

CEO program is active in Hancock County

Forty-four students have graduated in four years

Entrepreneurship education seeks to prepare people, especially youth, to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial thinkers and contribute to economic development and sustainable communities. The CEO program is much more than a textbook course. Rather, students are immersed in real life learning experiences with the opportunity to take risks, manage the results, and learn from the outcomes.

The Hancock County CEO program is beginning its fourth year with facilitator Christine Murphy at the helm. During the 9-month course, the (7713-2) students are trained to think, talk and act like entrepreneurs.

The students are matched with mentors from the community who volunteer their time to guide the students' progress through the year. The mentor-student relationship provides a one-on-one relationship with someone who has been there and done that.

During the first semester of the program, the students get to know each other. Sometimes there are three or four high schools represented, so this is critical. They do team-building and communication activities since those are key components of a successful business. They also learn about themselves by doing personality assessments. The students are introduced to many businesses, such as WIEC, in Hancock County and talk with area business leaders, many who are CEOs of their own companies. These community members share their time and expertise with the CEO students. An important part of any business is making a business plan, which the students write then present to a banker for their evaluation. Also critical to any



2019 CEO Class

Molly Conover with her business, Forever Captured Photography booth at the CEO Next National Trade Show.



successful business are record keeping and taxes, so those are discussed as well.

During the second semester of the program, the students begin to plan their individual business, based on their own strengths and interests as

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Come to Cookie Day at
WIEC October 25th.

See page 20C
for more
details.





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OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

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MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four members' map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

"CEO program" continued from 20A

well as what kind of business they believe would be successful in our community. Over the four years, there have been a wide variety of types of businesses, from photography (Forever Captured Photography and Almost Magic Photography) to converting old VHS tapes to CD format (Legacy Conversions) to cooking (TJ Snax). Of the 44 students that have gone through the CEO program, seven graduates kept their businesses going after the class was finished.



There is a spring trade show that is open to the public where each student sets up a booth to greet the public and explain their business. This gives the students a chance to display all the skills and training they have received during the year. Last June, two 2018 CEO participants, Ty Jackson and Molly Conover, were chosen to represent the (855-60) Hancock County CEO program at the CEONext National Trade Show in Effingham. By enrolling in this college-credit

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class, students are exposed to a different way of thinking about their community, learning about the local businesses and job opportunities. They are given the tools and background to create entrepreneurial opportunities right here at home. Murphy explains, "It is our hope that these young entrepreneurs will follow in the footsteps of many of the entrepreneurs in our community and will reside in or return to Hancock County to run their business, raise their families, and give back to their community."

FAQ: What is this metal tag on the utility poles?

WIEC has put the metal tags on our utility poles to mark them with an identification number that is specific to that pole. That ID number, which is recorded back at the office, identifies the location of the pole, the last time it was inspected, the age of the pole, as well as other pertinent information.

WIEC is in the second year of a multi-year project of tagging poles.



WIEC sponsors "Cookie Day"

In honor of October being Cooperative Month, WIEC will host our annual Member Appreciation Day. We will serve cookies and cider to members who come in and pay their bill on Oct. 25 at the Carthage office. We hope to have our 2019 pocket calendars to hand out that day too.

Electric cooperatives are an important part of American culture. The lives of more than 42 million Americans are improved by the 834 electric cooperatives in 2,500 of the

3,141 counties in the United States. These same cooperatives employ 70,000 people and pay over \$1.3 billion in state and local taxes.

Cooperatives enrich our communities, large and small.

Because we are owned by the members we serve, electric cooperatives have a strong commitment to our local communities. In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable power, electric co-ops are involved in local community development programs, such as arranging USDA loans and



grants to local businesses, our revolving loan fund available for expansion of local businesses and our participation in Western Illinois Economic Development Corp and the Hancock County Economic Development.

Eighty years ago, when no (8623-1) other electric utility would provide electric service to the rural areas, it was the farmers and their wives who came together and created this electric cooperative. As a result, poles were set, lines were strung, and substations were built; a truly amazing rural electric system was born. No single person could have done it because it was just too large of a task. It took a unified effort to make the seemingly impossible dream a reality.

WIEC was founded on the belief that an electric cooperative could have a positive impact on the community in which we live. Our board and employees work hard on maintaining the principles of which we were established and keep our members best interests at the forefront of all we do.

Come on in and have a cookie! See you at Member Appreciation Day!



**SAFE,
RELIABLE,
AFFORDABLE
ENERGY.**

**THEN. NOW.
ALWAYS.**

**We are proud to
power your life.**

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



Geothermal: Energy from the Ground Up

By Magen Howard

Geothermal energy—created from Earth’s natural heat—has been used by many cultures for thousands of years to cook and bathe. But modern technology has unlocked new ways to harness geothermal potential: producing electricity using hot water and steam locked below the surface; and heating and cooling buildings.

America leads the world in geothermal power production, with about 3,080 megawatts of capacity

from more than 70 power plants, according to the Geothermal Energy Association, the national trade association for geothermal development companies. Western states boast the most geothermal energy.

How it Works

Geothermal heat pumps rely on energy of the ground—the top 10 feet of earth

remains a relatively constant 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit temperature year-round—to move heat into and out of

“...the top 10 feet of earth remains a relatively constant 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit temperature year-round...”

a building, providing winter heating and summer cooling. Also called ground-source heat

pumps, these appliances come in two types: a groundwater (open-loop) system uses well water; an earth-coupled (closed-loop) model moves a water and antifreeze solution through underground pipes to disperse heat.

While geothermal heat pumps generally operate more efficiently than their air-source cousins, they are more expensive to up-front. A federal tax credit is available equal to 30 percent for systems placed in service by 12/31/2019.

A full list of geothermal heat pump requirements, along with a product list, can be found at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits.



Installation of a closed-loop geothermal system.

Welcome New Members

Ryan Bolen, Carthage
Madison Broadwell, Hamilton
David & Debra Edmiston, Davenport
Betty Fitzjarrald, Nauvoo
Ted Geissler, LaHarpe
Joe Howell, Burlington
Michael Lester, LaHarpe
Jessie & James Stotler, Hamilton

Still haven't decided about geothermal? What are you waiting for?

For our members who are still unsure if now is the best time to install a geothermal heating and cooling system, what are you waiting for?

WIEC has four great reasons to go geothermal now:

1. WIEC offers a rebate of \$1,000. This can be applied to trenching, new electric water heater or can be applied right to your electric bill.
2. WIEC offers loans (5-year term at a 5 percent rate) to members with approved credit. The payments are **(7814-2)** added to your current electric bill so you have just one payment. How simple is that?
3. Federal Tax credits are available for energy efficiency tax credits.
4. Kilowatts used for geothermal heating and cooling are just 7.5 cents instead of 12.75 cents regular rate.