MOWER COUNTY CECO®



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Mower County CEO: Board Chair Reflections



As I reflect on preparing this message for the CEO Annual Report, this 4th year of having the Mower County CEO class, it is obvious that the Austin Business Community and Leaders have shown again, the Investments of time and money in our young people to be tremendous. Going back to the years of 2017-18, the Mower County CEO Board began the process by getting 3 year commitments from our Investors to start our CEO program. Therefore at the beginning of this class year, the renewal of the Investor commitments was necessary to sustain the program. Most of our initial Investors continued their support with renewed 3 year commitments. Also, the CEO Board worked to add new Investors. CEO Friends also provided needed funding for the students. Thank you to all the Investors for supporting Mower County CEO, your investment will reap many rewards for our community now and in the future. Thank you to the CEO Board members for your work in securing the Investments to maintain Mower County CEO into the future!!

Successful CEO programs have several elements necessary for students to have the experience to excel. Business Investors, School System support, Community Leaders, Mentors, Leadership Trainers, Parents, Home Base Locations and CEO Board members are the elements that have allowed the Mower County CEO program to have success. We are grateful for your expertise. Our Facilitator, Emily Hovland has done great in balancing student guidance and the allowance for students "to figure it out" Without a doubt, Emily allows the Mower County CEO student to see and feel success! Thank you Emily, for your commitment to the Students thru the CEO program and your commitment to the Austin Business community. Special acknowledgment also to Andrea Malo, AHS Principal, she has been foundational to the CEO program success from the beginning, Thank you.

During this Class year in December, the CEO Board hosted the first Mower County CEO Alumni Breakfast event. It was a great time to reflect on CEO accomplishments thus far in the lives of young people from the first 3 CEO classes. Also the event allowed the Austin Community to shine again to the CEO Alumni by presentations from a Panel of Community Leaders. This highlighted the advantages of the Austin Business Community with a reminder to all the Alumni of the Business Investment made for them to have had the CEO experience. This type of event will continue to have the outcome of CEO Alumni seeing the value of the Austin Business Community to live and grow.

This year, COVID had less direct impact than the previous class had. The students learned to navigate any changes with some flexibility at times. Last Fall the Students did well with Badge Business, Toastmasters and understanding how to ask questions of Business people. The Murder Mystery Class Business was also a success for the Students. But for me, the value and success of the Class Business was shared by a person from the Murder Mystery Company explaining his observations. The person stated that it was hard for him to imagine that this evening was done by High School Students. He thought they were dealing with Adults with experience in this type of event planning and was surprised to learn they were working with young people. This observation from someone outside our community shows the successful outcome we hoped to achieve!! Students, Well Done!!

Just recently, I had opportunity to talk with a Mower County CEO Alumni from Austin's first CEO class. Having graduated college now, this former Student continues to work and live in Austin. When I asked about the future, the response was to start a new Business Venture by seeing a need in our Community and trying to figure out how to meet that need, as a Business. The CEO experience teaches students to find a problem and solve it. Simple and profound, the Mower County CEO has provided opportunities that are transformational and will go far beyond what we can imagine for our Community and our young people! As I have had opportunity to visit the class, it is clear, we have continued to provide Students with the lifelong experiences from Business Leaders, Mentors, Parents, and Community Leaders that allow them to discover new possibilities for their lives. Therefore, I would encourage anyone to ask how you can get involved in the Mower County CEO program!

Saying Thank you to all those involved one way or another for the past year seems too small to actually capture the Spirit of CEO Impact and Success, so I trust you understand the great gratitude of your investment in these words, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF MOWER COUNTY CEO!

MOWER COUNTY CEO



Mower County CEO is quickly nearing the completion of year four of the course. We are thankful for all the work the CEO Board continues to do to make this program a success. This year we had twenty-one students in the program from Austin Public Schools and Pacelli Catholic Schools. We are excited about the experiences these students have had and are looking forward to next year and the continued opportunities for our students and businesses to connect.

This year our students and business partners have connected in various ways from business tours allowing us to understand our community on a deeper level to mentor relationships which allowed students to grow personally and professionally to connections that will last a lifetime. We've welcomed a list of successful business people to class to share their stories, their expertise, and their wisdom. We have watched our students grow and mature throughout the year while learning many real-world lessons. We are so thankful for the opportunities our businesses continue to provide!

Throughout the year, our students have visited more than 50 businesses, and gathered business ideas from many guest speakers. In addition, the students have created ID badges, hosted an amazing event: Midnight at the Masquerade ,met monthly with mentors where they worked to build their business plans and make their businesses a reality, completed a class and individual business plan, started their own business, and developed a network of business professionals who are incredibly supportive and eager to help the students succeed.

Our area business community has openly welcomed our program into their daily operations and the result is that our students have had exposure to the variety of businesses in our community. We have students who are looking into the future with their businesses and are planning to continue their work beyond the program.

The success of the program is due entirely to the dedication and efforts of our students, board members, business partners, mentors, and school districts. Thank you for your investment in our students and the Mower County CEO Program.



MISSION

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

VISION To be learners, owners, creators communicators and connectors

The CEO class embodies everything that our country was built upon.

The core principles of hard work, innovative thinking, and entrepreneurship are values that we experience every day through

INVESTORS



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 Mower County 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 the Mower County CEO Program.

INVESTOR LIST	INVESTOR LIST	INVESTOR LIST
Austin Area Foundation	Fastenal	HyVee
Accentra	First Farmers and Merchants Bank	IBI Data
AJ Lysne	Fox Electric	Jeff and LeeAnn Ettinger
Akkerman Inc	Games People Play	Joseph Company
American Family Insurance	Guy Family Dentistry	Egan Company
Asa Auto Plaza	Home Federal Bank	Lou Rich
Astrup Drug	Hormel Foods	Mayo Clinic Health Systems
Atlas Insurance Brokers	Hoversten, Johnson, Beckmann, & Hovey, LLP	McFarland Trucking
Austin Area Chamber	220, & 1.676, 22.	



Fairway Mortgage

Clifton Larson Allen



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INVESTOR LIST

Overby Orthodontics

Plunkett's Pest Control

Potach and Mitchell Dental Clinic

Proline Distributing

Quality Pork Processors

Randy and Wendy Kramer

Hannah Rosholt Photography

Smyth Companies, LLC

Sterling State Bank

Style Lounge Salon

Tecstra Systems

Tim and Kathy Fritz

US Bank

West Oakland Auto Repair

Worlein Funeral Home

Jim's Marketplace Foods

Ulland Brothers, Inc.

























Wendy Anderson
Owner of Little Wendy Bird
Co-Owner and Director of
Storytelling at Aurora Web
Solutions

Mentee: Hewan Dagmawi



Lisa Deyo Sweet Reads, owner

Mentee: Ava Wahlstrom



Fairy Apolo
Massage therapist at
Wellness First and Golden
Tress
Student at Winona State
University
Mentees: Meredith
Murphy
and Denni Heimer



Amanda Gunderson Branch Manager, Home Federal Investment Property Owner

Mentee: Mo Tha Su



Jason Baskin Director of Corporate Strategy

Mentee: Winston Walkup



Lindsey Haney

Owner of The Style Lounge Co-founder Glow Lounge Medspa

Mentee: Kylie Nienow



Jaclyn Bird Edward Jones Financial Advisor

Mentee: Kendahl Lewins



Trish Harren Mower County Administrator

Mentee: Emma Haugen



Morgan Converse Owner & Photographer of Converse Candids

> Mentee: Kadence Morehouse



Jen Haugen, RDN, LD Registered Dietitian, Author, Business Owner, Pampered Chef Consultant

Mentee: Carrie Whiteaker





Samantha Hovland Brand Manager, Black Label® Bacon Hormel Foods

Mentee: Mattiqa Gasca



Zach Morem Owner of Damel Corporation

Mentee: Tyce Heimerman



Steve King
Director, Mower County
Corrections
Mayor of Austin

Mentee: Jackson Barry



Betsy Morem Co-Founder of Morem and Waller CPAs and The Glow Lounge Medspa

Mentee: Meghan Rosheim



Kirk Kuchera Transit Manager SMART Transit – Cedar Valley Services

Mentee: Buay Koak



Danielle Nesvold - Parenting Resource Center - Youth Empowerment and Prevention Specialist

Mentee: Meredith Murphy and Denni Heimer



Taggert Medgaarden Executive Director Austin HRA

Mentee: Ryan Aguilar Demitrio



Tony Roehl

Agent & owner
Atlas Insurance Brokers

Mentee: Hayden Lunt



Tanya Medgaarden, CPA Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Mentee: Lucy Masara



Karem Salas Ramirez
Community Impact
Coordinator
Mentee: Cristina Velazquez
Acatitlan





Jillian Tweed Administrative Assistant at Mayo Clinic Health System; owner/creator of The Rural Farmstead

Mentee: Aunica Groh



Hannah Rosholt Owner/Photographer Hannah Rosholt Photography

Mentee: Kaitlin Meiergerd



















Ryan Aguilar Pemetrio

Ryan A. Demetrio is the owner of **R.A.D Photography.** His business provides photography and editing. His brand promise is "to capture moments that people can look back on have it be memorable, meaningful, and have it be something they cherish". He wants his clients to know that each photo is taken with passion and care. You can contact Ryan at ryan.a.demetrio@gmail.com as well on Instagram and Facebook @R.A.D Photography. Ryan will attend Riverland Community College to study Business while continuing his business. .





Jackson Barry

Barry's Metal and Wooden Crafts is a company that makes wooden coasters and custom metal signs. It was founded by Jackson Barry. My mission is to create wooden coasters so people don't have water stains on tables and metal signs to spice up homes. He uses a metal and wood CNC to make the designs you want. For more information contact Jackson at jacksonbarry260@gmail.com and check out Barrys_Metal_and_Woodcrafts. Jackson will be attending Riverland Community College next year.





Hewar Dagmawi

HD|DH Hair and Skin is a pendulum of the founders Hewan Dagmawi & Denni Heimer. HD|DH Hair by Hewan Dagmawi actively strives to create hair care products for hair types often left out of generic companies. Our products are unique because all our ingredients are certified organic. Unlike other brands that claim to be "all natural," our products include no chemicals. Find us on Facebook and Instagram! @hewanddennih





Mattiga Gasca

Mattiqa Gasca is the creator of **StarDrobe**, which is a business that sells both alternate styles of clothing, and accessories. The clothing has anime prints on them, and her accessories include earrings, chokers, and bracelets upon request. She is a junior at APS and plans on pursuing a higher education once she graduates. If you have any questions in regards to her business you can message her at stardrobeinquiries@gmail.com



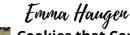


Aurica Groh

Ardour is a headband company created and founded by Aunica Groh. Ardour offers limited-edition headbands that are created in smaller quantities to promote sustainability. The word "Ardour" means passion, and that is exactly what the company aims to inspire.. Ardour's goal is to promote passion that creates authentic beauty in its customers. For more information, contact Aunica at ardourheadbandco@gmail.com and be sure to check out Ardour Headbands on Instagram and Facebook @ardourheadbands. Aunica will be attending Penn State University to study Political Science. After that, she plans to continue her education to become a lawyer.









Cookies that Care Company is owned and operated by Emma Haugen. Cookies that Care Company makes the best cookies for you to enjoy! For every purchase made, we deliver a cookie package to a local veteran as a thank you for their service. The mission of Cookies that Care Company is to make kindness edible by baking the world a better place one cookie at a time. If you would like to order some cookies you can order here: https://forms.gle/CtSJiGg56Z6hGTK98 You can contact us on Instagram @cookies_that_care_co and Facebook @cookiesthatcareco. Emma will be a senior next year at Austin High School and plans to apply to the Naval Academy after high school.



Denni Heimer

Denni Heimer is the co-owner and skin specialist of **HD|DH Hair** and Skin. HD|DH curates all organic and biodegradable products to aid and protect against harm done from generic products. HD|DH skin products are made for all skin types and sensitivities. You can find them on Facebook (@HD DH), Instagram (@hewanddennih), and tiktok (@hd._dh). Denni is taking a gap year to travel and then planning to attend Riverland Community College using the assurance scholarship to earn a business degree.





Tyce Heimermann

Tyce Heimermann is the owner of **Project Photography.** He has been working on his photography for the past four years. He is hoping to bring high-quality photos for an affordable price to the Austin community. Currently, Tyce does family photos, single portraits, animal and pet photos, and children portraits. You can contact him at www.project-photography@squarespace.com. After graduation Tyce plans to go into a career in IT.





Buay Koak

Buay Koak is the co-owner of **BW Customs**. Their company provides high-quality wooden signs, and their mission is to create decorative signs while fulfilling each customer's desire. BW Customs provides two sizes: 8.5x11 and 4x4, and any image can be printed on these pieces of wood. For more information, you can contact them at buayandwinston@gmail.com. After high school, Buay plans to attend college.















Kendahl Lewis

Kendahl's Budget Planners was started by Kendahl Lewis. Kendahl has a passion for managing money and helping others learn the importance of it. The budget planners help people track their finances while organizing their money. Her mission is to educate people on the importance of managing their money while providing an easy way to begin budgeting. The planners will include advice on saving money, envelopes to sort money, budget trackers, and expense lists. She hopes to help people develop healthy spending habits that will make them more successful in the future. Kendahl will be a senior at Pacelli Catholic High School next year.





Hayden Lunt

Hayden lunt is the owner of **Cookin'Outdoors**. Cookin'Outdoors is a specialty BBQ rub company that offers all natural and low sodium spice blends. The goal for Cookin'Outdoors is to bring quality flavor to the bbq industry and grow passion for bbq meats. For more information you can contact haydenlunt@icloud.com and also on Instagram and Facebook @CookinOutdoors. Hayden Will be attending Riverland under the Austin Assurance Scholarship after high school and plans to pursue a degree in business.





Lucy Masara

Amethyst Jewelry Co. Is an affordable, trendy jewelry company created by Lucy Masara. Amethyst Jewelry Co. sells various charmed necklaces and bracelets using pearls, beads, chains, and charms. They will come in a variety of colors and will have a clasps allowing customers to adjust based on their preferred size. We promise "Carefully crafted unique jewelry pieces made for every occasion." Amethyst jewelry is affordable and helps to unleash the inner beauty of its customers. For more information or to make a purchase, please connect with Lucy on Facebook at amethystjewleryco. Lucy Masara will be studying Data Science/Biomedical Engineering at a 4-year University.





Kadence Morehouse

Board'M is a wooden kitchen essentials business created and founded by Kadence Morehouse. Her mission is to bring high quality hand crafted wooden essentials to your kitchen and entertainment needs. Board'M makes both custom and pre-made wooden cutting boards made from maple, walnut, and hickory. With her scrap pieces of wood, she makes coasters and trivets and with her saw dust she makes fire starters. To make a purchase of if you have any questions you can contact Kadence on her google number (507) 481-0087 and/or Facebook (@kadimorehouse). Kadence is excited to be a senior at Austin High School next year.















Meredith Murphy

Meredith Murphy is the owner of **Stamped by Meredith**. Stamped by Meredith provides unique, customizable, and meaningful stamped jewelry. Including gold and silver rings and bracelet cuffs. To make a purchase or if you have any questions, contact @stampedbymeredith_ on Instagram and Facebook or email at stampedbymeredith@gmail.com. Meredith plans on utilizing the Austin Assurance Scholarship at Riverland. After completing, she plans to transfer to the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management to major in Entrepreneurship and Marketing.





Kylie Nienow

Kylie Nienow is the owner and creator of **KN Designs**. KN designs offers earrings in different sizes, colors, and designs to choose from meet your needs. Kylie's goal is for the customer to have a special and unique earring buying experience by ensuring the customers get the perfect pair of earrings for them. KN designs offers paint colors as well as wood stain colors. There are three earring sizes to choose from: 2-inch, 1-inch and ½-inch. For more information, contact Kylie at @_kn.designs on Instagram. Kylie is a Junior and plans to go to Riverland before transferring to a 4-year college to study business.





Meghan Rosheim

Meghan Rosheim is the owner of "Meghan's Syrup Co a locally made syrup company looking to satisfy everyone's needs. We offer coffee syrup and fruit flavored syrups in multiple flavors so that there is something for everyone. To purchase you can connect with Meghan on her Facebook and Instagram Pages at Meghans_Syrup_Co. Next year, Meghan plans on continuing her company through her senior year and then after graduating she plans to pursue a business management degree.





Mo Tha Su

Mo Tha Su is the owner of **SuMochi**. SuMochi makes round rice cake mochi with two fruit flavors, strawberry and mango, within' the package. Her mission is to introduce the new cultural taste to the community of Austin. For more information, you can contact Mo Tha at mothasu@gmail.com. After high school, Mo Tha plans to attend Riverland to study business while also participating in the military.















Cristina Velazquez Acatillan

Cristina is the owner of **Plant Co.**, a homegrown houseplant business that also offers handmade macrame plant hangers. Her mission is to bring you handmade, homegrown, quality products while supporting other small businesses, local shops, and houseplant lovers in the process. If you would like more information you can contact Cristina at cristina.plant.co@gmail.com and on Facebook at @PlantCoCEO. Cristina will be attending Rochester Technical and Community College in the fall to pursue a degree in business.





ava Wahlstrom

Ava Wahlstrom is the owner of **Write Your Heart Out**. Write Your Heart Out encourages writing and self-discovery with unique quality journals that include personally written prompts. If you have any questions or would like to know more visit @writeyourheartout.journals on Instagram. Ava will be continuing her final year of education at Austin High School and plans to attend Riverland Community College after her senior year. She plans to continue her business throughout her high school career.





Winston Walkup

BW Customs is a partnership between Winston Walkup and Buay Koak. Together they make custom wooden signs for in home décor. Their mission is to create a small decorative sign that people can put wherever they please as a way to decorate and personalize their home. The sizes range from 4x4 inches to 8.5x11 inches. Whatever image or text you want on the sign, they have it! For more information email them at buayandwinston@gmail.com. As a junior, Winston will be continuing his high school education at Pacelli Catholic Schools.





Carrie Whiteaker

Carrie Whiteaker is the owner of **Sweet Freedom by Carrie**. Sweet Freedom bakes gluten-free and dairy-free cupcakes. There are five different flavors to choose from: vanilla, chocolate, strawberry cheesecake, peanut chocolate, and banana cream pie. The goal of Sweet Freedom is to create a good quality dessert that people suffering from gluten and dairy allergies can share. For more information you can contact Carrie at whiteaker_carrie@icloud.com, or our Instagram at @sweetfreedombycarrie and Facebook at @sweetfreedombycarrie. Carrie will be attending her senior year at Austin Highschool next year.





BUSINESS VISITS & SPEAKERS



Business Visits

An important piece of the CEO experience is visiting local businesses in YOUR PROGRAM NAME HERE. People drive by these locations daily without recognizing their contribution to economic development of the area.

The group walks away with a changed mindset, never viewing the business the same way again.

Accentra Credit Union
Akkerman Inc
Alexa Dolan
Amy Thuesen
Ann Maxfield
Asa Auto Plaza
Astrup Companies
Atlas Insurance Brokers LLC
Austin Area Chamber

Austin Utilities
Betsy Morem
Clifton, Larson, Allen
Cooperative Response Center
Curtis Sorenson
Dale Wicks
Eagle Bluff
Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp
First Farmers and Merchants Bank
Fox Electric
Games People Play
Gus Bus Cycle
Guy Family Dentistry
Hannah Rosholt Photography

Home Federal Bank

Hormel Foods

Hormel Home

Austin Eagles

















Business Visits

An important piece of the CEO experience is visiting local businesses in Mower County. People drive by these locations daily without recognizing their contribution to economic development of the area.

The group walks away with a changed mindset, never viewing the business the same way again.

Hormel Research and Development Hoversten, Johnson, Beckmann & Hovey, LLP

Hyvee

IBI Data

Impact Austin

Jaclyn Bird

Jason Baskin

Jim Snee

Jonny Pops

Joseph Company

Just For Kix

Keller Williams Premier Realty

Launch

Linsdey Leif

Lou Rich

Mary Holtorf

Mayo Clinic

McFarland Truck Lines

Morem's

Morgan Converse

Mower County Board Meeting

Overby Orthodontics

Peggy Young

Plunkett's Pest Control

Proline

Quality Pork Processors



Samantha Hovland
Sandy Anderson
Sandy Detwiler
Shelley Schultz
Style Lounge
Sunny's Ice Cream Truck
Tecstra
The Hormel Foundation
Tony Muller
Ulland Brothers
US Bank
Wealth Management
West Oakland Auto
Worlein Funeral Home

YMCA















CLASS BUSINESS

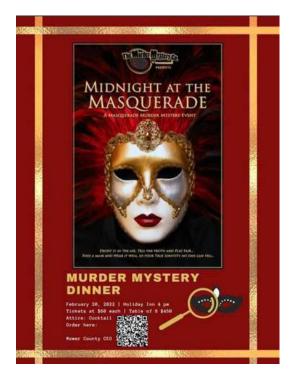


Midnight at the Masquerade

Each year CEO students create a class business before they venture into their own personal businesses for the Mower County CEO Trade Show in the spring. The goal for this year's CEO experience was to find a way to bring the community together keeping in mind the status of Covid-19. Students wanted to be able to allow people to gather, to feel comfortable, and to provide a unique experience. They worked incredibly hard as a group and were able to create a wonderful event that was a huge success! They planned all of the details from start to finish and surpassed their class goal.

"As a class we had the task of hosting an event to bring in revenue to fund each CEO students' individual business. We came up with many different ideas but ultimately landed on a Murder Mystery Masquerade Dinner. We knew that this event would bring something new to Austin and could bring people together. We split into committees to prepare for the event. The event was held at the Holiday Inn, and they catered as well. As a class we contacted the Murder Mystery Company of Minneapolis and they put on an amazing interactive performance. There was also a silent auction and photobooth included. The event was successful not only when it came to funding the student's businesses, but in the way we saw how much the community members and students enjoyed the night. It was amazing to see all of the student's hard work come to life, and to see the community come together." - Ava Wahlstrom, current CEO student

















Geoff Baker McFarland Truck Lines, Inc.



Jeff Baldus Mower County Commissioner



Melissa Barr Mayo Clinic Operations Administrator Instructor in Health Care Administration



Steve Barrett, Executive Director Austin Area Foundation



Jeff Gross US Bank



Elaine Hansen President Austin Area Chamber



Kris Heichel The Kris Heichel Team – Fairway Mortgage



Kim Hillberg CLA



Michelle M. King Partner at Baudler, Maus, Forman & King, LLP



Andrea Malo Austin High School Principal



Kane Malo Pacelli Catholic Schools Principal



Dr. Joey Page Austin Public Schools Superintendent



Amy Sheehan
Director of Talent Acquisition
Hormel Foods Corporate Services, LLC









"I learned a lot during my time in CEO. Learning how to create personal and professional relationships with the community and people around me has helped me a lot as I start a new chapter of my life in college. Right now, I am majoring in Digital Marketing in the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. Being one of the only students from Austin to come to Arizona has allowed me to meet many new people and really push myself out of my comfort zone when meeting new people and having new opportunities. I do have future ideas to advance my business, Garroway Gloves. I am in the process of applying for a patent on my design. In the future I would like to expand my business and see where it takes me. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of CEO. CEO opened me to experiences I never thought I would have."



- Bryce Garroway CEO Class of 2020-2021

Top photo: all Mower County CEO classes, clockwise: 2019-2020, sibling pairs over the years, class of 2018-2019, class of 2020-2021.



























