

KNOX COUNTY ®

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL
OPPORTUNITIES

Board Members

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April 21, 2017

Dear Investor:

By way of introduction my name is Graham Dycus and I am the Chair of the Knox County CEO Advisory Board (öCEOö) which reports to the Knox County Life Enrichment Foundation (öKCLEFö). On behalf of CEO, I would like to extend my utmost gratitude for your generous investment toward the future entrepreneurs in Knox County. I also wanted to take this time to bring you up to speed on the status of the program.

In the months since your investment the CEO Board has been laying the foundation for a program that we believe will create new and exciting opportunities for not only the participants in the CEO program, but also Knox County. The CEO program is unique in that its Board is quite active in the program itself; as such, many of our Board members have attended specific training at the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship. This full-day training course provided invaluable insight into the program and the expectations of not only the students and program leader, but of the Board members themselves. I am humbled to serve on the same Board as so many of our community leaders, each of whom have given so much of their time in service to our common goal. Our Board members not only attend regular meetings and participate in subcommittees, but also have taken a highly active role in creating an environment that permits a program in its infancy to thrive.

An oft repeated sentiment in our initial meetings was that the success of this program was inextricably linked to the quality of the person we chose to lead it. After many months of diligent work by the Board, and the dedication of Dr. Darrel Bobe, we believe we have that person.

By way of background, the CEO Program relies upon a öFacilitatorö rather than a traditional öteacherö to lead and mentor each participant. However, because the vision of the CEO Board was to ensure participants received high school and the opportunity for college credit, we needed to ensure we hired a licensed educator with the appropriate certifications. As such, we relied heavily upon the resources, and the hard work, of our administrative agent, North Knox School Corporation, to post the position on their network.

After applications were received the Facilitator Subcommittee interviewed those individuals who responded. Through these interviews the Subcommittee came to the realization that only one candidate possessed the education, knowledge, and training that we felt were absolutely required to create an environment that allowed this new program to succeed. This individual had not only obtained a Bachelor degree in Business Administration but also a Master degree in Education. She came to us with a wealth of experience in the private sector as well as extensive experience teaching high school students in Knox County. The credentials she held, and had held for some time prior to the existence of the CEO Program itself, meant that Knox County CEO participants would earn credit from their individual high school. We are working with Vincennes University to obtain the appropriate qualifications so the participants will earn college credit as well.

In short, the CEO Board felt as though Mrs. Kristi Utt was the best and only choice to serve as our Facilitator. In its role as an advisory board, CEO recommended to KCLEF that Mrs. Utt be selected for the position and KCLEF accepted this recommendation.

The CEO Board's focus has now turned to its inaugural class of participants. Through the combined efforts of our Student Selection Committee members, local high school counselors, and the CEO Board, we received a total of 21 applications and accepted 18 students representing each high school in Knox County. We anticipate notifying these individuals that they have been accepted as part of the inaugural CEO class for Knox County within the next week.

The program participants will have an orientation in the basement of the Pioneer Oil corporate headquarters on June 28, 2017. I would like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Donald Jones and Pioneer Oil for graciously allowing us to utilize their facilities. This orientation will give the participants, their family members, Mrs. Utt, and indeed the CEO Board itself an opportunity to meet and network.

I would encourage you to visit our website at <http://www.knoxcountyceo.com/> where you will find updates and information relating to the program and the activities the participants are involved with.

On behalf of the CEO Board, I just want to reiterate how truly grateful we are for your dedication to showing the youth of Knox County that the opportunities they seek are waiting just outside their door. I truly believe that this program will foster the type of entrepreneurial spirit that will allow not only our participants, but Knox County itself, to thrive. It is only through your generosity and vision for the future that we are able to provide this type of opportunity, and I commend you.

Regards,



T. Graham Dycus, Chair
Knox County CEO Advisory Board