

NEWS, NOTES & VIEWS 12/17



CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL
OPPORTUNITIES

Andy Sprague, Sprague's Kinderhook Lodge, speaking to the Pike CEO class.

The CEO program has entered its fourth year in Morgan and Scott Counties. The Greene-Calhoun and Pike programs are in their second year. 34 students from all across the service territory make up the three classes this year.

The CEO program was founded in Effingham, IL in 2008 and is now in four states with 40 different programs. The program was first offered in our region when the co-op and Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation partnered in 2014 to bring the program to Morgan and Scott Counties.

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Participating students meet for 90 minutes where they work on building, facilitating, and directing a business of their own. Meetings are held off-site at local businesses where mentoring connections are established with local business owners and experts, and students hear from around 50 guest speakers from the business community per year.

Morgan-Scott and Pike programs meet five days a week, while Greene-Calhoun meets three days a week.

Along with high school credit, students receive college credit for the program. Through Lincoln Land Community College, John Wood Community College, and Lewis and Clark Community College, students are able to receive this credit.

New to the program this year, each of the three CEO programs will give away \$5,000 in scholarships to CEO students.

The class is funded by business investors from within the community. The class hosts a trade show at the end of the school year for the student-run businesses to showcase their products and hard work.

By providing the tools, leadership and entrepreneurial training, the program shows students how to establish and grow a business, and how local connections can help aid in the process.

The goal of the program is to encourage students to spark local economic development and stay within the communities they were raised in to make them aware of business connections and potential through the opportunities provided by the program.

The co-op's involvement comes from a realization that the future vitality of the service territory is dependent on growth. As youth are a key part of the future of our service territory, this program creates a long-term investment in our local communities and the young people who call it home.



Top: Morgan-Scott, Greene-Calhoun, and Pike CEO programs attended the Small Business Institute at John Wood Community College in Pittsfield last month.

Bottom right: Marsha Awe, Arends-Awe, Inc., speaking to the Morgan-Scott CEO students.

Not only does the program help create entrepreneurial minded students, but it is also hoped to reverse the trend of young people leaving our territory in search of other opportunities.

If you have you have a child or grandchild who will be a senior next fall, have them speak to their high school guidance counselor about the CEO program. Applications for the 2018-2019 classes will be available in February.

To learn more about the program and students or to get involved, visit morganscottceo.com, greenealhounceo.com, or pikeceo.com.





Top: Lyn Young, Events Manager for Greene Gables Inn, speaking to the Greene-Calhoun students.



Bottom: Michelle Cordes, Michelle Cordes Photography, speaking to the Greene-Calhoun CEO Students.

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