

ILLINI PRAIRIE **CEO**[®]

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**





MISSION

CEO nurtures entrepreneurial thinkers who possess an awareness of themselves and their communities.

VISION

To be learners, owners, creators, communicators, and connectors

The CEO class embodies everything that our country was built upon.

The core principles of hard work, innovative thinking and entrepreneurship are values that we experience every day through CEO.

Supporters of Illini Prairie CEO,

As this year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on all that has happened these past nine months. It has certainly been a year full of challenges, failures, growth, and reward, and I'm so excited for this new class of CEO graduates who will go on to become future leaders and entrepreneurs in our communities.

One of the highlights this year was most certainly the 'Pancakes and PJs' event, which profited a class business record of over \$7,200! It was such a memorable experience, and one that I know provided students with several learning opportunities. Through the process, students gained invaluable insight into event planning, marketing, risk analysis, communication, and budgeting, to name a few. These skills have not only benefited their individual business ventures, but will also undoubtedly provide them with the skill sets needed as they transition into adulthood and beyond. Watching their individual businesses evolve over the course of the year and making sense of the communities in which they live has been rewarding, to say the least.

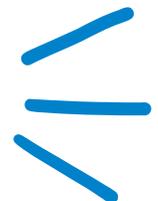
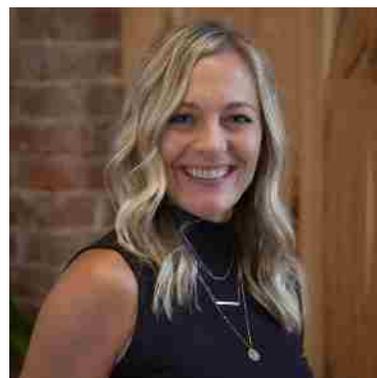
This isn't to say there haven't been some challenges along the way. Early mornings, conflicting schedules, and minor frustrations certainly made their way into class, but they also encouraged students to become better communicators, listeners, and leaders as a result. Personally, the transition to Lead Facilitator was unexpected, but one I chose to model as a learning opportunity. I have grown both personally and professionally, and my hope is that I have embodied the very principles of CEO philosophy.

With that said, I appreciate all the businesses, community leaders, mentors, investors, and board members who continue to support the CEO program year after year. In addition, I am also thankful for the expertise and guidance brought in by Carlos Ortega, who jumped in mid-year to assist me in the program. I appreciate all of the support and resources you have provided me as well as the CEO students.

Despite two great years as a facilitator, I am stepping back from my role at the end of the year to focus on my family and personal ventures. I am forever grateful to be a part of such an amazing program and wish for its continued success in the years to come.

Congratulations, CEO students!

With Much Love,
Hannah K. Myers



Facilitators

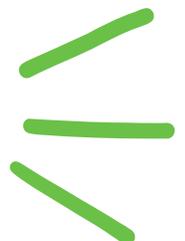
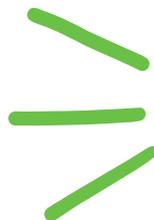
Dear Teachers, Parents, Investors, Students, and all other supporters:

As the Co-Facilitator for Illini Prairie CEO Program, I am proud to witness firsthand the hard work, dedication, and support of community leaders, small business owners, and school officials in ensuring the success of this program. As I approach the end of this year as a co-facilitator for this program, I have seen the incredible effort put in by Hannah to make it a resounding success.

Throughout my time here, I have witnessed the remarkable growth and development of each individual student, and I am confident that this year's Illini Prairie CEO class will continue to thrive and succeed in the years to come. My sincere hope is that each student has learned three fundamental concepts: growth, innovation, and success are often products of failure; agility and adaptability are essential in an ever-changing world; and opportunities abound in even the most rural communities of Illinois.

I firmly believe that the skills and knowledge gained through the Illini Prairie CEO Program will equip these students with the tools necessary to succeed, not just in their future business endeavors, but also in life. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who have contributed to the program's success and my unwavering support for its continued growth and prosperity.

Sincerely,
Carlos F. Ortega





Our program investors provide support to our community-driven program. An annual investment of \$1,000 provides the necessary resources for the current-year facilitator salary and operating expenses and ensures the sustainability of the Illini Prairie CEO class for future students. Investors also contribute their time to the program by hosting business visits, providing guest speakers, and serving as mentors.

Ace Hardware Sullivan
 Arcola First Bank
 Arcola Foundation
 Arcola School District
 Arthur Community Bank
 Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond
 School District
 Boyer Sappenfield Investment Advisors
 Bruder Tank
 Carriage Crossing
 CHI Overhead Doors
 Chittick Eye Care
 Crist Termite
 Curry Construction
 Dedicated Realty
 Edward Jones
 First Community Bank Sullivan
 First Mid Bank & Trust (Arcola, Sullivan &
 Tuscola branches)
 First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust
 First National Bank of Nokomis (Arthur
 Branch)
 Friends of Sullivan Athletics & Academic
 Harris Companies

Herff Jones
 Hilligoss Schrader Funeral Home
 Lindenmeyer Insurance Agency - A Division of
 Compass Insurance Partners
 Loman-Ray Insurance Group, LLC
 Marvin Keller Trucking
 Metro Communications
 Mid-State Tank Co, Inc
 Monahan Partners
 Nate & Megan Parsons
 Patient Equipment
 Quality Network Solutions
 Sarah Bush Lincoln
 SavMor Pharmacy
 Sullivan Chamber & Economic Development
 Sullivan School District
 The Great Pumpkin Patch & The Homestead Bakery
 The Libman Company
 Tri-County Welding
 TrustBank
 Tuscola Chamber & Economic Development
 Tuscola First Bank
 Tuscola Rotary Club
 Tuscola School District

Friends or In-Kind Supporters



American Family Insurance - Lori Shasteen
 Coach House Garages
 Flesor's Candy Kitchen
 John Davis State Farm Agent
 Kotic and Stout PC
 Yoder's Kitchen

*Thank
 You*

BOARD MEMBERS



Megan Parsons

Board Chair

Organization:

The Libman Company

Title: Vice President Human Relations



Bill Wagoner

Secretary

Organization:

Arcola, Illinois

Title: City Administrator



Justin Bozarth

Board Member

Organization:

Tuscola High School

Title: Guidance Counselor



Stan Harris

Board Member

Organization:

Harris Companies

Title: Owner



Ashley Lewis

Board Member

Organization:

First Bank

Title: Vice President/Cashier



Michael Lindenmeyer

Board Member

Organization:

Lindenmeyer Insurance Agency

Title: Producer/Manager



Laurie Minor

Board Member

Organization:

Sullivan Chamber of Commerce
and Economic Development

Title: Executive Director



Brian Moody

Board Member

Organization:

Tuscola Chamber and Economic
Development

Title: Executive Director



Tom Mulligan

Board Member

Organization:

Arcola School District

Title: Superintendent



Holly Olson

Board Member

Organization:

Lakeland College

Title: Lake Land College Admissions
Representative



Steffanie Seegmiller

Board Member

Organization:

Arthur Lovington Atwood
Hammond High School

Title: Principal



Ted Walk

Board Member

Organization:

Sullivan Community Unit
School District 300

Title: Superintendent



Robert Kosic

Board Member

Organization:

Law Office of Kosic and
Stout, P.C.

Title: Attorney



Kyle Thompson

Board Member

Organization:

Regional Office of
Education #11

Title: Regional
Superintendent



A mentoring program provides an effective networking model for Illini Prairie CEO students. Every Illini Prairie CEO student is matched with a mentor from the business community. This mentorship experience helps strengthen the student's awareness of employment opportunities in our county and helps him or her develop greater social skills. Ultimately, these relationships strengthen the CEO program's success and build generational bridges between the student and the business community.

Suzi Berkich

**The Great Pumpkin Patch
Director of Business Operations**

Justin R. Florey, DVM

**Kaskaskia Valley Animal Hospital
Veterinarian and Owner**

Tim Flavin

Mi Raza Community Center

Sage Hale

**Loman Ray Insurance
Insurance Executive**

Savara Lindsey

**Tuscola Blendhouse
Owner**



Kevin Monahan

**Monahan Partners
President**

Kimberly Morrison

**U of I Extension
4-H Youth Development Educator**

Rick Otto

**Coach House Garages
President**

Cindi Reed

**Dicks Pharmacy
Owner/Pharmacist**

Cassie Yoder

**Green Mill Village/Cass Concepts
Marketing Development Director**

Please contact us if you interested in becoming a CEO Mentor. Successful mentoring partnerships are advantageous to everyone - the student, the mentor, and the community. Visit illiniprairieceo.com to learn more!



Jalexis Barrett



My name is Jalexis Barrett. I'm a senior at Sullivan High School. After high school, I plan to attend college, where I will study to become a special profit analyst. I joined the CEO program to help push me out of my comfort zone and make me a more driven and business-minded individual. I'm the founder of **Cozy Creations**. Cozy Creations strives to assist you by helping to expand the creativity in your space by providing top-notch products and services that cater to your unique needs and preferences. Our goal is to help create a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere in your space by providing unique artistic decor that creates a warm and inviting feeling.



Kaci Beachy



My name is Kaci Beachy. I am a senior at ALAH High School and the founder of **K.B. Boutique**. I plan to continue my business after CEO, move to North Carolina for college, and pursue a career in veterinary medicine. K.B. Boutique is a rural, agriculture-based boutique that provides products to support the jobs and lifestyles that keep the world running. The company operates in a relaxed, vintage style to help customers feel at home. K.B. Boutique markets its designs and logo on clothing, accessories, and stationery. The boutique emphasizes memorable connections with a Western way of advertising and style.



Eadie Budd



Eadie is a senior at Arcola High School and is beyond happy she chose to join CEO. "I have gained numerous experiences and so much knowledge about not only the business world but also life skills that are useful anywhere you go. Through displaying these skills of good work ethic, organization, consistency, passion, communication, and countless other things, I have been able to build my business called, "**CommuniTEA**", a tea business that provides artisan herbal teas good for various health benefits. My goal is to bring together community, health, and comfort in the form of a warm, cozy drink. What better way to connect with a group of people than around the table with a nice cup of tea? I am beyond thankful for all of the people I've met through this program, and the roots I've built are going to take me far in life."





Mikayla Dunn

Hi! My name is Mikayla Dunn, and I am a senior at Tuscola High School. I plan to continue my business after the CEO class, but have not decided what I want to do after high school. I joined the CEO program to grow even more as a leader and understand all processes within a business. I am the owner of **Charisma: Keychains by Kayla**. Charisma strives to add a touch of personality to your everyday essentials. My customized keychains give a unique and practical option to eliminate the frustration of losing your keys. All customers can easily order through a pre-order form on Instagram or Facebook.



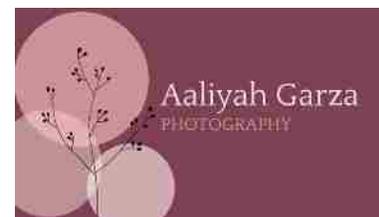
Elijah Fenton

Hello my name is Elijah Fenton. I'm a senior from Sullivan High School. I am the founder of **VIP Clothing**. VIP Clothing is an affordable, reliable clothing line for anyone who strives for comfort and fashion. Our company provides high quality materials and fast shipping on demand and a customer support system that will answer any question you have about our services.



Aaliyah Garza

Hi, my name is Aaliyah Garza, and I am a senior at Arcola High School. I have been fortunate enough to create my own business, **Aaliyah Garza Photography**, with the help of Illini Prairie CEO and my teachers from Arcola. My passion for a while now has been photography, and I am glad to have the opportunity to share that with people from different communities. I am offering affordable prices while still getting that fine quality photos that are wanted to get that perfect social media post. I plan on studying political science at Bradley University with a minor in photojournalism to continue my education in photography, as well as politics.



Josiah Hortin

My name is Josiah Hortin, and I am a Junior at Tuscola High School. I am the owner of **J's Kicks+Cleaning**. J's Kicks+Cleaning is a local business founded on a passion for sneakers. J's Kicks+Cleaning provides customers with an affordable sneaker cleaning service. We extend the longevity of your favorite footwear. Our premium products help our customers step into a fresh pair of kicks everyday. I plan on continuing this passion after high school and letting this take place of a normal fast food job.





Rachel Sigrist

My name is Rachel Sigrist, and I am a senior at Arcola High School. I am the owner of the **Begonia Bakery**, which is a small, home bakery located in Arcola, IL. At my bakery, I specialize in specialty sweet breads, muffins, cookies, and custom made treats. My products are made from scratch and fresh to order using fine, quality ingredients. This bakery is dedicated to my late mother, Lisa Sigrist, who was an extraordinary baker and taught me all that I know. My vision is to continue on her legacy and provide individuals in surrounding communities with access to memorable and delicious homemade goods. After high school, I plan to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and pursue a career in business, hopefully continuing on what I have started within the CEO Program.



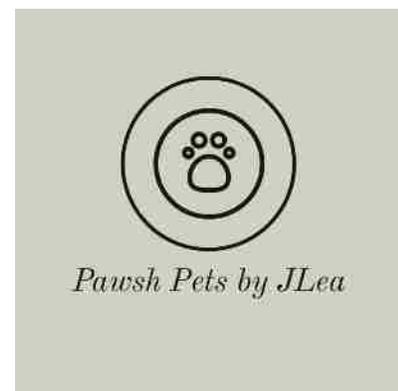
Karina Warfel

My name is Karina Warfel, I am a senior at Arcola High School, and I am the owner of **Karina's Custom Cards**. I have been making handmade cards for my friends and family for years, and the CEO Program has equipped me with the skills necessary to turn a hobby into a real business. I will be offering a variety of designs in both English and Spanish for any occasion, with the hopes of continuing this business as I go onto higher education. I plan to pursue a double major in Art and Spanish at Millikin University and would love to work in a creative field, serve as a translator, or operate a non-profit organization to assist the Spanish-speaking community.



J'Lea York

My name is J'Lea York, and I am a senior at Arcola High School. I am the creator of **Pawsh Pets by J'Lea**. My at-home business aims to provide every pet with a bowl of their own! My customers can now gift their pet/s a handmade, non-slip, stainless steel, personalized pet bowl to enrich the special relationship between them and their family pet/s. I will be offering multiple size, color, and font options, as well as freedom with the text on the pet bowl, ensuring my customers get what they pay for.





An important piece of the CEO experience is visiting local businesses. We want to acknowledge all of the businesses on this page that provided us with a behind-the-scenes look of their business.

- The Great Pumpkin Patch
- Monahan Partners
- CHI Overhead Doors
- Das Holz Haus
- Aikman's Wildlife Adventure
- Green Mill Village
- Panaderia Saldivar
- Coach House Garages
- Willow Tree Wellness Center
- Shady Crest Farm Market
- Pauly's BBQ
- Country Salvage
- Broomtown Cafe
- Douglas County Museum
- Arcola Flower Shop
- Yoder's Homestead Furniture
- Flesor's Candy Kitchen
- Herff Jones



Business Visits

- Building 1225
- Hydro Gear
- Sullivan Bakery
- Agri-Fab
- Catherine's Gallery
- Okaw Valley Orchard
- Marvin Keller Trucking
- Metro Communications
- Whitney Heredia Photography
- Trust Bank
- Vintage Karma
- Ford of Tuscola
- Mid-State Tank
- Best Western
- Pinnacle Point Graphics
- Simply Amish
- Shimmer and Sheek Boutique
- The Libman Company
- Joe's Pizza





CEO students have a unique experience with guest speakers serving as instructors for the program. Community leaders present their life stories and entrepreneurial journeys and share lessons on a variety of business topics.



- Chris Brown
- J. Jouska
- Dr. Kyle Thompson
- Bill Wagoner
- Kelsey Jacobson
- Brian Moody
- Neil Roach
- Dan Howery
- Jackie Vinson
- Brad Pullen
- Anna Postlewait
- Laurrie Minor

Speakers

- Rob Kotic
- Shelly Kauffman-Thomas
- Cassie Yoder
- Holly Olson
- Sage Hale
- Kyle Davenport
- Dale Boyer
- Beverly Hallberg
- Catherine Craig
- Scott Seegmiller
- Kimberly Morrison
- Stan & Lisa Boyer





Christmas Pancakes and PJs Event



During the first semester of the CEO Program, students were tasked with putting together a class business. The students learned what it was like to take risks, problem solve, designate responsibilities, and work as a team. Learning these skills made their class business profitable! With help from 18 sponsors, a well-made breakfast, a gift wrapping station, and pictures with Santa, the Illini Prairie CEO class was able to profit over \$7,200. This money is then divided between the students for their individual business loans.





Class Business Sponsors

It's A Christmas Miracle



Santa Claus is Comin' to Town



Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer



Santa's Workshop



In-kind Donations



“ WORDS OF WISDOM ”

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

-Peter Drucker & Abraham Lincoln



“Some people dream of success. Others make it happen.”

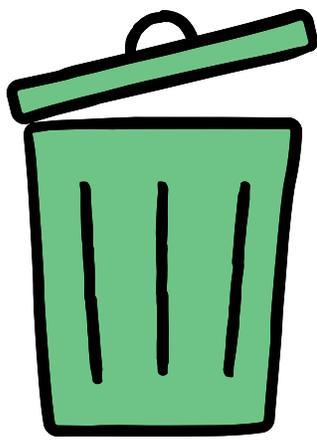
-Winston Churchill

“Good business leaders create a vision, articulate the vision, passionately own the vision, and relentlessly drive it to completion.”

-Jack Welch



Engaging in community service projects provides students with the opportunity to become active members of the communities that so strongly support CEO. They can also be great for communication and team building.



Sullivan - CEO students met with Mayor Glazbrook while going on a trash-collecting group scavenger hunt!



In Arcola, the CEO class went to the local food pantry and helped volunteers with boxing, sorting, and putting up shelving.





2018

Jaycee Brown
Janette Comstock
Paige Davis
Samuel Dickinson

Verania Garza
Madyson Hepner
Madysen Melton
Holly Olson

Zachary Pankau
Kolby Rickman
Mylilani Samples
Ethan Stumeier

2019

Seth Gregory
Gabriel Hallford

Makenzi Kauffman
Sara Kremitzki

Grant McPherson
Samantha Stevens

2020

Jaiden Carnahan
Mariana Corona
Lauren Farley
Lyssa Madlem

Jack Martin
William Nall
Jake Reed
Patricia Rodriguez

Victoria Schuman
Carli Stone
Jakob Sullivan
Max Wyninger

2021

Dillan Alcorn
Aiden Beachy
Preston Brown
Ilusha Budd
Kendra de la Garza

Jake Dyer
Coen Foster
Allison Gordon
Alexa Hauser
Graciela Leal

Jorge Macias
Krish Patel
Carlie Seip
Mackenzie Wright

2022

Thomas Brown
Kenzie Fornshell
Dakota Freese

Makenzie Herschberger
Alex Kuhns
Tyson Macaulay

Zach Ozier
Kelly Toto
Brady Urban



Makenzie Herschberger

"CEO has helped me build a business that I never thought would be so successful. I have no regrets about taking CEO, because it truly taught me amazing skills that I would've never gained without this class. My candle business is something that I'll forever be grateful for. With hard work comes a great reward."



Social Media



Facebook: Illini Prairie CEO



Instagram: Illini Prairie CEO

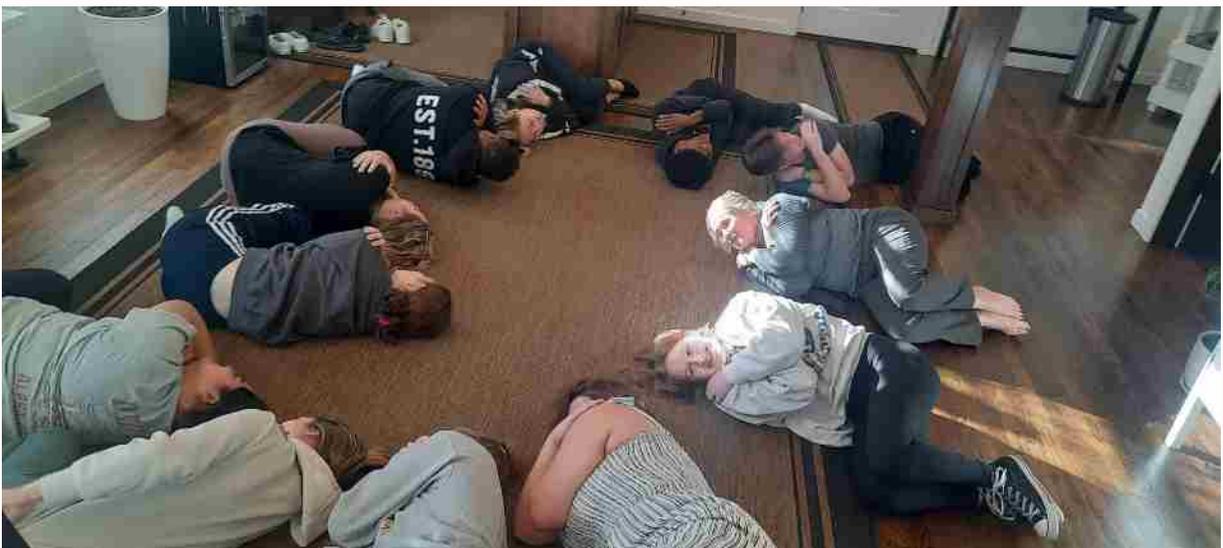
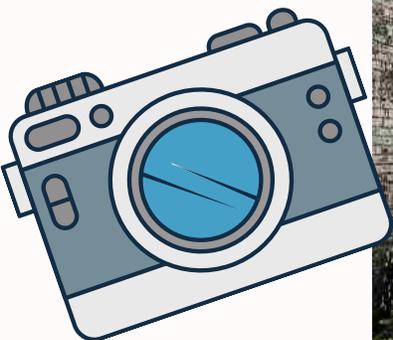
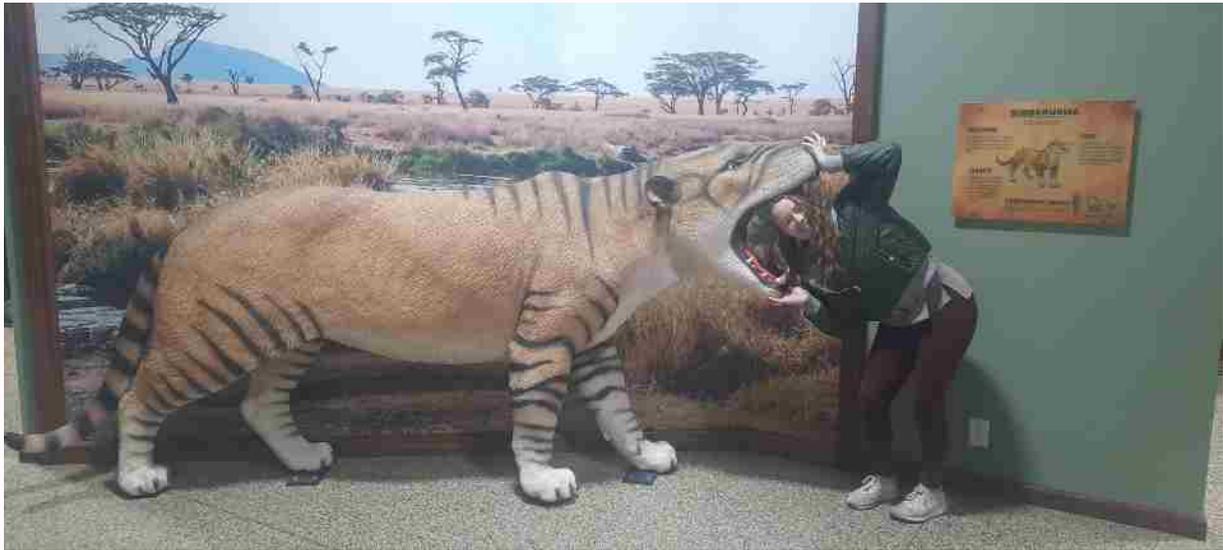
Website



www.illiniprairieceo.com



Random Snaps



I see the wonderful impact this program has on the students of the Arcola, Arthur, Sullivan, and Tuscola communities. I would like to become involved by:

(Please check all that apply)

- Becoming an investor (3-year commitment of \$1,000 each year or \$500 3- year commitment to become a Friend of CEO)
- Finding out more information about becoming a Mentor
- Hosting a class for a tour
- Coming to class as a guest speaker

Name: _____

Business Name _____

E-Mail _____

Mailing address _____

City, State, Zip _____

**COMPLETE AND SUBMIT TO:
1 LIBMAN WAY ARCOLA, IL 61910**