Register for Philanthropy Speaks at The Varsity Center

Thursday, November 7, 2019 the SICF will present a new and unique event to the philanthropic community of Southern Illinois titled Philanthropy Speaks. This event is free but space is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible. This event is not a fundraiser. It is a series of 4 dynamic presentations about philanthropy and legacy giving and how both are shaping non-profits throughout Southern Illinois. After the Social Hour, the program speakers include Michael Frerichs, Illinois State Treasurer; Eric Weinheimer of Forefront Illinois; Mike Absher, Mayor of Marion, IL; & Joan Dixon, CEO of the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois. Register here.

Jackson County CEO Organization Holds Breakfast

Business leaders Nic Skovgaard, Doug Edgar, and Darin Fager speak with commerce-minded high school students at the Jackson County CEO Breakfast.

The CEO (“Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities”) program, funded through SICF, enables high school students in rural Southern Illinois to become self-reliant, enterprising individuals who will gain the confidence and skills to start successful businesses in their communities. At the event, students shook hands with business leaders and enjoyed delicious fruit and biscuits. John Pfiefer, Development Specialist at The Women’s Center, introduced a group of over a dozen high school students who each stood up and told a full 17th Street Warehouse in Murphysboro about their motivations and business projects. Mayor Will Stephens gave an inspirational talk and Nic Skovgaard of Alter Ego Marketing, who is the facilitator of the Jackson County CEO program, spoke about the organization. There were several current investors and governing board members present from across Jackson County who also serve as business coaches to the students.
New Scholarship Fund Honors Former Marine

SICF now includes 16 different funds in our scholarship program for worthy students pursuing higher education. In 2019 the SICF scholarship funds have awarded $95,650 thus far. One of the new funds for 2019 is the **Bartolotti Scholarship Fund**, created by the family and friends of Richard Bartolotti to honor all that he did to support his community. A Vietnam veteran who served in the United States Marine Corps, Richard Bartolotti was a Silver Star and Purple Heart recipient who was a member of the UMWA, Franklin County Housing Authority Board, Christopher American Legion, Sesser VFW, and a Life Member of the Disabled American Vets. **Sesser-Valier high school graduates continuing their education at an Illinois college, university, or technical institute may apply for this scholarship starting in 2020.**

The Varsity Center Fund

The Varsity Center Fund is designated for the perpetual support of one of the most vibrant, important film, performance and event venues in Carbondale, IL, **The Varsity Center.**

The United Way of Southern Illinois Fund

This new fund benefits the **United Way of Southern Illinois**, which improves the educational and living conditions of children and youth and also serves adults and seniors in 14 counties.

The Climate Economy Fund

The Climate Economy Fund was created to support **The Climate Economy**, an Illinois nonprofit corporation that provides education, ideas and resources about how to thrive in a world with a changing climate by reconnecting to nature, our fellow humans and our personal passions. This fund focuses on new business models that are required in the face of climate change, where businesses can work to the benefit of the environment, the economy and humanity. Organizer Amy McMorrow Hunter explained in a Southern Illinoisan article: “In the climate economy we’re thinking about reducing our carbon footprint, not only because it can save money and the environment but also because it’s the right thing to do.” This fund was one of the local sponsors of the conference and workshop titled **The Climate Economy in Southern Illinois – Creating Resilient Businesses, Jobs and Communities** on June 12 and 13, 2019 held at the Carbondale Civic Center.

Welcome Cynthia Roth, New SICF Program Associate!

Cynthia Roth is a writer, artist, and small business owner who taught design for nine years at SIU Carbondale. Her non-profit experience includes serving on the board of the Shawnee Health Service for 7 years and founding the Big Muddy Garden Club in Murphysboro, IL. She will be working part time for the SICF and the Miss Illinois scholarship program from our new offices at 1800 W. Boulevard in Marion, IL.