

While only a handful of people were present in the room when Mike Stegall orchestrated that inaugural meeting with Craig Lindvahl, the mastermind behind CEO, I've heard stories and recall the palpable excitement his message ignited in the community leaders who witnessed his vision for Kokomo CEO over a decade ago.

I watched a keynote Mr. Lindvahl delivered to a sold-out crowd, where he shared, "It's amazing what young people are capable of when you allow them to own their work, own their behavior, and be responsible for what they do. When you put it together with adults who have lots of things to offer, that's when the magic happens." I witnessed that magic this year with the Class of 2024. A team of eighteen young adults from six high schools, motivated, like each of the nine classes before them, to etch their unique mark in Kokomo CEO's rich history.

We kicked off the year with remarkable momentum, swiftly executing our lanyard project in record time. From the get-go, the team pitched new businesses unfamiliar with Kokomo CEO. This entrepreneurial spirit persisted throughout the year as we expanded our network by welcoming new industry experts and visiting diverse companies in our area.

Early on, I vividly recall the expressions of surprise as business owners candidly shared intricate details of their operations and finances. It was a pivotal moment when they realized they were being treated as equals, not merely high school students. Witnessing this transition was a defining moment for me; it marked the shift from playing business to actually engaging in it.

One of the year's highlights was our intentional time at Camp Tycony, where we dedicated five weeks to team-building activities. The genuine smiles and laughter from those days fostered camaraderie and set the tone for our teamwork and task execution later on. Some of my fondest memories were the impromptu class sessions at local breakfast or coffee shops due to last-minute scheduling changes. Though initially perceived as setbacks, these moments showcased our team's affinity for one another. Engaging in supportive conversations and listening intently became invaluable practices.

Our team succeeded remarkably with our class business, the CEO Gala. This event provided a platform to celebrate our program's anniversary, reunite with alumni, and recognize our incredible supporters. The students took ownership of every aspect, from logistics to finances. Collaborating seamlessly, they orchestrated the event, negotiating with vendors, designing the space, and ensuring every detail was flawless. This exemplifies the essence of leadership and entrepreneurship - navigating challenges, celebrating victories, and taking responsibility for one's work.

The lessons learned, and experiences gained by our participants in Kokomo CEO are invaluable. As they embark on college or career journeys, I am confident they will have a distinct advantage over their peers. Their journey through Kokomo CEO has equipped them with practical skills, resilience, and a deeper understanding of business and leadership, setting them apart in whatever path they pursue.

The legacy of Kokomo CEO flourishes with each passing year, fueled by the dedication and collaboration of these remarkable individuals. Together, they have created an environment ripe for experiential learning and innovation, shaping the next generation of problem solvers and business professionals. As we continue our journey, I am filled with excitement and gratitude for Kokomo CEO's ongoing impact and potential to further enrich our community's entrepreneurial landscape.

Among the wealth of quotes that inspire me, one gem shines exceptionally bright when I think about the evolution of Kokomo CEO and my role as facilitator: 'If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.' Isaac Newton.

As we celebrate Kokomo CEO's illustrious 10-year journey, I reflect on the profound impact of every participant, mentor, investor, educator, board member, prior facilitator, business owner, and community leader who has contributed to crafting this incredible story of transformation and development in our community. These "giants" represent the diverse tapestry of individuals who generously share their wisdom, resources, and support to propel Kokomo CEO forward. To each of them, I extend my heartfelt gratitude.

Thank you for the view!

Brandon Bishop

Facilitator, Kokomo CEO



Board

Dear Supporters and Friends,

As I think about the journey of Kokomo CEO, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for our program's transformative impact on countless young lives over the past decade. It has been an honor to serve as the Board Chair during this remarkable year of growth and celebration.

The Class of 2024 has broken the mold with its innovative businesses and spirited endeavors. We recently marked a significant milestone with the first-ever CEO Gala commemorating the achievements of the past ten classes of Kokomo CEO. It's hard to believe the growth this program has undergone since I participated in the inaugural class of 2014-2015. Our mantra was simple yet powerful back then: "I'm not sure, but we will figure it out." That spirit of determination and resilience continues to define each successive class.

As we pay homage to our past, we eagerly embrace the future. We are thankful to Brandon for his contributions over the last four years, and are excited for the addition of our third facilitator for Kokomo CEO, alongside the addition of esteemed community leaders to our board. These strategic enhancements signify our unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders and innovators. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of individuals like Brandon, Morgan, and our evergrowing family of over 175 alumni.

Looking ahead, Kokomo CEO is poised for an even more significant impact. We are deeply grateful for the steadfast support of our community, whose generous contributions sustain our mission. While each class operates within its own budget, our ongoing operations rely on the generosity of our valued business partners. Their investment in our students, both financially and through mentorship, is a testament to the collective belief in the power of education to shape brighter futures.

As we anticipate the adventures awaiting the 2024-25 class and beyond, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your continued support. Together, we are building a legacy of empowerment and opportunity for future generations.

With warm regards, Alec Downing, Chairperson, Kokomo CEO Board of Directors THE MISSION OF KOKOMO CEO IS TO PREPARE OUR YOUTH TO BE RESPONSIBLE, ENTERPRISING INDIVIDUALS WHO BECOME ENTREPRENEURS OR ENTREPRENEURIAL THINKERS AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE KOKOMO REGION







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2023-2024

JERRY SMITH | BRAD PRIDAY | NATE LUNDIN | MARY BAKER
JOHANNA MOOS | BART IRWIN] JONATHAN MALIN
ALEC DOWNING | NICK PATE | BRIANNE BOLES | SHEILA ROSSMAN
SARAH PITZER | MARGARET JOHNSON | LILLY RAGAN
TA WEBER | DREW REED | TIM BRANYAN | CASH LAMBERG



Ellen Callane

Hello, my name is Ellen Callane, and I am a senior at Kokomo High School. I will attend Indiana University in Bloomington in the fall to study business marketing! My business, Totally Ellen, is a canvas tote bag business with various bag sizes and designs.

Kokomo CEO has opened so many doors of opportunities and has challenged me to step outside of my comfort zone. I am so grateful for my experiences this year. CEO allowed me to set a foundation for entrepreneurship and assemble the building blocks of communication, leadership, and innovation for my future. CEO has provided me with much insight and knowledge from my team, mentor, and business visits that will last a lifetime.



Lincoln Cardwell

My name is Lincoln Cardwell. I am a senior at Northwestern High School. I plan on attending Parkland College to play baseball and study business management. The business I started is Timeless Touch Furniture Restoration. I will be restoring old furniture and upselling it myself.

Kokomo CEO has grown my knowledge and hunger for business and allowed me to apply what I've learned to a real-life setting. The leadership and problem-solving skills this class has given me will last forever. Having such a significant impact on our community, I believe it will grant me post-high school opportunities I may not have had without taking this class.



Tracy Dowling

My name is Tracy Dowling. I am a senior at Kokomo High School, and I plan to attend the University of Saint Francis to study sports management and marketing, digital media, and play football. My business is Dowling's Detailing, which is a mobile car detailing business within Howard County with an emphasis on customer satisfaction.

Kokomo CEO has given me a behind-the-scenes view of my community and the opportunities hidden in plain sight. Not only has the program improved my communication skills, but it has also helped with my leadership and pushed me to improve my professionalism in the business setting.



Ty Fraziei

My name is Ty Frazier. I am a senior at Western High School. I have not decided where I will attend college, but I plan to study finance. My business, FreshLook Power Washing, provides a fresh new look to homes and businesses.

Being a part of Kokomo CEO has been amazing. It's helped me grow and taught me how to communicate better. CEO allowed me to connect with many leaders in my community and learn about many types of businesses. I'm so thankful for everything this program has given me.



Andrew Guerre

I am a senior at Kokomo High School and plan to attend Manchester University, where I will study accounting and finance. My business, Pomified Pillows, provides creative handmade decorative pillows designed to add something unique to your decor.

Kokomo CEO has helped me grow not only as a business leader but also as an individual. I have learned to face challenges outside of my comfort zone and push myself to greater heights. These valuable lessons will help guide me throughout my personal, business, and professional life. I am so grateful for the lifelong lessons and relationships that this incredible program has given me.



Jyllian Knolinski

I am Jyllian Knolinski, a senior at Western High School. After high school, I plan to attend Indiana University Bloomington, where I will major in business management at the Kelley School of Business and minor in Spanish. My business is Jyllian's Digital Creations. I create pictures and stickers of custom digitally drawn designs.

The Kokomo CEO program has given me more opportunities than I could have imagined. From learning soft skills that I will need my entire life to starting a business from the ground up and working with other young entrepreneurs, this program has enriched me with information I will use forever.



Owen McBride

My name is Owen McBride. I am a senior at Lewis Cass High School. After high school, I plan to join the U.S. Coast Guard. My company, Tire Ez, makes tire jacks to help address the pain points of general tire maintenance.

Kokomo CEO has given me the experience of a lifetime by connecting me with successful people and entrepreneurs in the community. The opportunities and connections that CEO has given me throughout the year have been extremely valuable, and I plan on using the skills I have learned throughout my life.



Matthew Mitchell

IMy name is Matthew Mitchell. I am a senior at Northwestern High School and will attend Purdue University, where I will study agricultural economics. My business, Precision Etch Engraving, is a laser engraving business where we sell products with custom engravings, such as coasters, keychains, and more.

The Kokomo CEO program has been a great learning experience for me. This program has allowed me to see the insides and outs of business and helped equip me with knowledge and leadership skills that I can use in the future. CEO has given me many different connections and hands-on experience you wouldn't get with your ordinary business class. I'm very grateful that I have had the opportunity to be part of Kokomo CEO.



Teme Moody

I am a senior at Taylor High School. I am undecided on what college I will attend, but I will pursue my passion for aviation and content creation. My future aspirations include becoming an airline pilot and continuing my journey as a content creator. Additionally, I run a business called EarExcavator, which offers an innovative and safe solution for earwax removal.

Participating in the CEO program has been a fantastic experience during my high school journey. This program has equipped me with valuable communication, problem-solving, and teamwork skills, setting a solid foundation for my future aspirations in aviation or other areas. Additionally, it allowed me to visit and learn about local businesses that I otherwise would not have known existed if I wasn't in the CEO program. I met with many different people from different companies and had different experiences, and I learned from them how businesses work and operate.



Owen Moore

My name is Owen Moore; I am a senior at Kokomo High School and will attend the trade school Hobart Welding Institute following high school. At Hobart, I will sharpen my manufacturing skills and earn my certifications to pursue a career in welding.

I am beyond grateful to be a part of Kokomo CEO because of all the real-world skills this class has taught me. I have learned how to communicate better with other business leaders in the community, and it has given me a lot of local connections. It has helped me even though I am not pursuing business. It has helped me much more than any other class I have taken. I highly recommend anyone try to get into this class; it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!



Taylor Reed

Hi, my name is Taylor Reed, and I am a senior at Kokomo High School. I plan to attend Indiana University Kokomo to major in business management and obtain my real estate license. My business, Jade's Boutique, provides trendy and affordable clothing and accessories catering to women of all ages.

Kokomo CEO has pushed me past my comfort zone to inflict growth personally and as a leader. I have learned the importance of networking and making connections in the community. I have also learned the importance of working as a team and working through conflict. Kokomo's CEO has prepared me for a successful future. I will continue to cherish the lessons I have learned in this program, and I hope it will have the same impact on the following classes.



Grace Rollins

Hi, I am Grace Rollins, a senior at Western High School. I will attend Ball State University in the Exploratory Studies Program, where I plan to major in business. My business is Murphy's Munchies, where I will sell proteinlosing enteropathy-friendly dog treats. I aim to create a healthier environment for dogs with this disorder and our other furry friends!

The Kokomo CEO program has indeed been beneficial to me this year. It has provided me with many skills and connections that will be beneficial in the future. This program has grown my confidence, leadership skills, and ability to work with a team. I am very grateful I was able to be a part of this program, and I hope others find similar takeaways just like I did!



Layne Shedron

Hi, my name is Layne Shedron, and I am a senior at Eastern High School. I will attend the University of Kentucky this fall, majoring in community and leadership development with a minor in business management. My business, Derby's Hat Co., offers a unique, customizable trucker hat experience that allows customers to create headwear that fits their individual style.

The Kokomo CEO Program has been an experience like no other. It has pushed me outside my comfort zone and helped me build confidence; I have also made personal connections in my community and developed my leadership skills. My experience as a member of Kokomo CEO has prepared me for a successful future in whatever I choose to do. I am endlessly grateful for the opportunity to participate in this class, and I look forward to sharing what I've learned from this program with my future colleagues.



Dani Tate

II am a senior at Kokomo High School. I plan to attend Coastal Carolina University and major in business marketing. My business, Signature Jewels, is a jewelry engraving business that provides my customers with customizable, high-quality gold necklaces, bracelets, and keychains.

Applying for Kokomo CEO was one of the best decisions I've made. I learned about business firsthand, grew my connections throughout the community, and gained valuable insight into different companies and industries.



Alyseea Thompson

Hello. My name is Alyseea Thompson, and I am a senior at Kokomo High School. I will major in nursing at an undecided university. My business, Bubble Bars, offers handmade soaps infused with organic ingredients and essential oils to promote the well-being of my customers.

Kokomo CEO has provided me with a tremendous amount of opportunities that will allow me to grow and develop in the professional world. I am very thankful for the ability to grow my communication skills and build connections with businesses within my community. The CEO program has taught me how to apply my skills in a real-world setting and taught me how to work as a team.



Chad Washburn Jr.

My name is Chad Washburn Jr., and I am a senior at Kokomo High School. I will attend Indiana University Bloomington after high school to study business management. My business, CJ's Outdoor Décor, sells unique and vintage decorations for your outdoor spaces.

I genuinely appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Kokomo CEO Program, as it has provided me with essential real-world skills. Enhancing my ability to communicate effectively with business leaders in the community and fostering valuable local connections, this class has undoubtedly prepared me for future success in the business world more than any others you can take. I wholeheartedly encourage others to explore the possibility of joining this class, as it offers a distinct and enriching opportunity.



Eastin Whaley

My name is Eastin Whaley; I am a senior at Northwestern High School. I am committed to playing baseball at Vincennes University and plan to study agribusiness. My business is designed for custom hats. The hats include a variety of trucker hats with a customizable leather patch on the front.

Kokomo CEO has given me communication skills and increased my confidence. The connections I have made with the community and the skills I have learned in this class will definitely benefit me in the future and make me a better businessperson.



Ethan Wyrick

I am a senior at Kokomo High School and plan to attend Indiana University of Indianapolis, where I will study health and human science. My business, eMemories, provides digital picture frames for customers to share memories from one loved one to another anywhere in the country at an affordable cost with high-quality products.

Kokomo CEO has contributed a lot to the community and my personal growth. This class has helped me get out of my comfort zone and expanded my knowledge of business, networking, communication skills, and confidence. I will continue to use and improve the skills I have learned from CEO throughout my life. I am very grateful for the opportunity that I have been given to engage in real-world situations from this class, and I strongly recommend it to everyone.

Alumni Apdate

Brooklyn Hayes | CEO Class of 2018 | IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law, J.D. Candidate 2025, Chief Justice - Moot Court Society

After graduating from Western High School and the CEO program, I went to Western Michigan University where I studied business law and dance. While in college, I was heavily involved on campus by holding leadership positions in Movement Exchange, Business Law Society, and by being President of my sorority, Alpha Chi Omega.

After graduating from college, I went straight into law school at IU McKinney School of Law which is downtown Indianapolis. During law school, I have interned at Indiana Legal Services, participated in Moot Court, been my class representative for the Student Bar Association, joined the Indy Bar Association, and will be a Summer Associate at Taft Stettinius & Hollister this upcoming summer. My CEO experience has given me the confidence to try new things and has been an experience I talk about any chance I am given.







Alumni Apolate

Nate Lundin | CEO Class of 2017 | Stockton Mortgage

I am now in my fourth year as a mortgage loan officer for Stockton Mortgage. It is very much a part of who I am, as I love what I do. I have a passion for helping people of all walks of life achieve their homeownership dreams! After moving away from Kokomo, I returned in 2022, and I'm proud to be a part of the community I grew up in again! Only this time as a husband, father, and business professional.

Looking back on my time in the CEO program, I still carry many of the lessons I learned then with me today. Much of the confidence, professionalism, and love for Kokomo I have today stem from my time in the program.

The connections and mentorship I received during the program still play a role in my life today, but now I get to call some of those same mentors a friend and business partner! I look forward to growing in my career and giving back to the community that has given me so much.







Class Activities

Mentor Matching

Students worked with individual mentors during class and outside of class to network, build professional relationships and get advice on business plans.

CEO X Gala (class business)

Students hosted a gala to celebrate 10 years of the CEO program in our community and generated total revenue of \$38,720.

Banker Day

CEO students presented their business plans to area bankers for guidance and input.

CEO Student Trade Show

Students held their trade show at Northview Church. Community members attended and enjoyed a wide variety of student businesses that were showcased.









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Chancellor Mark Canada - Indiana University Kokomo

Beth Chaney - Ivy Tech Kokomo

Morgan Young - Northview Church

Travis Taflinger - Bridges Outreach

Kristy Sayers Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship

Nick Pate - Nick Pate State Farm Insurance

Scott Pitcher - Fortune Companies, Inc.

Kim LaFollette & Rob Blume - Community First Bank

Lisa Pflueger - MarketVibes, Inc.

Aaron Smith - Smith Financial

Brad Priday - Shepherd Insurance

Christy Miller - Oak Hill Millworks

Margaret Johnson - The Wellness Garden

Monty Henderson - Indiana SBDC

Tim Branyan - ISBDC

Lilly Ragan - Beauty by LA

Bob Hickman - Community First Bank

Mary Baker - AndyMark, Inc.

Matt Lewellen - Steinberger Construction

Amy Pate - RACI

Madilynn Rodabaugh - MJR Skincare 101

+ more!





Mid-America Beverage **Weber Speakers Bona Vista Programs Ivy Tech - Kokomo Campus Indiana University Kokomo** Palmer's Jewelry **PlayPros Sound of Music Cross Creek Ag Solutions Button Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram Kokomo Opalescent Glass Family Service Association** Coca-Cola Bottling Co. First Farmers Bank & Trust The Venue Kokomo YMCA **AndyMark PF Hendricks Kokomo Alloy Services ZZ Diesel Community Regional Health Sun King Kokomo** + more!

404 business visits



CLASS CONTRIBUTORS CLASS INVESTORS

COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY OF KOKOMO COMMUNITY FIRST BANK OF INDIANA J&J ELECTRIC KOKOMO ENDODONTICS **PLAYPROS** SOLIDARITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION WEBER SPEAKERS WYMAN GROUP BONA VISTA PROGRAMS THE VENUE AT BROOKESTONE STONE & REES REAL ESTATE TEAM FIRST FARMERS BANK & TRUST FERGUSON WATERWORKS PEELE LAW OFFICE IU KOKOMO THE KEY TEAM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IVY TECH KOKOMO COMMUNITY REGIONAL HEALTH ANDYMARK NIPSCO **ERIKS CHEVROLET** ALL SEASONS GENERAL CONTRACTING BERRYIT STEINBERGER CONSTRUCTION CITY OF KOKOMO PRO X ATHLETE ELECTRIC PLUS AMERICAN TOOL & PARTY RENTAL
LUCAS FURNITURE & MATTRESS
NICK PATE - STATE FARM INSURANCE AGENT
SCOTT RONK
FRAZIER FAMILY
CARDWELL BUILT CONSTRUCTION RUOFF MORTGAGE GRAVITY TRAMPOLINE PARK BILLY'S AUTO REPAIR TOP OF THE LINE AUTO DETAILING MERRELL BROTHERS, INC.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The CEO program operated with a \$54,000 budget funded by business investors and tuition payments from the Indiana state stipend. Without the financial support of business investors and the encouragement and business knowledge supplied by investors and speakers, CEO would never be such a life-changing experience.

BOB & BETSY HOSHAW BUCHERI, MCCARTY AND METZ BUTTON CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE RAM CITY OF KOKOMO COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY OF KOKOMO COMFORT KEEPERS COMMUNITY FIRST BANK OF INDIANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF HOWARD COUNTY CONE PALACE DAVID AND SARA SULLIVAN EASTERN HOWARD SCHOOL CORPORATION FIRST FARMERS BANK & TRUST FORTUNE COMPANIES H & R INDUSTRIALS HAYNES INTERNATIONAL HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT INDIANA AMERICAN WATER INDIANA UNIVERSITY KOKOMO
IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE JANSEN'S ASPHALT SEALING & TAX SERVICE KOKOMO CEO CLASS OF 2022 KOKOMO CEO CLASS OF 2023 KOKOMO SCHOOL CORP LEWIS CASS SCHOOL CORP LIBERTY FINANCIAL GROUP MACONAQUAH SCHOOL CORPORATION MID AMERICA BEVERAGE NICK PATE STATE FARM INSURANCE NORTHWESTERN SCHOOL CORPORATION **PLAYPROS** RITE QUALITY OFFICE SUPPLIES SMITH FINANCIAL TAYLOR SCHOOL CORP. THE WYMAN GROUP TRI-CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WESTERN SCHOOL CORP. ZIM'S AUTO SALES

CEO Business Partners are the foundation of CEO. Each invests \$1000 each year to support this program and the students involved. This investment goes toward our facilitator salary, class expenses, and program sustainability. These businesses, organizations, and individuals make up our list of investors.



Alec Downing, Chairperson - First Farmers Bank & Trust Brad Priday, Past Chairperson - Shepherd/Rayl Insurance Joseph Parker, Treasurer - Mid-America Beverage Courtney Butler - Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance Todd Moser - Community Foundation of Howard County Angela Blessing - Kokomo High School, Principal Mark Dubois - Western School Corporation, Superintendent Johanna Moos - PlayPros Kim LaFollette - Community First Bank of Indiana Aaron Smith - Smith Financial Laura Cardwell - Cardwell Built Construction TA Weber - Weber Speakers Sherry Yazel - Western High School, Director of Counseling Jonathan Schuck - Ex-Offcio, Kokomo Area Career Center Director Dr. Mike Sargent - Ex-Officio, Kokomo School Corporation, Superintendent Hilda Burns - Advisory/Emeritus Board Member, Community Foundation, retired Mike Stegall - Advisory/Emeritus Board Member, Community First Bank, retired

KOKOMOCE	C PLEDG Thank you for y	E CARD your interest in becoming a	an Investor	in Cl	EO!
NAME	PHONE:		_ DATE:	1	1
COMPANY NAME:	EMAIL:				
ADDRESS:	CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:		
I WISH TO BECOME AN INVE	STOR IN THE KOK	OMO CEO PROGRA	М		
 \$3000 Total - 3 year pledge Paid \$1000 each year I'd like to be Invoiced I would like to support the Kokomo CEO Provide With my gift of \$) Progran
I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORM	MATION ABOUT				

- Becoming an investor
- Hosting the Class at my business
- Being a mentor
- Sharing my business knowledge with the class

Mailing Address: Kokomo CEO 700 E. Firmin Street Ste. 200 Kokomo, IN 46902

