the next chapters of his life. Mr. Bajaj's business, Bird's Eye Photography, will be a drone photography and videography company. He plans to partner with a quality professional photographer to capture priceless wedding moments for his clients. He will also work with Real Estate agents to capture houses for sale.



**Alex Rusch** is a junior at South Knox High School. Alex has been a member of FFA and Spanish Club. CEO has taught him a lot about himself and how to open up and communicate with others. For his individual business Alex has started

Rusch Drone Photography. With this business he can fly across fields for many agricultural purposes. His services will also be available for video and photos of properties for land owners.

**Collin Fausnaugh** is a senior at South Knox High School. He is a member of Student Council, National Honor Society, BPA, golf and band. Collin works at 423 Smokehouse in Petersburg as a cook. CEO has taught Collin how to communicate with others in a more professional setting. Collin has also learned so much more about his community and what they have to offer right here in Knox County. Collin is grateful for CEO because the program gets you out of an ordinary eight hour day at school behind a desk. He enjoys being able to travel to businesses and talk with their CEO's and employees about what they do on a daily basis. Collin plans on attending University of Indianapolis. He plans on majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Pre-Law. For his individual business Collin has started a photography business. Portray the Province is all about providing the customer with not only a picture but a memory. Portray the Province focuses on landscapes of the surrounding areas. We would love to provide you with our product and make a memory that can last a lifetime for you. We bring a breath of fresh air into your workplace or home.



**Isaac Burson** is a senior at Lincoln High School. He plans on attending the Kelley School of Business at IUPUI and study marketing. Isaac is very thankful for the opportunity to participate in the inaugural Knox County CEO class. This class has allowed him to experience new business surroundings in Knox County and collaborate with students from all schools. For his individual business Isaac has started Blind Eye Clothing Company. This company will offer shirts that display unique designs that Isaac has created. Blind Eye Clothing will be focused on creating a unique high quality product that is functional in any lifestyle. Blind Eye Clothing's motto is don't turn a blind eye to people in need.



**First Church of God**  
generously opened their  
banquet hall to allow the

**Knox County CEO class to meet from 7:15-9:00 a.m.**  
**for the 2017-2018 school year.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**





**Lexi Wilson** is a junior at South Knox High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Math Academic Team, Prom Committee, and Spanish Club. Lexi plays soccer and is on a competitive cheer team. Lexi has

learned a lot in CEO. She has learned to be more comfortable in uncomfortable situations and how to work with people that have different personalities than herself. CEO has also taught Lexi about the businesses throughout the community. Lexi's individual business she has created is called Kick It. Lexi will offer soccer lessons to young children through high school. She wants to teach children around the community the fundamentals of soccer while learning how to be a team player and work with others.

**Brilee Albrecht** is a senior at North Knox High School. She is a member of National Honor Society, Kiwanis Key Club, Student Council, FCA, SADD, French Club, and many other clubs.

Brilee is involved in volleyball, cheer, and softball at school. CEO has opened doors for new connections and networks for Brilee. Brilee has learned a lot about the business community in Knox County. She is creating a care pack business called Brilee's Bundles for her individual business. She will have a website with her bundle care pack options with other information. Brilee strives to give people a great product while putting a smile on the recipients' faces! Brilee is excited to see how the experiences she has gotten in CEO applies next year when she heads to college.



**Isabel Miller** is a senior at Rivet High School. She is involved in many extracurricular activities such as Spell Bowl Captain, Academic Super Bowl, Rotary Interact Club, JETS, SADD, National Honor Society and Student

Council. She also participates in golf and tennis. Isabel has attended NCYC, Rotary Youth Leadership and Catholic Heart Work camp. She enjoys reading and playing the piano. After high school Isabel plans on attending University of Evansville. Isabel's individual business is The Cookie Carton which provides cookies and milk as a fast easy after school snack.

**Coleton Hostetler** is a junior at South Knox Middle-High School. He plays basketball and golf. Coleton is also an active member in Business Professionals of America. He runs his own welding and fabrication shop.

CEO has shown him ways to be successful. He believes that the program has helped him get a better understanding of how modern businesses work. After High School Coleton plans on attending the Great Lakes Maritime Academy to get his undergraduate degree in maritime technology. Coleton's individual business is called, Hostetler Real Estate Redevelopment. This business is a remodeling business for personal homes and rental properties in Knox County. His goal for this business is to boost the value of properties in Knox County.



**Gage Cooper** is a Senior in high school at Vincennes Lincoln High School. He is a part of the swim team and has been swimming for 12 years. Outside of school Gage works as a lifeguard. After high school he plans on going to the University of Indianapolis and will major in sports management with a minor in business. The CEO program has taught him so many things that he would not learn in a normal classroom. He enjoys getting to know students from other schools in the county and interacting with them everyday. For his individual business he plans on giving swim lessons to kids who don't know how to swim. His business is called Lil' Guppy Swim Lessons.



**Benjamin Weber** is a senior at Lincoln high school participating in marching band, concert band, and jazz band. He has traveled to 17 states in the United States and three different country's being Mexico, Germany, and Austria. He has also been an exchange student in Germany as well. Benjamin is the Owner of Pun Intended which is a company that prints puns or small jokes onto shirts. The shirts are to create a smile and for one to enjoy.



**Lauren Parker** is senior at South Knox High School and an inaugural member of the Knox County CEO group. Throughout her high school career she has served as a member in my Student Council, National Honor Society, Youth Leadership Knox County, Kiwanis Key Club, cadet teaching, and as a class officer. Being in CEO's first class, she has learned the importance of responsibility, how to act in a business environment, and create lifelong contacts. It has also taught her how to create and run a business. Lauren is the creator and owner of Lauren's Designs. Lauren's Designs is a hand stamped jewelry business ran out of and for the people of Knox County. As local business, a portion of the proceeds will be given back to the community. With over 50 stamps to choose from, Lauren's Designs provides customers with affordable and fashionable jewelry unique to them.

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# 2017-18 KNOX COUNTY CEO ADVISORY BOARD

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**Graham Dycus**, Chair (HartBell)

**Kirsten Miller**, Vice Chair (Miller Machine)

**Steve Combs**, Secretary (Lincoln High School)

**Susan Brocksmith**, Treasurer (Vincennes University)

**Darell Bobe** (North Knox School Corporation)

**Darren Cantwell** (Burkhart Insurance)

**David Cochenour** (South Knox High School)

**Robert Hudson** (Purdue University)

**Pat Hutchison** (North Knox High School)

**Ross Martin** (First Vincennes Savings Bank)

**Brandon Small** (Twin Rivers)

**Kent Utt** (Knox County Development Corporation)

**Jill Williams** (Melon Patch)



*A special **THANK YOU** to the advisory board for all their hard work  
and dedication to the inaugural Knox County CEO Class.*

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## 2018 CEO MENTORS

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**Don Spivey** (SCHOTT Gemtron) ~ **Collin Fausnaugh**

**Craig Kirk** (First Financial Bank) ~ **Isabel Miller**

**Carson Thacker** (Evansville Teacher Credit Union) ~ **Gage Cooper**

**Elizabeth Miller** (Elizabeth Miller Endodontics) ~ **Brilee Albrecht**

**Jamie Neal** (Chamber of Commerce) ~ **Lexi Wilson**

**Drew Garretson** (Land O'Lakes) ~ **Alex Rusch**

**Heath Klein** (Klein Real Estate) ~ **Coleton Hostetler**

**Barb Donnar** (Supportive Insurance Services) ~ **Jaren Pfoff**

**Travis Piper** (Piper Diamond Company) ~ **Lauren Parker**

**Ross Martin** (First Vincennes Savings Bank) ~ **Rahul Bajaj**

**Shana Strange** (Kemper CPA) ~ **Benjamin Weber**

**Jennifer Skinner** (Community Advocate) ~ **Isaac Burson**

**Jeff Rode** (South Knox High School)



# 2017-2018 CEO CLASS BUSINESS VISITS/GUEST SPEAKERS/ACTIVITIES

Melon Patch ~ Jill Williams  
National Guard  
Mr. Graham Dycus ~ HartBell  
Ms. Katie Kotter ~ HartBell  
Mr. Craig Kirk ~ First Financial Bank  
Mr. Kent Utt ~ KCDC  
Dr. Darrel Bobe ~ North Knox Superintendent  
Miller Construction Company ~ Chris Ernst  
Schott Gemtron ~ Don Spivey  
Holiday World ~ All CEO Classes  
Good Samaritan Hospital ~ Rob McLin  
Ms. Ellen Harper ~ INVin  
Procopio's Pizza and Pasta  
Mr. Bill Sandiford ~ First Vincennes Bank  
Superior Court 2 ~ Judge Johanningsmeier  
Mr. Bob Lechner ~ Knox County Council  
Bestway Express ~ Eli McCormick  
Kellie Streeter ~ Knox County Commissioner  
Ms. Barb Donnar ~ Supportive Ins Services  
Kourtney Marchino ~ LinkedIn  
Adam Schenk ~ PGA Golfer  
Kern's Excavating ~ Ryan/Erin Kerns  
Burkhart Insurance ~ Tony Burkhart  
Julie Folz ~ Southwest ISBDC  
AME Group ~ Melinda Hedge  
Amy Tarr ~ Midland Institute  
Greg Cardinal ~ German American  
Jennifer Skinner  
Dawn Elkins ~ NK Director of Guidance  
Erika Shepard ~ SK Director of Guidance  
Clifford York ~ Carson Wealth  
Vincennes Township Fire Department  
John Gregg  
Elements Yoga ~ Amber Gerkin  
Tammy Catt ~ Clorox  
Drew Garretson ~ Land O'Lakes

Sports Center  
Knox County Jail ~ Sheriff Mike Morris  
Goodwin Funeral Home ~ Tim Goodwin  
Oaktown Family Dentistry ~ Dr. Goodwin  
Spencer Burkhart ~ Burkhart Insurance  
PeaFections ~ Becky Pea  
Shana Strange ~ Kemper CPA Group  
Ewing Printing ~ Jim Ziegler  
Aaron Pea ~ Journey Home Productions  
Alliance Tractor  
KCDC Banquet ~ Millie Marshall (Toyota)  
Elizabeth Miller Endodontics  
Mayor Joe Yochum  
Darren Cantwell ~ Burkhart Ins  
Bumper Hostetler  
Grundman Shoes ~ Tracie Grundman  
1972  
KCARC ~ Mike Carney  
YMCA ~ PACE  
Jamie Neal ~ Knox Co Chamber  
PACE ~ Bertha Proctor  
Toyota  
Old Town Players ~ Upcoming  
WIN Energy ~ Upcoming  
Red Skelton Theater ~ Upcoming

## OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Investor Visits (Thank You)  
Mentor Match  
Two Investor Breakfasts  
Banker Day  
Spoke at KCDC Banquet  
Spoke at Tour of Opportunity  
Spoke at Kiwanis Meeting  
Spoke at all four county schools  
Larry Bucshon Leadership Summit

**THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH OUR  
CEO CLASS. YOUR ADVICE IS APPRECIATED**



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# KNOX COUNTY CEO INVESTORS

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- KNOX COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
- KNOX COUNTY LIFE ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION
- DUKE ENERGY
- JONES AND SONS CONCRETE & MASONRY PRODUCTS
- MILLER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC
- NORTH KNOX SCHOOL CORPORATION
- SUPPORTIVE INSURANCE SERVICES BENEFITS 7
- BESTWAY EXPRESS, INC
- BURKHART INSURANCE
- CANTWELL SERVICE CENTER
- CARSON WEALTH MANAGEMENT
- CHARLIE'S CANDY SHOP
- CITY OF VINCENNES - COMMON COUNCIL
- EWING PRINTING CO, INC
- FIRST FINANCIAL BANK
- FIRST VINCENNES SAVINGS BANK
- FRANKLIN WELL SERVICES LLC
- GERMAN AMERICAN
- GOOD SAMARITAN
- GOODWIN FAMILY FUNERAL HOME
- HARTBELL LAW FIRM
- HURRICANE DITCHER
- KCARC
- KEMPER CPA GROUP
- KERNS EXCAVATING, LLC
- KLEIN REALTY & AUCTION
- KNOX COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- KNOX COUNTY COUNCIL
- MACALLISTER RENTALS
- MILLER MACHINE & WELDING LLC
- NIEHAUS COMPANIES INC.
- OLD NATIONAL BANK
- PIONEER OIL COMPANY, INC.
- PROCOPIO'S PIZZA AND PASTA, INC
- SCHOTT GEMTRON CORPORATION
- SUNRISE COAL, LLC
- THE AME GROUP
- VINCENNES MAYOR JOE YOCHUM
- VINCENNES TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT
- VINCENNES UNIVERSITY
- WABASH STEEL ~ OWNED BY LENEX STEEL
- WIN ENERGY
- WOLFE CONSTRUCTION

## THANK YOU

Without your investment of \$1,000 per year for a three year commitment this CEO program would not be possible. Thank you for investing in our program, our young adults and Knox County.