



ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021

LETTER FROM CEO FACILITATOR

I am so honored to be the facilitator of Kokomo CEO, this innovative program that bridges the gap between education and business. With our business community serving as our virtual textbook, we have immersed these eighteen students into the very real waters of entrepreneurship and leadership.

This year we graduated our 7th class of Kokomo CEO! That is possible only because our community values this unique and elite program. I have so much appreciation for our investors, businesses, mentors, educators, and our first-class CEO Board; it's only through this incredible web of support that CEO can provide, even during a pandemic! And as a first-year facilitator, it has been my joy to see all of you work in concert to serve this amazing CEO team.

To say this has been a year of challenges is a gross understatement. Our team weathered a school year in the throes of a global pandemic. But like true entrepreneurs, our team became more determined as they navigated quarantines, online learning, and school systems that adjusted along the way.

We saw firsthand how industries thrived and withered. We saw record growth, business closings, and everything in between. This team had front row seats to entrepreneurship in adversity like no other CEO class before. This experience has marked and emboldened this team as only the maelstrom of a global pandemic could. But as we've learned in CEO, "Nobody cares about the storm, just that the ship comes in."

It has been a joy to watch this group of young adults move through the CEO process, blossoming, struggling, maturing, and appreciating the opportunities Kokomo CEO has to offer. I cannot begin to describe what being a CEO facilitator is like. It is a strange combination of a teacher, parent, and friend. It is an emotional roller coaster that began with excitement of building a team and gaining new relationships to soon dividing and going our separate ways, holding tight the memories and entrepreneurial skills gained from Kokomo CEO. This has been a journey that I am grateful to have experienced with eighteen amazing young adults.



Brandon Bishop
Kokomo CEO Facilitator



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.

KOKOMO **CEO**

2020-2021 CLASS MENTORS

MARY BAKER, AMY BITNER, AMY CONRAD, CARLY EADS,
CHRIS GREMELSPACHER, BOB HICKMAN,
KALENA JAMES, DREW LARISON, MIKE LUPOI, LIBBY O'BRIEN,
NICK PATE, SARA PITCHER, SARAH PITZER,
BRAD PRIDAY, DENISE STOVER, TY STOVER,
JULIE TRACY, DOMINIQUE WILLIAMS



Kokomo CEO is unlike any class one can take in high school. We have had the pleasure of visiting many successful businesses and having amazing speakers come into class. You are treated as an adult and learn how to have professional conversations. We've definitely had a different year from the past, but we powered through the adversity. Our class learned that it's okay to fail, but you have to be able to come back from the challenge. CEO is an experience that allows students to grow and become more confident in themselves. Personally, I have gained the confidence to be sure in myself and not fear the unknown. Brandon has done an excellent job as a facilitator in his first year. He is so much more than a teacher. Brandon knows each and every one of us on a personal level and shows how much he cares about us. Multiple times I have been asked the question, "Why are you here?" The answer from the beginning of the year was it looked fun and I had a relative go through the program. Asking myself that question now means so much more. The connections and skills learned from this experience are unmatched. The CEO program is a once in a lifetime opportunity that I'm forever grateful to be a part of.

Ella Williamson, Western High School

MEET THE 2020-2021 CLASS



Jon Callane

Jon is a senior at Kokomo High School and plans to attend Indiana University where he will major in public management and leadership. Jon's business, Elevated Tennis, is designed to develop local tennis players who want to take their game to the next level.

Kokomo CEO has pushed me out of my comfort zone and forced me to improve as a leader in all aspects of my life. Being in this class during a pandemic has created multiple challenges, but we were all able to come together as a whole and make the best out of this year. The relationships we all have developed within our team as well as the community will be very beneficial in the future for all of us!



Olivia Green

Olivia is a senior at Western High School and plans to attend Indiana University Kokomo where she will major in business. She owns Yours Truly, which provides eco-friendly and enjoyable products that customers can customize to their liking which will then be made especially for them.

Kokomo CEO has given me useful knowledge about business, leadership, and networking that I intend to carry with me through the rest of my life. CEO has pushed me to be a confident young woman as I face new challenges daily. I am so grateful for the opportunity to take steps to advance my career that CEO has provided me and to everyone involved in making CEO possible. These lifelong lessons will forever stick with me.



Anna Grobengieser

Anna is a senior at Western High School and plans to attend Purdue University as a pre-medical biochemistry major. Anna's business, Simply Gifted, provides customizable curated care packages to make gifting simple for any occasion.

CEO has greatly improved my leadership skills, as well as taught me how to be an effective team player. I have learned how to recognize my own strengths and weaknesses and communicate with others effectively. I have made many valuable connections and grown so much this year. I am very grateful to be a part of Kokomo CEO!



Abby Guge

Abby is a senior at Western High School and plans to attend Purdue University where she will major in finance. Her business, The Sign Shop, creates and sells wooden signs that add a creative touch to home decor.

Kokomo CEO has been an invaluable experience that has changed my life. CEO promotes personal growth through different challenges each day. I have strengthened my ability to network with others around me while building self-confidence. For that, I am forever grateful to experience this opportunity and be part of this amazing program.



Mason Harrell

Mason is a senior at Northwestern High School. He is a direct admit to the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University and plans to study business management and finance. He owns and runs a computer repair company called 404 Found.

CEO has been an eye-opening experience for me. I used to think that to be successful in business, I would have to leave my hometown of Kokomo. CEO has shown me that I can stay right here and still start a business, be successful, and even do business internationally. CEO has strengthened my business skills and prepared me to start a company of my own.

MEET THE 2020-2021 CLASS



Olivia Hicks

Olivia is a senior at Kokomo High School and plans to attend the University of Louisville where she will major in sports management. Olivia's business, Thrift and Ko., is a locally owned vintage and thrift store that sells pre-owned clothing items to reduce waste and overproduction of goods.

Kokomo CEO has encouraged me to pursue my dreams and improve as a leader in all aspects of my life. Being in this class during a pandemic has been challenging but I am better equipped for struggles in the future because of the insane amount of love and support I have received from those involved with the program. The relationships I have built throughout this time will forever be cherished and I am forever indebted to CEO as it has provided me with resources and connections that I will utilize forever.



Elijah Johnson

Eli is a senior at Western High School and plans to attend Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology to study engineering design and physics. His business, Evergreen Creations, is a project centered company which utilizes technological advancements to create products that are relevant to both societal and industrial trends. The debut project presents a product known as the "Stock Clock" which displays the live stock price for a given company. This device allows business executives to take pride in their work and stock market savvy traders to display their favorite stock.

The Kokomo CEO program has been an invaluable experience to supplement my high school career. Being a part of the team has taught me lessons that most people don't learn until their professional careers begin. I have learned an incredible amount about leadership through experience in this class, and I am excited to continue to see how it benefits myself and those around me in future endeavors.



Plez Lawrence

Plez is a junior at Kokomo High School and plans to continue his business education at the Kokomo Area Career Center in the entrepreneurship class as a senior. Plez created and runs Monthly Values, a custom calendar with monthly topics based on scripture and personal meanings from Plez.

Kokomo CEO has provided me a great opportunity to grow as a person. Being the only junior on the team has been hard at times but I feel like I have a huge advantage over my peers. I am grateful to have a better understanding of my community and what it means to be a leader. My time in CEO will undoubtedly help me grow in education, sports, and life.



Myles LeNoir

Myles is a senior at Kokomo High School and plans to attend Indiana University to study sports marketing and management. His business, Essential Fragrances, is a cologne and perfume brand made with all-natural ingredients.

Being in the CEO program has been an amazing experience for me. I have learned many skills that wouldn't have been possible in a regular classroom. CEO has prepared me to be successful in the future.



Sarah Manuel

Sarah is a senior at Western High School who plans on majoring in business at Purdue University and eventually pursuing law school. Her business, Lathered, sells soaps that have long-lasting fragrances and are gentle on the skin.

Choosing to apply for Kokomo CEO was one of the best decisions I made for my senior year. This program has given me the opportunity to learn and grow through real world experiences. Typical classroom lessons are incomparable to the knowledge I have gained as a part of CEO. The confidence and networking skills that I have developed here will be something I carry with me for the rest of my life.

MEET THE 2020-2021 CLASS



Emma Moore

Emma is a senior at Western High School and plans to attend University of Indianapolis in the physical therapy program. She owns Impressions Card Co., a business that sells a variety of cards. She designs the image on each card and sells them individually or in sets.

The CEO Program has been incredibly beneficial for me and has helped improve my teamwork and communication skills. This year has been unpredictable, but I believe that is what has helped my team and me learn how to overcome the various obstacles that life throws our way.



Owen Myers

Owen is a senior at Northwestern High School and plans to attend Indiana University Bloomington where he will major in accounting. He runs and operates Christmas In a Shoebox, a service project that operates alongside CASA to help give children in the Kokomo area a chance to experience Christmas.

The Kokomo CEO program has provided me with many opportunities that have helped improve my communication skills, as well as efficiency in high-pressure environments and in group settings. These skills will help me grow as I continue my business career, and as such, I am overwhelmingly grateful for this incredible program.



Claire Pate

Claire is a senior at Western High School. Her plans include moving to Miami, Florida to pursue business administration management and is currently undecided on where she'll be attending in the fall. Her business, Social Edge, provides quality social media content for other business as well as run their pages full time.

The Kokomo CEO program has by far been the most enjoyable and rewarding class I've ever taken. CEO has introduced me to a network of amazing people that will forever be able to support and direct me in numerous ways throughout life. It has opened doors and taught me more about myself than I ever would have been able to without CEO.



Olivia Persons

Olivia is a senior at Kokomo High School and plans to attend Indiana University where she will major in biology with a minor in business. She runs and owns Jaded Jewelry, a handmade jewelry business that curates beautiful pieces of artwork that are wearable!

The Kokomo CEO program has provided me with many skills that have not only helped me grow my business mindset but skills that I can use in everyday life. It is a unique experience that I am very grateful to be a part of. Some specific skills that I have learned are communication, teamwork, and most importantly a positive outlook on life.



Kensley Seekri

Kensley is a senior at Western High School. She plans to double major in business and media communications at Butler University. Kensley's business, Daily Goodies, provides healthy pet treats for owners who want the most beneficial ingredients given to their cat or dog to keep them flourishing.

Kokomo CEO has been the best experience of my high school career. Not only have I learned so much about the business world, but I was able to evaluate real world examples throughout the community. This program has given me some of the best life lessons that will help with college and beyond. I am above grateful to have been a part of this wondrous program.

MEET THE 2020-2021 CLASS



Bronson Smith

Bronson is a senior at Kokomo High School. He plans to attend Indiana University Bloomington to study environmental safety and safety management. He operates and owns BronScents, an essential body oil service that provides the best and most unforgettable smells.

Kokomo CEO has provided plenty of connections and developed a lot of character for me personally. Being able to communicate and work professionally is now a strong suit that I have developed while being in this program.



Ella Williamson

Ella is a senior at Western High School. She plans to attend Purdue University where she will study pre-pharmacy. Her business, Urban Garden, creates succulent decorative pieces to bring an earthy feel to an urban environment.

Kokomo CEO is an experience that has allowed me to grow tremendously. I have become more confident and learned many valuable skills. I know I will be able to use the leadership and communication skills in my future endeavors. I am forever grateful for this opportunity and blessed to be a part of it.



JP Wyman

JP is a senior at Kokomo High School and is planning on attending Indiana University Kokomo. JP's business, BLNK SLATE, provides different styles and customizable resin design artistry in high quality products for people wanting to spice up their home and personal needs.

Being in CEO has had a huge impact on my high school career. It has helped me grow and learn the positives and negatives of business.

ALUMNI UPDATE



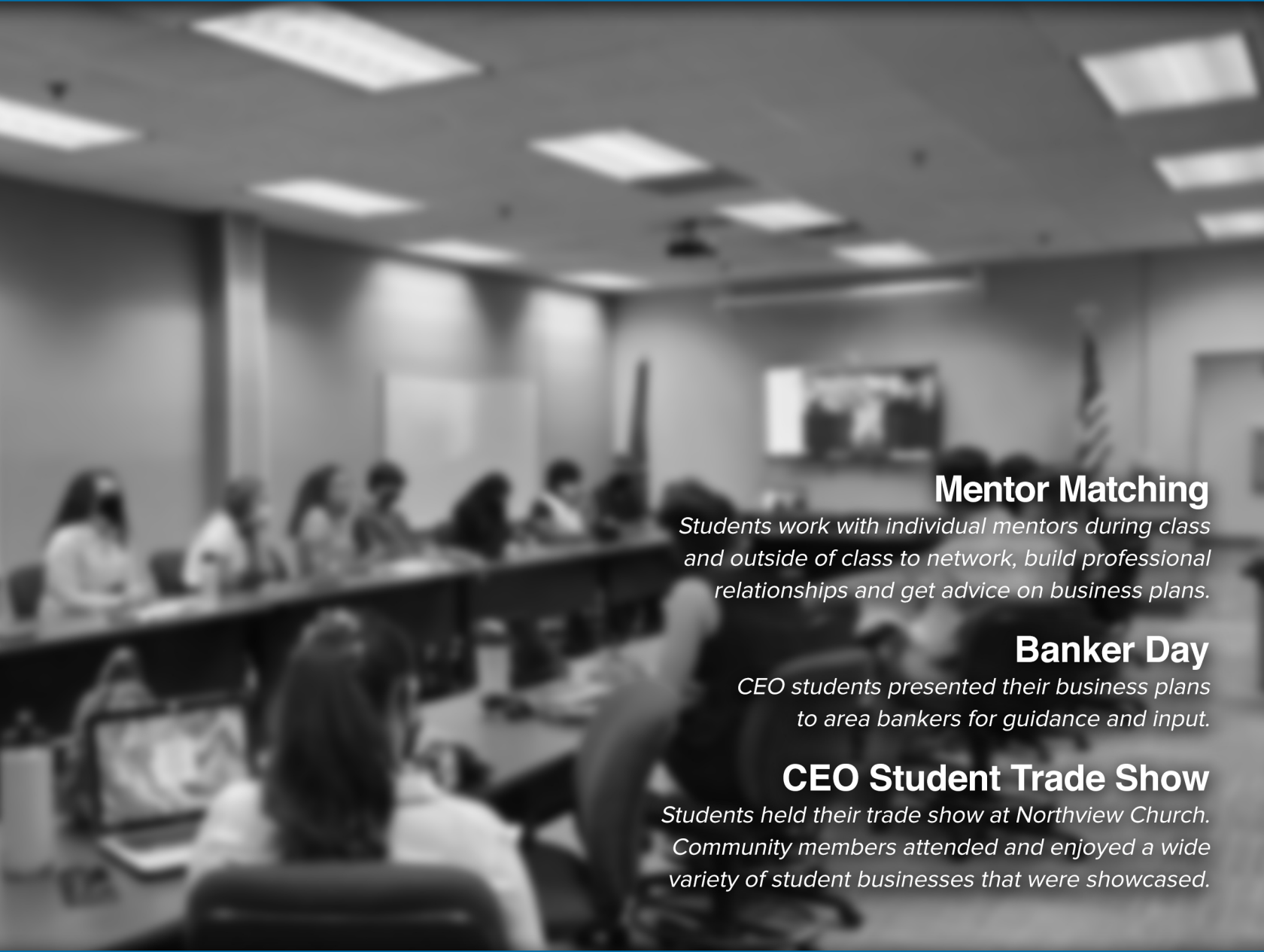
Andrea Peterson, Kokomo CEO Class of 2018

I am a junior at Indiana University, majoring in Finance with minors in Economics & Political Science. At IU, I am involved in the Investment Management Workshop, Sigma Kappa Sorority, Financial Diversity Program, and PGN Professional Business Fraternity. I am looking forward to continuing my interest in finance this summer as an analyst at Citibank in NYC.

Additionally, I am honored to serve as a 2021 500 Festival Princess, representing Indiana's greatest tradition and engaging in philanthropic outreaches across the state.

From my experiences, I often reflect on where I would be without the sound guidance from the Kokomo CEO Program. CEO is an organization that advocates for students to walk boldly into their futures. I would not be where I am without my mentors, including Morgan Young, Dana Davis, and the many others who continue to make CEO an organization centered on the importance of community and people.

CLASS ACTIVITIES



Mentor Matching

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

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.

30
speakers

Monty Henderson (Indiana Small Business Development Center), Brad Priday (Shepherd Insurance), Dr. Alan Krabbenhoft (Indiana University Kokomo), Executive Team (Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance), Drew Larison (Larison Media), Jane Hale Hopkins (Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation), Lilly Ragan (Beauty by L.A.), Robb Blume and Kim LaFollette (Community First Bank), Patty Pavey (TTD Coaching), Admissions and Counselors (Ivy Tech), (Green Alternatives), Brooke Jansen and Erica Beck (The Kokomo Bobkats), Amy Tarr (Midland Institute), Mary Baker (AndyMark), Kalena James (LCR Coaching), Mark Jansen (Jansen Asphalt Sealing and Tax Service), Travis Taflinger (Bridges Outreach), Amy Beechy (Project Matters, LLC), Aaron Smith (Smith Financial), Matt Lewellen (Steinberger Construction), Angela Blessing (Kokomo High School), Dan Adams (retired teacher/entrepreneur), Abigail Gerig (Dragonwood Syrups & Honeys), Paul Wyman (The Wyman Group), Dr. Matt Oliver (Community Howard Regional Health), Kevin Hawes (Delphi), Amy Pate (RACI), Kevin Lechner and Dee Dee Fultz (ITP1 Chrysler).



20 BUSINESS VISITS

MID-AMERICA BEVERAGE - WEBER SPEAKERS - ANDYMARK, INC. - PLAYPROS
INDIANA UNIVERSITY KOKOMO - COCA-COLA BOTTLING - BES, INC. - RHUM ACADEMY
KOKOMO OPALESCENT GLASS - IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE - FORTUNE COMPANIES, INC.
BUTTON MOTORS - GM VENTEC - UNITED WAY OF HOWARD COUNTY - CARDWELL CONSTRUCTION
MARTINO'S ITALIAN VILLA - BRUNO'S PIZZA - MAYOR TYLER MOORE (CITY OF KOKOMO)
KOKOMO GRAIN - YMCA

CLASS HOST:  **Inventrek**
TECHNOLOGY PARK





CLASS INVESTORS

CEO Business Partners are the foundation of CEO. Each invest \$1,000 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.

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 could never be such a life-changing experience.

AndyMark, Inc.
Ascension St. Vincent Hospital
Beck's Hybrids
Brad Howell Ford
Bucheri McCarty and Metz
Button Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram
City of Kokomo
Coca-Cola Bottling of Kokomo
Comfort Home Health LLC
Comfort Keepers
Community First Bank of Indiana
Community Foundation of Howard County
Community Howard Regional Health
Cone Palace
Dr. Tim and Dana Davis
Delphi Electronics and Safety
Duke Energy
Eastern Howard County School Corp.
Eriks Chevrolet
First Farmers Bank & Trust
Fortune Companies
General Motors Components Holdings
H & R Industrials
Hayes Advisory Group
Haynes International
Hearn Construction
Horizon Bank
Bob and Betsy Hoshaw
Howard County Government
Huston Electric
Indiana American Water
Indiana University Kokomo
Ivy Tech Community College
J & J Electric
Jansen's Asphalt Sealing and Tax Service
Kokomo Auto World
Kokomo CEO Class of 2016
Kokomo CEO Class of 2017
Kokomo CEO Class of 2018
Kokomo CEO Class of 2019
Kokomo CEO Class of 2020
Kokomo School Corporation
Lewis Cass Schools
Liberty Financial Group
Lorentson Manufacturing
Maconaquah School Corporation
McGonigal Buick GMC Cadillac
Merrell Brothers
Mid-America Beverage
Northwestern School Corporation
Merrell Owen
PASTArrific Ristorante Italiano
Drs. Matthew and Kristen Pate
Nick Pate State Farm Insurance
PlayPros
Purdue Polytechnic Institute, Kokomo
Reed Contracting
Regions Insurance
Rite Quality Office Supplies
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Simons
Smith Financial
Stephens Machine
Stout & Son Funeral Home
David and Sara Sullivan
Taylor School Corporation
Tri-Central Community Schools
Western School Corporation
The Wyman Group
Zim's Auto Sales



2020-2021 ADVISORY BOARD

Greg Aaron
 Brad Friday
 Amy Conrad
 Kim LaFollette
 Andy Baker
 Angela Blessing
 Hilda Burns
 Alec Downing
 Tim Garland
 Jeff Hauswald
 Michelle Hayes
 Christa Jordan
 Joseph Parker
 Melissa Rarick
 Jonathan Schuck
 Aaron Smith
 Charlie Sparks
 Mike Stegall
 Doug Vaughn

Board Chair – Community Foundation of Howard County
 Board Vice Chair – Shepherd Insurance
 Treasurer – Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance
 Past Chair – Community First Bank
 AndyMark, Inc
 Kokomo High School
 Advisory/Emeritus Board Member – Community Foundation, retired
 First Farmers Bank & Trust
 Lewis Cass Schools
 Ex-Officio, Kokomo School Corporation
 Community Leader
 Kokomo Area Career Center
 Mid-America Beverage
 Northwestern School Corporation
 Ex-Officio, Kokomo Area Career Center
 Smith Financial
 Ex-Officio, Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance
 Advisory/Emeritus Board Member – Community First Bank, retired
 Rite Quality Office Supplies

KOKOMO CEO PLEDGE CARD

Thank you for your interest in becoming an Investor in CEO!

NAME _____ PHONE: _____ DATE: / /

COMPANY NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

I wish to become an investor in the Kokomo CEO program

- \$3000 Total - 3 year pledge Paid \$1000 each year
- I'd like to be Invoiced
- I would like to support the Kokomo CEO Program with my gift of \$ _____

I'd like more information 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

KOKOMO **CEO** 

Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities