ceo® WEST CENTRAL MN



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

creating entrepreneurial opportunities

westcentralmnceo.com

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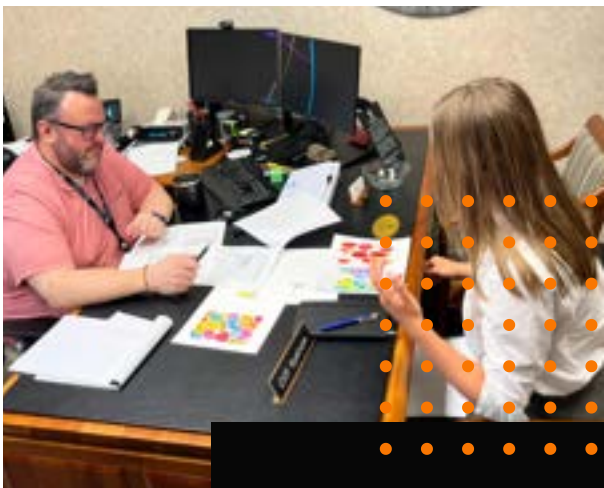
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Discover ways to support, mentor, and connect with our program to help shape the next generation of young entrepreneurs.







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WEST CENTRAL MN

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



NATE HULTGREN

Board Chair

What is your value proposition?

It is commonplace in the business world when making a proposal for a new product to explain how it will improve the life of the buyer. Will it offer a time savings? Will it enhance an existing product? Will it improve health?

When the board of directors speak with our investors, it is no different: we must also provide our value proposition. Based on these last few formative years of West Central CEO, I would say our value proposition focuses on three areas:

1. Awareness: We bring high school students into local businesses so that they can see how many opportunities are available right in their own back yard. We want them to know that they don't have to move out of the area to find a great job or to start a business.
2. Experience: Our program lets high school students seek their own path, giving them freedom to be as successful as they want to be. Unlike traditional school classes, there is no set curriculum; class and individual projects do not have step-by-step directions. Project budgeting, advertising sponsorships, bank loan proposals…students get a taste of the building blocks of small business.
3. Independence: Kids learn to be self-starters. They have to consistently get up early and get to business visits. This invokes confidence for their career—to be the businessperson they want to be.

I am proud of the opportunity we have provided to the CEO students from KMS, MACCRAY, RCW, and CMCS. I am proud of the students that have brought their best ideas forward, forming profitable class projects such as the dinner and auction this year's class operated. It is such a proud day when the students reach the pinnacle of our program: the Trade Show. Pulling together their networks with local businesses, advertising on various platforms, and putting in the sweat equity to drive their way toward a profit. It is a huge success when CEO-born projects turn into main street small town businesses after our students graduate.

On behalf of the West Central CEO board of directors, I want to thank our facilitator, Ryan Luft. Mr. Luft's passion for the program transfers every year to the members of the class. His dedication to networking with community businesses has helped bring the kids to dozens of visits.

We are so fortunate to have such a supportive group of investors to fund our program. Thank you so much for providing financial support, business tours, and advice to our students. You are community-minded family-based businesses yourselves and are a great example for our class of how to build a successful small business in a rural community.

Finally, thank you to my fellow board members. None of this would be possible without you. You are impacting students in a way they've never been before. The power of a firm handshake, eye contact, appropriate business attire…you lead by example and West Central CEO is a success because of you!

Congratulations to this year's graduating class, and we look forward to many more years creating value through entrepreneurial opportunities!

WEST CENTRAL MN

LETTER FROM THE FACILITATOR



RYAN LUFT
Facilitator

What an incredible journey 2025 has been for the West Central MN CEO program! This year, we were honored with 82 opportunities to connect with local community and business leaders—each one offering invaluable insight, mentorship, and inspiration. We are deeply grateful for their time, wisdom, and commitment to our growth.

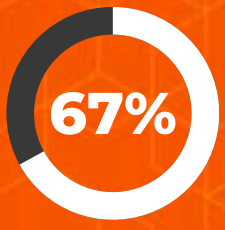
To the Class of 2025, thank you for stepping up and embracing this experience with open minds and determined hearts. Your enthusiasm, resilience, and entrepreneurial mindset have truly stood out. I am incredibly proud of everything you've accomplished and the growth you've shown throughout the year.

We've built meaningful partnerships, formed new friendships, and expanded our network in ways that will have a lasting impact. The environment we created together—built on support, curiosity, and innovation—has been nothing short of remarkable.

Along the way, we've learned that every challenge brings a lesson and that setbacks are simply setups for future success. Your journey as young entrepreneurs is just beginning, and the foundation you've built this year is strong.

To our communities, business leaders, and the West Central MN CEO Board—thank you. Your unwavering support continues to shape the future by investing in the next generation of leaders. This program would not be what it is without your belief in our students and your commitment to their success.

I hope each of you found this experience as rewarding and impactful as I did. Here's to the continued growth, innovation, and future success of the Class of 2025!



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WEST CENTRAL MN

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

An entrepreneurship program established in 2020, featuring a unique year-long cohort who learn from community experts and launch their own businesses.



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Central Minnesota Christian
Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg
MACCRAY
Renville County West

VISION

CEO nurtures entrepreneurial thinkers to be learners, owners, creators, communicators, and connectors.

MISSION

To provide on-going support for developing, implementing, and sustaining the West Central Minnesota CEO program and to foster collaboration between school districts, business, and industry.

CULTURE

Expecting the best of ourselves and others that reflects the spirit and accountability found in CEO.

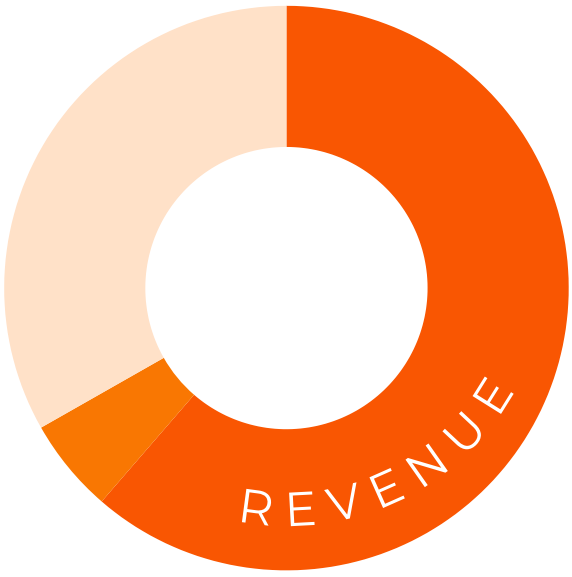
PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS	CURRENT STUDENTS	TOTAL ALUMNI	ACTIVE INVESTORS	BOARD MEMBERS	YEARS ACTIVE
4	18	44	37	13	5



WEST CENTRAL MN

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Investors
- Friends of CEO
- Class Business



- Salary
- MIE Chapter Fee
- Operating Expenses



WEST CENTRAL MN

INCOME STATEMENT
REPORT

For Fiscal Year Ended: July 31, 2025 | as of May 1, 2025

	Class of 2025 Forecast	Class of 2024 Actual	Class of 2023 Actual
INCOME			
Investor Income	$ 37,000.00	$ 37,000.00	$ 44,050.00
Misc. Income	$ 0.00	$ 230.00	$ 600.00
Total Income	**$ 37,000.00**	**$ 37,230.00**	**$ 44,650.00**
EXPENSES			
Program			
Midland Institute Chapter Fee	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
Fiscal Sponsor Fee	$ 300.00	$ 300.00	$ 250.00
D&O Insurance	$ 473.00	$ 498.00	$ 473.00
Mentor Background Checks	$ 80.00	$ 80.00	$ 80.00
Mentor Appreciation	$ 295.00	$ 222.14	$ 208.82
Mentor Events	$ 143.22	$ 267.50	$ 357.29
Investor Care Events	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 76.31
Facilitator			
Payroll/Contracted	$ 25,000.00	$ 26,020.00	$ 25,000.00
Travel	$ 329.87	$ 386.25	$ 3,371.20
Students			
Travel/Attire	$ 0.00	$ 82.98	$ 0.00
Class Expenses			
Materials	$ 0.00	$ 140.55	$ 0.00
Food/Beverage	$ 176.59	$ 350.41	$ 252.79
Gifts | Welcome/Graduation	$ 503.10	$ 1,164.68	$ 680.25
Advertising | Recruitment	$ 0.00	$ 796.61	$ 0.00
Annual Report	$ 1,600.00	$ 1,584.86	$ 990.00
Trade Show	$ 1,200.00	$ 1,098.65	$ 71.66
Total Expense	**$ 35,100.78**	**$ 37,992.63**	**$ 36,811.32**
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	**$ 1,899.22**	**$ (762.63)**	**$ 7,838.68**

INVESTORS
POWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

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 West Central MN CEO class for future students. Investors also contribute their time to the program. Hosting host business visits, provide guest speakers, and serve as mentors. All crucial to the success of West Central MN CEO.



Almich's Market, Clara City

Bonnema Excavating, Raymond

Bravera Bank, Kerkhoven

Bremer Bank/Insurance, Willmar

Citizens Alliance Bank, Clara City

Clara City EDA, Clara City

Community Electric, Renville

Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing, PLLP, Willmar

Country Pork, Renville

Dahmes Stainless, Inc., New London

Duininck, Inc., Prinsburg

Farmers Co-op Oil Co., Clara City

Farmers Co-op, Prinsburg

Farmward Cooperative, Morgan

Glacial Plains Cooperative, Murdock

Hanson Communications, Willmar

Harvey Anderson Funeral Homes, Willmar

Heritage Bank, Willmar

Hultgren Farms, Raymond

Kensington Bank, Willmar

Olivia Hospital & Clinics, Olivia

Petersen Farms, Inc., Murdock

PrinsBank, Prinsburg

Prinsco, Prinsburg

Punt Companies, Prinsburg

Renville County HRA/EDA, Olivia

Riverview LLP, Morris

Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative, Renville

Southside Lumber, Clara City

Southwest Initiative Foundation

Swift County RDA, Benson

Vinna Human Resources, Willmar

West Central MN CEO Alumni

West Central Sanitation, Willmar

West Central Steel, Inc., Willmar

FRIENDS OF CEO

Ag Country Farm Credit Services, Willmar
Citizens Alliance Agency, Clara City
Duininck Concrete, Willmar
Hawk Creek Country Club, Raymond
Kim Miller Photography, Clara City
Lakeland Media LLC, Willmar
Pam Mansfield, CPA, PA, Kerkhoven
Rambow Inc., New London
Renville Sibley Co-op Round Up Program, Danube
Schwitters Brothers Partnership, Raymond



INVESTOR **TESTIMONIAL**

As an investor in the West Central MN CEO class, Citizens Alliance Bank has had the pleasure of witnessing the dedication and enthusiasm of the students. Each morning, they arrive early for their classes in our training room, greeting us with eagerness and a readiness to learn. One of the highlights has been Banker Day, where students present their business plans and request loans. Our lenders were thoroughly impressed by the students' preparation and professionalism. It is invigorating to see the next generation of leaders and business owners working diligently to prepare for their future right here in our local community!

– Steve Condon
CITIZENS ALLIANCE BANK, CLARA CITY

MENTORS
GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION

A mentor is a business owner, entrepreneur, or intraprenuer from the West Central MN CEO business community who plays a vital role in shaping the next generation of leaders. By sharing their time, expertise, and real-world experiences, mentors provide invaluable guidance, encouragement, and insights that help CEO students develop confidence, critical thinking skills, and an entrepreneurial mindset.



JULIE ANDERSON
Insurance Agent, Kensington Insurance/Nesbit Agencies
Mentoring: Cayden De Berg

JODEE DRIGGS
Owner, Community Electric
Mentoring: Makenna Zieske

TODD FITZNER
President, Renville Sales and Fitzner Auctions
Mentoring: Grayson Ahrenholz & Clayton Olson

KRISTIE HAUBRICH
Business Services Product Owner, Nova-Tech Engineering
Mentoring: Ema Workman

CORY HEBRINK
Owner/Financial Advisor, Hebrink Wealth Management
Mentoring: Sawyer Freese

TONY LAMPHER
President, JT Controls
Mentoring: Hunter Joyce

BEN RYAN
Project Manager, St. Francis Health Services
Mentoring: Noah Collins & Talen Riley

NORA ANDERSON
Marketing and Communications Specialist, Farmward Cooperative
Mentoring: Mia Walsh & Wyatt Swenson

BETH ELLIOTT
Ag Lender, Bravera Bank
Mentoring: Yudany Castillo

GREG HAUBRICH
Owner, Circle H Agronomy & Seed LLC
Mentoring: Dylan Cochran

KEVIN HAUSER
General Manager, Hawk Creek Country Club
Mentoring: Valentine Garza

NATE HULTGREN
CEO, Hultgren Farms
Mentoring: Courtney Fernholz & Connor Wilts

KRISTY NYSTROM
Senior Scrum Master, Ascensus
Mentoring: Iris Donner

KLINTON VANHEUVELN
Owner, K&S Poultry and Meats
Mentoring: Isaah Myhre



MENTOR **TESTIMONIAL**

Mentoring in the West Central MN CEO program has been an incredibly rewarding experience. It gives me the chance to share my marketing experience in a meaningful way—helping students understand how to tell their story, connect with their audience, and think creatively about business. The opportunity to engage a young entrepreneur challenges me to reflect, adapt, and stay open to new ideas. One of the most valuable aspects of the program is the one-on-one time I get with students. Those conversations are where real growth happens—both for them and for me. I'm constantly inspired by their energy, drive, and willingness to learn. Being part of this program isn't just about giving back; it's about investing in the future and walking alongside the next generation of leaders as they shape their own paths.

– Kristie Haubrich
NOVA-TECH ENGINEERING, WILLMAR

MENTORS
2024-2025



JULIE ANDERSON

Julie Anderson has worked in the insurance industry since 2009. She is licensed in Property & Casualty Insurance as well as Life & Health Insurance, with a primary focus on personal lines coverage. In addition to her insurance career, Ms. Anderson brings 16 years of experience in direct sales.

She actively contributes to her community, serving as a Board Member on the Carter Bremseth Memorial Foundation and as an Ambassador for the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce.



NORA ANDERSON

Nora Anderson has a long-standing passion for marketing, digital media, and creative communication strategies. She spent six years as a Business Education teacher, where she engaged students in subjects she truly enjoyed, including personal finance, accounting, video productions, and marketing. This experience deepened her interest in business and digital communication. In her current role as a Marketing and Communications Specialist for Farmward Cooperative, she continues to grow her expertise in marketing, video production, and strategic planning. Ms. Anderson particularly enjoys the dynamic nature of her work and opportunity to build meaningful relationships with those around her.



JODEE DRIGGS

JoDee Driggs spent 13 years as a high school English teacher before transitioning to a new career in 2023. She now works at Community Electric Inc. (CEI) in Renville, a third-generation family-owned business on her husband's side. Her primary responsibilities at CEI include licensing, advertising, and accounts payable.

In addition to her role at CEI, Ms. Driggs serves as a board member for the West Central MN CEO program, and also holds a board position on the First Lutheran Church Council in Renville.



BETH ELLIOTT

Beth Elliott states her business experience is evolving. Ms. Elliott was in the insurance industry for 15 years and is currently in her eleventh year at Bravera Bank in Kerkhoven. Though the industries are vastly different, she has been able to blend her insurance experience with banking. A recent acquisition has provided her with the opportunity to focus solely on Ag Lending.



TODD FITZNER

Todd Fitzner has been self-employed for the majority of his career and has a strong passion for sales, particularly because of the opportunity to meet and interact with a wide range of people. Mr. Fitzner has worked as an auctioneer at Minneapolis Auto Action for the past 39.5 years. In 1990, he co-founded Renville Sales Inc. with his father, a business primarily focused on trailer sales.



GREG HAUBRICH

Greg Haubrich holds a degree in plant and animal science from SDSU and has over 15 years of experience in the agriculture industry. He began his career in agronomy sales and precision agriculture at Co-op Country Farmers Elevator before joining Monsanto (now BAYER), where he spent a decade in roles including Technical Agronomist, Climate FieldView sales leader, and Corn Product Manager. In 2021, Greg founded Circle H Agronomy & Seed, offering Channel seed, TitanPro crop protection, and digital ag services to help growers adapt to an ever-changing industry.

WEST CENTRAL MN

MENTORS
2024-2025



KRISTIE HAUBRICH

Kristie Haubrich views the past 20 years of career shifts as opportunities for personal growth, and lifestyle changes as a blessing for raising creatively skilled and adventurous boys.

Raised on a hobby farm in northern Minnesota, she holds a degree in Communications Art and Design from Alexandria Technical College, later adding studies in Business Administration and Marketing. Her diverse career includes roles in movie theatre graphics and animation, voiceovers, customer management, web creative and development oversite, project management, and most recently, product development and branding of automated agricultural systems.



KEVIN HAUSER

Kevin Hauser grew up on a farm, where a strong work ethic and a love for the outdoors were instilled early on. After high school, he embarked on a 30-year career with FedEx. Upon retiring, Kevin transitioned into a new chapter as the General Manager of Hawk Creek Country Club in Raymond, Minnesota. Over the past twelve years, he has successfully managed the clubhouse operations, and five years ago, expanded his role to include overseeing the course grounds. With a passion for community, hospitality, and well-maintained greens, Kevin has played a key role in enhancing the experience at Hawk Creek for members and guests.



CORY HEBRINK

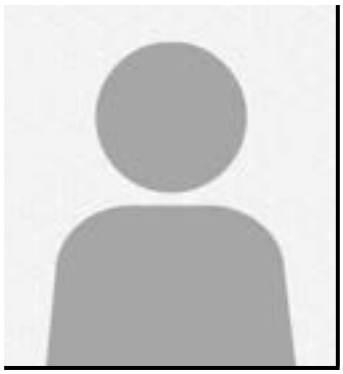
Cory Hebrink graduated from South Dakota State University in 2008 with degrees in Business Economics and Agricultural Business. With over 15 years of experience, he has been a Financial Professional with Osaic Wealth (formerly Securities America) since 2008. Through his firm, Hebrink Wealth Management, he offers a wide range of financial products and services to individuals and business owners. The firm takes a personalized, values-based approach - partnering with clients to define their financial goals, assess future needs, and build a strong, supportive financial framework.



NATE HULTGREN

Nate Hultgren graduated with a Finance degree from U of MN - Duluth. Since 1999, he has been farming with his dad and brother and is currently the managing partner for Hultgren Holdings. His farm responsibilities include input purchasing, crop marketing, operations planning, planting, Meadow Star Dairy/CY Harvesting grower coordinator, capital budgeting, cash flow forecasting, FSA Programs, kidney bean harvesting, and corn drying. Known as Excel spreadsheet "nerd," his professional interest include employee involvement programs, data-driven farming through FieldNet, branding, and decentralized management.

Nate serves on the board of directors for SMBSC and is past president of the American Sugarbeet Growers Association. He is also a founding board member for the West Central CEO program.



TONY LAMPHER

Tony Lampher graduated from BOLD High School and attended technical school in Canby for Electrical Construction. After working as a union electrician for five years., Mr. Lampher joined Community Electric Inc. (CEI), where Art Driggs, the previous owner of transitioned him to AEI Automated Environments (AEI), where he grew in controls and automation. In 2021, Jon Driggs, the current owner of CEI, and he co-founded JT Controls located in Renville.



KRISTY NYSTROM

Kristy Nystrom has enjoyed a diverse and dynamic career. With a Bachelor's degree in Marketing, she spent years helping small businesses market to customers and built strong relationships with business owners in the community. She later became a Licensed Therapist and launched her own coaching business, focusing on helping clients and/or teams achieve their full potential. Today, Kristy blends her experience in marketing, coaching, and the corporate world to coach teams toward maximum efficiency, foster team development, and provide individual coaching for team members.

MENTORS
2024-2025



BEN RYAN

Ben Ryan brings over 20 years of experience building and maintaining production equipment, with a strong mechanical aptitude and a passion for improving efficiency. He loves to tinker and fix things. I can spot mechanical problems that may make things most efficient.

For the past 15 years, Ryan has focused on maintaining, building, and managing large healthcare facilities across Minnesota. His experience includes blueprints, design, contractor relations, budget management, and overseeing complex building projects. Ben has expertise working with plumbing, electrical, mechanical systems, automation, building efficiency, etc., along with strong background in team leadership and public interation.



KLINTON VAN HEUVELN

Klinton VanHeuveln began working in the family farm drainage business at the age of 12 (likely earlier) and continued until he was 27. Alongside this, the VanHeuveln family also ran a hobby farm and small business of raising and processing chickens. In 2021, Klinton took a leap of faith launching a full-service butcher shop - K&S Poultry and Meats - offering poultry, beef, pork, and lamb processing for local farms. It has been a great adventure ever since!









WEST CENTRAL MN

BOARD MEMBERS

STEERING THE FUTURE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP



NATE HULTGREN
CEO, Hultgren Farms
Board Chair



TOM WALSH
Partner, Riverview Dairy
Vice Chair



BETH ELLIOTT
Ag Lender, Bravera Bank
Treasurer



LIZA FAGEN
Exec. Assistant, SMBSC
Secretary



RACHEL AEIKENS
Owner, December Day Creative



AMBER DOERING
Regional Sales Manager, Quizizz



JODEE DRIGGS
Owner/Officer Manager, Community Electric



JASON DUININCK
Director of Business Development, Duininck Inc.



JORDAN ZELLER
Economic Developer, Renville County



TED BROWN
High School Principal, KMS Public Schools



JON DEGROOT
Superintendent, Central Minnesota Christian School



PEYTON MILLS
High School Principal, RCW Public Schools



JUDD WHEATLEY
High School Principal, MACCRAY Public Schools



LANDON TAVEIRNE
Ex-Officio Member
CEO Class of 2024

CLASS OF 2025

THE ENTREPRENEURS OF TOMORROW

Grayson Ahrenholz



Grayson Ahrenholz is a senior at MACCRAY High School, actively involved in football, basketball, baseball, National Honor Society (NHS), trap, and Business Professionals of America (BPA).

He joined the CEO class to gain insight into the business world and better understand what lies ahead of him in the "real world." Grayson was eager to surround himself with people of the same mindset, sharpen his conversation skills, and learn directly from experienced business owners to help shape his path.

THE BIRD BUFFET

At The Bird Buffet, we create high-quality, weather-resistant bird feeders built to last season after season. Our feeders are easy to fill and hold more seed than your average feeder—so you and your feathered friends can enjoy more, with less hassle. Durable. Practical. Bird-approved. Follow me on Instagram and Facebook at The Bird Buffet to see the feeders in action!

Yudany Castillo



Yudany Castillo is a junior at KMS High School. She joined the CEO class not only to explore beyond the traditional the classroom setting, but to meet new people and step out of her comfort zone. While she has always had an idea of her future career, this class is helping her clarify and refine those goals.

Yudany's interest in the business world began when her father opened a Mexican restaurant in Kerkhoven, Minnesota. Helping him pursue his dream inspired her to pursue her own path in business. She is actively involved in Business Professionals of America (BPA) and the Yearbook Club. Yudany hopes to grow her business across the nation, and looks forward to connecting with and learning from experienced professionals in the business world.

BARRA DE FLORISTA

Barra De Florista is an eco-friendly, chemical free shampoo and conditioner bar that lasts up to a year. Perfect for travel. No spills. No liquid. No hassle.

Picture this: you're going on vacation but don't want to worry about the spills in your bag. Well then, Barra De Florista is the one for you!

Find Barra De Florista on Instagram and Facebook @barra.de.florista.

CLASS OF 2025

THE ENTREPRENEURS OF TOMORROW

Dylan Cochran



Dylan Cochran is a junior at Renville County West, where he has been a student for nearly 10 years. He dedicated myself to West Central CEO program to gain a deeper understanding of how the real world operates and how successful individuals have built their paths to success.

Known for being an outgoing and sociable, Dylan have a passion for new experiences and meeting new people. Through this class, he hopes to learn the fundamentals of starting and maintaining a business, and he is excited to learn from those who have succeeded in their fields.

DC DETAILING

I'm Dylan Cochran from DC Detailing, I specialize in focusing on the details and the little things that stand out. Whether your car needs a quick clean up or the full works I've got it handled, inside and out. I make it easy and convenient and come to you saving you the time and hassle. So if you want to get cleaned up, you can find me on Instagram and Facebook @dcdetailsmn, or call me at (320) 522-4943. I'd be happy to get you booked!

Noah Collins



Noah Collins is a junior at KMS High School and a resident of Murdock, Minnesota. He is actively involved in wrestling, baseball, pop group, and serves as an officer in FFA. Noah is passionate about the CEO program as a way to deepen his understanding of business management, expand his network, and gain hands-on experience in entrepreneurship. He is excited about the opportunity to a launch another business and becoming more engaged with the community.

Noah is also the co-founder of N&C Shoreline Solutions, a company he started about a year ago to provide essential services for maintaining and enhancing lakefront properties. The business specializes in dock removal, shoreline cleanup, seaweed removal, riprap repair and installation, and complete shoreline remodeling. With a focus on both aesthetics and long-term durability, Noah takes pride in helping property owners preserve the beauty and functionality of their shorelines. He looks forward to expanding the business and connecting with new clients, while continuing to grow both personally and professionally through the CEO experience.

N&C SHORELINE SOLUTIONS

In Minnesota, lakes and their shoreline are a true treasure. Over time, the ice, neglect, and invasive species take away from the true beauty and integrity of your shoreline. At N&C Shoreline Solutions, we offer shoreline maintenance, restoration, and preservation to ensure that your shoreline is always at its strongest and looking its best. N&C Shoreline Solutions is owned by two young entrepreneurs who are dedicated to providing the lakeshore services you need at affordable rates to restore your shoreline to its natural beauty. If your shoreline is in need of work or just a makeover, give us a call at 320.212.1709 or find us on our website: ncshorelinesolutions.com.

WEST CENTRAL MN

CLASS OF 2025

THE ENTREPRENEURS OF TOMORROW

Cayden De Berg



Cayden De Berg is a junior from Prinsburg, Minnesota. After attending Central Minnesota Christian School (CMCS) through fifth grade, he transitioned to homeschooling and is currently taking PSEO classes through Dordt University. Cayden is active in extracurriculars, shooting trap for the CMCS Trap Team and playing trombone in the Prairie Winds Concert Band.

He joined West Central MN CEO program to move beyond the classroom and gain real-world experience in how a businesses operate. Through the program, Cayden hopes to learn what it takes to start a business and enhance his networking and communication skills in a professional environment.

THE BUTCHER'S VAULT

If you buy meat from a large commercial store, it could be coming from halfway around the world and chock full of hormones and preservatives. Not at the Butcher's Vault. Here at the Butcher's Vault, we provide only the finest cuts of meat, seasoned to perfection, and all locally sourced. Our seasonings have been tried and tested by summers of grilling, and they far outclass anything you can find in a store. So, what are you waiting for? Give us a call at 320.212.4504 to kickstart your best grilling season yet!

Est. 2025
The Butcher's Vault
Only the Finest

Iris Donner



Iris Donner, a junior at MACCRAY High School, is actively involved in variety of activities, including Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), tennis, theater, student council, youth group leadership, and the strength training. Coming from a long line of entrepreneurs, iris is eager to uphold and advance that legacy.

She views the West Central MN CEO program as valuable opportunity to prepare for her future in business and the professional world. Iris looks forward to learning from experienced professionals, leveraging the expertise of her teachers and facilitators, and collaborating with like-minded peers. Her goal is to emerge from the program equipped with the ambition, skills, and knowledge needed to thrive as a community business leader.

THE PAINTED IRIS

The Painted Iris is a watercolor studio that creates greeting cards with time and heart. Timeless designs are painted and then transformed into prints, stationery, and custom pieces for your most beautiful moments like weddings, baby showers, and grad parties. The Painted Iris brings a personal, sentimental touch to everything we do. Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram @thepaintediris. We cannot wait to hear from you.

The Painted Iris

WEST CENTRAL MN

CLASS OF 2025

THE ENTREPRENEURS OF TOMORROW

Courtney Fernholz



Courtney Fernholz lives on my family's farm south of DeGraff and is a junior at Kerkhoven-Murdock- Sunburg High School. At school, she is actively involved in FFA, currently as chapter President, and participates in the school band and its various schools events. Courtney also volunteers at her church, another nearby church, and a nursing home. In addition, she helps her mom manage the family's mowing business, which they took over from her grandparents.

Coming from a family of entrepreneurs, Courtney is eager to expand her business knowledge and skills. Her early experiences in family-run ventures sparked her interest in joining the West Central MN CEO program, where she hopes to gain a broader perspective on the business world. Through CEO, she looks forward to stepping outside of her comfort zone, exploring new opportunities, further expand her knowledge, and collaborating with like-minded peers.

FERNHOLZ PRESERVES

Fernholz Preserves is a locally owned business specializing in small-batch, artisanal canned goods, including exquisite jams, tangy pickles, and other handcrafted preserves. Founded by Courtney Fernholz, our company blends flavor and care just like grandma used to make. Whether you're searching for a thoughtful gift, a unique addition to your pantry, or a way to elevate your meals with homemade goodness, Fernholz Preserves delivers a delicious and memorable experience in every jar.

FERNHOLZ PRESERVES

Sawyer Freese



Sawyer Freese is a junior at MACCRAY High School. Throughout his academic journey, he has developed an interest in entrepreneurship and agriculture. The interest for these fields led him to join the West Central MN CEO program, where he is eager to gain real-world skills in business management, financial literacy, and leadership. Sawyer's ultimate goal is to operate and grow his family farm, and he sees CEO as a valuable stepping stone toward that future. He looks forward to building a strong foundation for his career in the agricultural industry.

FREESE GUTTER CARE

Are you ever sitting at home on a rainy day watching your gutters overflow like Niagara Falls? Hi, I'm Sawyer Freese, proud owner of Freese Gutter Care. I know that clogged gutters can lead to serious problems like water damage and mold, and not everyone can safely tackle this task themselves. That's where I come in. I provide reliable, thorough gutter cleaning services that will protect your home and give you peace of mind. Trust me, Sawyer Freese, to keep your home safe and dry. You can contact me by personal cell 320-905-5195. I'm here to give you a clear mind and clear gutters!

FREESE GUTTER CARE

WEST CENTRAL MN

CLASS OF 2025

THE ENTREPRENEURS OF TOMORROW

Valentin Garza



Valentin Garza is a student at Renville County West High School, originally from Ontario, Oregon, and now living in Olivia, Minnesota. He excitedly joined the West Central MN CEO program to capitalize on the crucial opportunity to build the skills and strategies necessary to shape his future and lead his family toward financial freedom. From a young age, Valentin has been fascinated by the idea of creating and managing successful ventures. His passion for marketing and web design has revealed how creativity and strategy can unlock new opportunities. Through the CEO program, he hopes to deepen his understanding of business, from meaningful connections, and gain hands-on experience in turning innovative ideas into reality. Valentin is drive by the desire to create a life of stability, so his family can thrive without financial limitations. He believes this program can provide the foundation to toward that goal. Valentin looks forward to contributing, learning, and making the most of this incredible experience.

ROCKET PUNCH MARKETING

Rocket Punch Marketing is a creative digital agency based in Olivia, Minnesota, specializing in website design, logo creation, and social media branding for small businesses and startups. With a focus on bold, eye-catching design and strategic marketing, Rocket Punch helps clients build a strong digital presence that stands out and drives results. Known for its personalized service and innovative approach, the business operates through Instagram and Facebook under @RocketPunchMarketing and can be reached at 956-578-2421 for custom branding and design solutions.

Hunter Joyce



Hunter Joyce, a life-long resident of De Graff, is a student at KMS High School. After attending school in Benson through the second grade, he transitioned to KMS. Hunter's early work experiences were centered around physical labor, from siding projects to working with bees - jobs that fueled his appreciation for physical, hands-on work. He currently works the C-store in Benson, part of Glacial Plains Cooperative, which has introduced him to the inner workings of larger business operation.

Hunter joined the West Central MN CEO program to explore potential career paths as he approaches graduation. He hopes to gain clarity on his future path while also building meaningful friendships and professional connections. Hunter is excited about the journey ahead to discover new opportunities and defining a direction for his post-high school direction.

SHIBLE SHAKE SEASONING

Tired of the same old boring seasonings? Time to shake things up!

Introducing Shible Shake Seasoning - a bold, all-purpose blend made with fresh, locally sourced ingredients. We work with local suppliers to pack real flavor into every bottle. Whether you're grilling, roasting, or just adding a little kick to your eggs, Shible Shake brings the heat and the flavor. Find us on Facebook: Shible Shake Seasoning or give us a call at 320.368.3437. Shible Shake - shake things up!

WEST CENTRAL MN

CLASS OF 2025

THE ENTREPRENEURS OF TOMORROW

Isaah Myhre



Isaah Myhre is a junior at MACCRAY High School and lives near Roseland Township, Minnesota. He is actively involved in trap shooting and weight training and participates in mission trips and fundraising events through his church - a fulfilling way he gives back to the community. Outside of school, Isaah enjoys spending time with friends and engaging in outdoor activities like hunting and fishing. For the past three years, he has worked on a dairy farm, where he has developed the value of hard work and a sense of responsibility.

Although his future plans are still unfolding, Isaah joined the West Central MN CEO program to explore different career paths and grow personally and professionally. He is excited about the opportunity to learn from successful entrepreneurs, gain insights into their journeys, and possibly follow a similar path toward success in the future.

IMMBAITS

Tired of casting your line and not getting bites? Wondering if your bait is the problem? Hey, I'm Isaah Myhre, founder of Immbaits—where I handcraft high-quality, proven baits that fish actually go after. These aren't your average fake lures—they're tested, effective, and built to help you reel 'em in faster. Check us out on Instagram and Facebook at Immbaits, or give me a call at 507-430-3913. Let's get you back to catching, not just fishing. Thanks for choosing Immbaits!

Clayton Olson



Clayton Olson is a senior at KMS High School, where he plays football and baseball. Outside of school, he enjoys staying busy - whether it is helping on farms, working on cars, or doing carpentry.

Encouraged by Mr. Luft, he joined the West Central MN CEO program to step outside the traditional classroom setting and gain clarity about his future beyond high school.

CUTTING EDGE BOARDS

CuttingEdge Boards are handmade, one-of-a-kind cutting boards using locally sources wood, designed to highlight each board's unique grain pattern. No two boards are ever the same!

Whether you're cooking like Gordon Ramsay or keeping it classic in Mama's kitchen, CuttingEdge Boards are perfect for slicing, dicing, and serving in style. Quality craftsmanship. Locally sourced materials. Unique look every time. Give us a call at 320.979.5641 to get yours today!

CEO® WEST CENTRAL MN

CLASS OF 2025

THE ENTREPRENEURS OF TOMORROW

Talen Riley



Talen Riley is a student at KMS High School with a strong passion for business and entrepreneurship. His journey into the world of business began early through hands-on experience working alongside my grandpa in the bus industry, where he has developed a keen eye for precision and a deep understanding for the value of hard work and attention to detail.

Talen joined the CEO program to build on these foundations and dive deeper into the principles of business leadership. He is eager to enhance his understanding of business operations, leadership, and strategy. Talen believes this program will provide the perfect environment to apply his practical knowledge in a real-world settings and use what he learns to drive innovation and contribute meaningfully to future business ventures.

TALEN'S TRASH CAN CLEANING

Trash cans are breeding grounds for bacteria, odors, and grime. Left unclean, they attract pests and make your home or business smell terrible. We use high-powered, eco-friendly cleaning technology to deep-clean, sanitize, and deodorize your bins - leaving them spotless and smelling fresh. Best of all, we can offer affordable pricing so you can keep your bins fresh without breaking the bank.

Why deal with the mess when we can handle it for you? Book your cleaning with Talen's Trash Can Cleaning Service today!

Wyatt Swenson



Wyatt Swenson a senior at MACCRAY High School who is actively involved in a variety of extracurricular activities, including, football, basketball, baseball, and Business Professionals of America (BPA). In his free time, he enjoys spending time at the lake with family and friends, as well as golfing with friends.

With plans to attend college after graduation, Wyatt is still exploring his future career path. He joined the West Central MN CEO program to gain clarity on his goals, improve his communication skills, and gain firsthand experience in the world of business. Wyatt is especially excited about the opportunity to meet local business owners and take the first steps toward launching his his own business.

SIGNATURE ENRAVING

We all look at plain glass cups and wonder why they are so boring. Here at Signature Engraving we can fix your plain-looking cups with precision laser engraving to beautifully etch signatures, logos, or personal messages onto high-quality glassware. Whether it's for weddings, corporate events, or special milestones, these personalized cups make an unforgettable statement. Make your mark with custom-engraved signature glass cups today! You can contact me on Instagram at Signature Engravings.

WEST CENTRAL MN

CLASS OF 2025

THE ENTREPRENEURS OF TOMORROW

Mia Walsh



Mia Walsh is a junior at KMS High School and participates in several extracurricular activities, including theatre, FFA, yearbook, and pop group. Outside of school, Mia enjoys working on craft projects such as making earrings, figurines, and paintings. She also has a strong passion for showing cattle and hopes to sell her future products at shows. Like many of her peers, Mia was unsure of what to do after high school. That's why she joined CEO—to discover her place in the world and find her true passion!

CLAY NATION

Hi! My name is Mia Walsh, and I'm the founder of my business Clay Nation. Clay Nation is a place where creativity and craftsmanship truly show in each tiny work of art I create by hand. Currently I'm focusing on my clay earrings, which can be a great idea for those struggling to find gifts for holidays or special occasions. It can also be a great way to treat yourself too. I mean who would want to miss the chance to wear works of art? I certainly wouldn't. You can follow me on Instagram and Facebook at @claynationstudio or contact me at 320-368-2419 for art you wouldn't want to miss.

Connor Wilts



Connor Wilts is a senior at KMS High School and lives just north of Kerkhoven. He is actively involved in football, trap shooting, and FFA. In his free time, Connor enjoys working on the farm, helping daily tasks, hunting, and spending time with family and friends.

Although his post-high school plans are still taking shape, he joined the West Central MN CEO program to gain real-world exposure beyond the classroom. Through this experience, he looks forward to meeting successful entrepreneurs, expanding his network, and exploring potential paths for his future.

RON'S MEATS

Hello, my name is Connor Wilts, CEO and founder of Ron's Meats. Have you ever stopped to think about where your meat comes from? Most of what you find in the store is packed with preservatives and comes from who-knows-where. At Ron's Meats, we're changing that. We offer locally sourced, homegrown beef, pork, and whole chickens—all cut to perfection and raised with care. You'll taste the difference in every bite. To place an order or learn more, call me at (320) 905-7636, and be sure to check us out on Facebook and Instagram by searching Ron's Meats.

WEST CENTRAL MN

CLASS OF 2025

THE ENTREPRENEURS OF TOMORROW

Ema Workman



Ema Workman is a senior at Renville County West. She is the oldest of five siblings and lives with her family south of Renville. Ema has been employed by Renville Health Services for about two and a half years.

She joined the West Central MN CEO program after attending a school presentation that stood out to her as it was the first that did not focus on healthcare. Intrigued and inspired, she decided to give it a try, and it has since become her favorite class. She looks forward to it each day. Through the program, Ema hopes to grow personally and professionally by learning how to handle discomfort, improve her pubic speaking skills specifically in larger gatherings of people, and gain the knowledge to start and sustain her own business.

EMA'S ESSENCE

Ema's Essence is a handcrafted line of natural perfumes and colognes, made with care by Ema Workman, using only a few simple, high-quality ingredients. With transparency and purity at the heart of every bottle, you'll never have to wonder what's in your fragrance — just clean, natural scents you can feel good about wearing.

EMA'S ESSENCE
Your Scent, Your Essence

Makenna Zieske



Makenna Zieske, known by most as Kenna, is a junior at Renville County West. She joined the West Central MN CEO program to gain a deeper understanding of the businesses in her community and how they operate. In addition to CEO, Kenna is currently enrolled in a college-level marketing course, and the program has enhanced her learning by providing real-world insights and strategies that directly support her academic studies. Through CEO, she is expanding both her knowledge and experience in the world of business.

KENNA'S KANDLES

Kenna's Kandles is a small business specializing in handcrafted, high-quality candles with unique scents and stylish designs. Created by 17-year-old entrepreneur Kenna Zieske for her West Central MN CEO class, the business aims to offer eco-friendly, affordable, and aesthetically pleasing candles to local customers and online buyers. The mission is to bring warmth and relaxation into homes while showcasing the power of young entrepreneurship.

Kenna's Kandles

BADGE BUSINESS

LEARNING THROUGH CHALLENGES

OPERATION

CEO is a hands-on learning experience where students dive into business from day one, often launching their first venture within the first week of class. Together, they create a small business known as “The Badge Business,” learning through real-world challenges the value of organization and structure. This business gives students practical experience in the full product lifecycle - design, production, and payment - as they are fully responsible for creating and managing custom name badges.

FINANCIALS

The team founded CEO NextGen Marketing sell advertising packages, including logo placements on badges and/or social media. Their efforts generated $14,850.64 in profit to support the students’ individual business ventures.

WHERE TOMORROW’S TALENT MEETS TODAY’S VISION.









ceo® WEST CENTRAL MN

CEO AUCTION & SUPPER

WHERE LEARNING MEETS DOING

OPERATION

The Class of 2025 hosted 'CEO Auction and Supper' as their class business. The event, held on February 8 at the Maynard Event Center, brought together community members, business leaders, and program supporters to celebrate and invest in the future of young entrepreneurs. Throughout the evening, attendees enjoyed a delicious meal, bid on a variety of action items generously donated by local businesses and individuals, and had the opportunity to hear firsthand from the CEO students about their experiences in the program.

FINANCIALS

Thanks to the generosity of our attendees, donors, and sponsors, the event raised $3,562.60 to support the Class of 2025. The funds raised will help support student ventures, which will be showcased at the annual Trade Show in May.







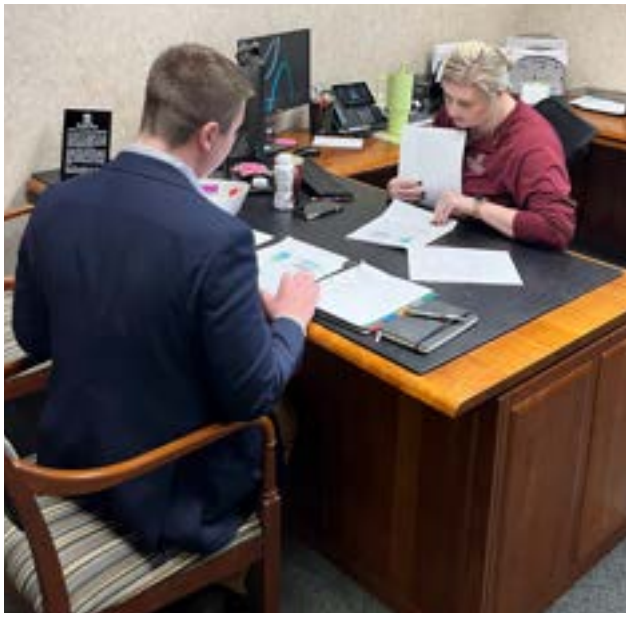






BANKER DAY

CEO® WEST CENTRAL MN



Citizens Alliance Bank in Clara City graciously hosted the young entrepreneurs from the West Central MN CEO program for Banker Day. Each student meet one-on-one with a lender to present a 30-second business pitch and share their business plan. Lenders provided professional feedback and suggestions to help strengthen the feasibility and financial viability of each proposed venture. Based on the merits of their presentations and plans, students were awarded start-up funds to support their businesses.

CITIZENS ALLIANCE BANK

Clara City

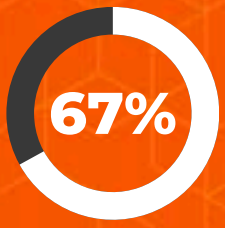
A pivotal milestone in the entrepreneurial journey is securing financing, which involves crafting a compelling pitch and a comprehensive business plan. This stage marks the transformation of a dream into a tangible reality, requiring entrepreneurs to articulate their vision to potential investors or lenders. Through this process, CEO students gain invaluable experience in effective communication, financial management, and investor relations, while feedback received informs incremental improvements to the business model.











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BUSINESS VISITS

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: LEARNING FROM REAL BUSINESSES

A key part of the CEO experience is visiting local businesses in west central Minnesota. Every day, people pass these businesses without realizing their impact on the local economy. Through these visits, students gain a new perspective—walking away with a deeper appreciation and never seeing these businesses the same way again.

212 Hub Nutrition, Renville
Almich's Market, Clara City
Anfison Thompson & Company, PA, Willmar
Benson Family Eye Care, Benson
Blooming Creek Flower Farm, DeGraff
Bravera Bank, Kerkhoven
Christianson CPAs and Consultants, Willmar
Community Electric LLC, Renville
Dooley's Petroleum, Willmar
Duininck, Inc., Prinsburg
Evergen, LLC, Eden Prairie
Farmward Cooperative, Danube
Harvey Anderson Johnson Funeral Homes, Willmar
Hawk Creek Country Club, Raymond
Hazeltine National Golf Club, Chaska
Hebrink Wealth Management, Olivia
Iverson Tree Farm, Belview
J & O Seeds, LLC, Murdock
Jennie-O Turkey Store, Willmar
K&S Poultry and Meats, Kerkhoven
Lakeland Media LLC, Willmar
Mainstream Boutique, Willmar











BUSINESS **TESTIMONIAL**

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Aenean commodo ligula eget dolor. Aenean massa. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Donec quam felis.

- Cory Hebrink
HEBRINK WEALTH MANAGMENT, OLIVIA

BUSINESS VISITS

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: LEARNING FROM REAL BUSINESSES

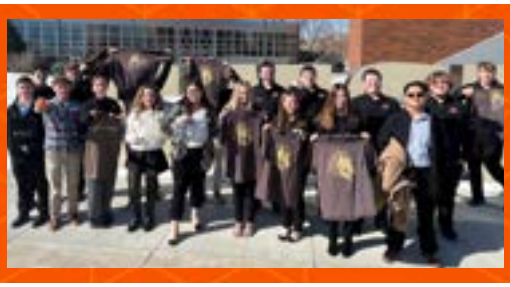
Mystic Lake Casino & Resort at Mall of America, Bloomington
Next Level Agriculture Solutions, Clara City
Nova-Tech Engineering, LLC, Willmar
Nutrien Ag Solutions, Benson
Oasis Aero, Inc., Willmar
Olivia Hospital & Clinics, Olivia
Petersen Farms, Murdock
PrinsBank, Prinsburg
Prinsco, Inc., Prinsburg
Punt Companies LLC, Prinsburg
Rambow Inc., New London
Renville Sales, LLC, Renville
Riverview LLP, Murdock
Rustad Tours Inc., Kerkhoven
Southern MN Beet Sugar Cooperative, Renville
Starkey Hearing Technologies, Eden Prairie
The Saint Paul Hotel, St. Paul
Vinna Human Resources, Willmar
Willmar Indoor Golf & Cages, Willmar
Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, Willmar











SMSU STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONFERENCE

In March, the West Central MN CEO program had the opportunity to attend the 4th annual Southwest Minnesota State University's Student Entrepreneurship Conference. The conference is where high school and college entrepreneurs from across southwest and west central Minnesota convene to make quality connections with seasoned entrepreneurs and network with one another.

TOUR OF MINNESOTA

ON THE ROAD WITH CEO

Our recent tour of Minnesota was an eye-opening experience for our young entrepreneurs, showcasing the incredible opportunities available right here in our state.



Evergen, Eden Prairie

Our first stop on the "Tour of Minnesota" was Evergen, where the class had the privilege of meeting Ross Kohrs, Vice President of U.S. Operations and Global Supply Chain. Ross shared insights into Evergen's role as a leading Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO), specializing in biomaterial solutions for regenerative medicine. Formerly known as RTI Surgical, Evergen works closely with OEM partners to deliver customized biomaterial solutions that meet specific clinical needs. They create solutions focused on their customers' requirements, improving patient outcomes. Evergen's experience spans diverse clinical areas, including plastic and reconstructive surgery, cardiac, sports medicine, orthopedics, and neurosurgery, ensuring precision in every solution provided.



Starkey Hearing Technologies, Eden Prairie

Exploring Innovation. Our second stop took us to Starkey Hearing Technologies, a global leader in audiology dedicated to improving lives through innovative hearing solutions. As one of the world's largest hearing aid manufacturers, Starkey helps people hear better — from everyday individuals to world-renowned figures.

Dr. Kent Collins provided valuable insight into Starkey's cutting-edge technology and the meaningful work being done to serve people from all walks of life — from those in the White House, the Vatican, and beyond.

A special highlights was meeting Starkey's founder, Bill Austin, whose remarkable visionary leadership has made a profound impact on lives around the world.



Mystic Lake Casino & Resort at Mall of America

Networking can open incredible doors, and thanks to one of our board members, we had the amazing opportunity to connect with Kristie Zeller, Tourism Manager for Mystic Lake Casino & Resort and Mall of America.

Kristie shared her expertise on the day-to-day operations of Minnesota's largest casino and the impressive scale of their tourism efforts. From world-class gaming and dining to live entertainment, luxury accommodations, and championship golf at The Meadows at Mystic Lake, there's no shortage of excitement at this premier destination.

Our entrepreneurs gained valuable insights into trade show staging, large-scale marketing strategies, and the behind-the-scenes coordination that makes Mystic Lake a top-tier attraction.





THE SAINT PAUL HOTEL
ETIQUETTE TRAINING

The final stop was a powerful etiquette session, inspired by the wisdom of Emily Post, a 20th century renowned expert on manners and social skills. Focused on the idea that 85% of success is rooted in people skills, the class covered real-world topics— from dating and prom etiquette, to dining manners, to respectful interactions with adults and navigating the workplace.

To bring the lessons to life, students enjoyed a delicious four-course meal while practicing proper dining etiquette and social decorum. This memorable experience provided invaluable tools that will serve them for years to come—at the table, on the job, and in life.

Etiquette provides the knowledge, and gives you the confidence you need, to pass the test of life. - Emily Post

CEO® WEST CENTRAL MN

GUEST SPEAKERS

WISDOM FROM THOSE WHO'VE BEEN THERE

CEO participants gain a unique experience as guest speakers serve as instructors for the program. Community leaders share their life stories, entrepreneurial journeys, and valuable lessons on a variety of business topics.

Rachel Aeikens, December Day Creative, Maynard
Christine Fischer, Southwest Minnesota Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Marshall
Liza Fagen, Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative, Renville
Ryan Follis, Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship
Cameron Macht, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
Kim Miller, Kim Miller Photography, Clara City
Kristy Nystrom, Ascensus
Elsa Olson, Mary Kay, Kerkhoven
Pam Rosenau, DRIVE Networking, LLC, Willmar
Jerrid Sebesta, Willmar
Peter Taunton, BSM Franchising and Consulting, Chanhassen
Jordan Zeller, Renville County HRA/EDA, Olivia











LYFT REGIONAL CONFERENCE

A group of West Central MN CEO students attended the Launch Your Future Today (LYFT) conference, showcasing their experiences and the incredible impact of collaboration between schools and regional businesses. Thanks to a LYFT grant, our program has been able to foster stronger connections and inspire growth within our communities.

Current student Dylan Cochran and Class of 2024 student Aaron Jones took the stage during a student panel to share how the CEO program has shaped their educational and career journeys. Their stories truly exemplified the power of experiential learning and mentorship.

CEO® WEST CENTRAL MN

BUILDING
FUTURE LEADERS



















BUILDING
FUTURE LEADERS

















Alumni Breakfast

Alumni SPOTLIGHT

Isabelle Daugherty discovered her passion for baking as a teenager in her mom's kitchen, where she began creating her own recipes and flavor combinations. Her business took off as family members shared her deliciously sweet cupcakes, sparking a wave of word-of-mouth support. Before she knew it, Isabelle was baking for weddings, graduations, birthday parties, and more. While she enjoys every event, she especially loves creating treats for gender reveal celebrations. Isabelle would love to work with you to create custom, homemade desserts that make your next event even sweeter.



ISABELLE DAUGHTERY

Class of 2024

"West Central CEO helped me to step out of my comfort zone to take my business to the next level! I met so many wonderful business owners willing to give advice and share their experience - both good and bad. My mentor was encouraging, helpful, and attentive. Isabelle's Bakes is building clients and thriving right now from the knowledge I gained in CEO and the exposure to customers at the CEO Trade Show.

The bonus was creating some great friendships along the way."

ISABELLE'S BAKES

Are you trying to find an amazing dessert? Look no further than Isabelle's Bakes, providing the best quality homemade cakes, cupcakes, and cake pops. With over 20 flavors that are made with farm fresh eggs and sugar granulated at SMBSC in Renville, everything is guaranteed to be so sweet, so good, and sure to bring smiles.

isabelledaughtery8@gmail.com | 320.522.312

isabelle_bake12 Isabelle's Bakes

TRANSFORM OUR COMMUNITY

GET INVOLVED



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@westcentralmnceo.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 involved.

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.

DiscoverCEO.com

DISCOVER HOW TO TRANSFORM YOUR 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.

Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship is the provider of CEO® and your community's partner.

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 www.westcentralmnceo.com/Investors Board Chair, Nate Hultgren nate@hultgrenfarms.com

WEST CENTRAL MN

follow us

westcentralmnceo.com