



CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES

MORGAN-SCOTT • GREENE-CALHOUN • PIKE

- ▶ A Cooperative is an Organization Owned and Operated by its Members, For the Mutual Benefit of the Members.
- ▶ Provides a Product or Service at a Better Cost, or a Product or Service That Otherwise Would Not be Available
- ▶ Members of a Cooperative Are Truly "Owners" of the Business
- ▶ Members Govern the Cooperative Through a Board of Directors, Made up of its Members.
- ▶ Any Member of the Cooperative Can Run for a S...



AN EDUCATION IN BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY

General Manager Randy Long speaks to the Morgan-Scott CEO class about our cooperative.

With school back in session, the CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) programs, unique in their focus on life, business, and leadership skills, are in full swing. The Morgan-Scott, Greene-Calhoun, and Pike programs, each with their distinct approach, consist of 59 students representing more than a

dozen schools in our service territory. CEOs' goal is not just education but also forming a close bond with their community.

"CEO is one of the most transformative experiences I have seen for emerging adults. It is so exciting

continued...



Illinois Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 80, Two South Main Street
Winchester, Illinois 62694

www.e-co-op.com
1-800-468-4732

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Working to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve since 1936.



Students from this year's Pike CEO class (left) and Greene-Calhoun CEO class (right).



to see CEO students realize their full potential and run with it. I absolutely love this program, and it is a true pleasure to be a part of it," said Jennifer Sellars, the Morgan-Scott and Greene-Calhoun CEO program facilitator. Students in CEO learn and practice valuable skills, such as public speaking, crafting a business plan, and ultimately launching a product or service-based business of their own.

The facilitator of the Pike CEO program, Colin Kutchy, is already pleased with how the year is going. "I am excited to watch what this group of CEO students accomplish this year. We have 14 energetic students representing all four Pike County schools and they are looking forward to learning more about Pike County and interacting with the business owners that they will meet."

The co-op helped start the Morgan-Scott CEO program 11 years ago, with Greene-Calhoun and Pike programs following two years later. The impact of these programs is significant, as they

aim to help retain young people in our service territory by introducing them to the opportunities right in their backyards.

As part of this, students in the CEO program hear from more than 50 local professionals and business owners from their communities who share their career journeys, experiences, and lessons learned along the way.

These connections help students develop professional networks, sometimes leading to internship opportunities and ongoing mentorships. "The CEO programs in our area have been very popular and received great support from our communities. Through this program, local students are gaining a better understanding of the region and the opportunities it can offer. We have a growing number of CEO alumni who have chosen to come back to the region to live and work," said Shawn Rennecker, Economic Development Director and chairman of the Pike CEO board.

Call Illinois Electric First!



If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Installing solar can be a good thing if done properly:

- It can reduce your overall energy costs
- Positive environmental impact

If done improperly:

- May not reduce your energy costs
- May never pay for itself

Unfortunately, we are seeing an increasing number of co-op members unhappy with their solar contractors for various reasons.

Complaints	Solutions
I was sold a system that is too large.	Call IEC First. We will provide meter data to help size your system properly.
I was told I would no longer receive a bill from the co-op.	Call IEC First. We can explain how billing will work.
My co-op bill is higher than I was told.	Call IEC First. We can explain the cost savings you can expect.
After signing a contract I discovered it's not allowed in Illinois.	Call IEC First. We can explain state law and policy.

The moral of the story: CALL IEC FIRST.

1-800-468-4732 www.e-co-op.com



Aaron Rodhouse with his wife Addie and their children, Vivian and August.

Employee Spotlight

Aaron Rodhouse

Fiber Staking Engineer

About the Employee

Aaron Rodhouse of Pleasant Hill works hard to ensure members have reliable, fast internet. Aaron and his wife Addie have two children, Vivian and August. Members are always at the forefront of Aaron's mind, as he quickly cited them when asked what his favorite part of his job is. Day-to-day interactions with members often occur for Aaron in Calhoun County, as he has spent a great deal of his time at the co-op making fiber internet possible for the citizens in Calhoun.

Outside of work, Aaron loves spending time with his family, whether fishing with his son or playing in the yard with his daughter. Aaron notes that these times together are memorable experiences that will last a lifetime.

St. Francis of Assisi *Fall Dinner*

October 20, 2024

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Fried Chicken and Sliced Roast Beef + Sides

Raffle / Kids Activities / Drinks on Tap / Sweet Shop / Music / Crafts

Event Location: St. Norbert Church in Hardin

Dinner / Carryout \$18

(Indoor / Outdoor Dining)