



2025 IMPACT REPORT

The Governor's School for Entrepreneurs planned and executed another groundbreaking year in 2025, welcoming our largest Summer Startup single session in history and forging new partnerships that expand opportunities for students across the commonwealth.

With your support, we continue to identify, inspire, and empower Kentucky's future leaders.

Summer Startup

During our intensive, inspirational three-week program, high school students develop life-changing entrepreneurial skills.

Collegiate Pitch

College teams from across Kentucky make their pitches, competing for funds to pursue their business dreams in the Bluegrass.

The Ecosystem

We're building an active network of GSE's Summer Startup and Collegiate Pitch alums. Events, support, networking, and more.

GSE

Summer Startup



80+

Kentucky-based
businesses launched
by Summer Startup
alumni

106
Counties Served

1,258

Young Entrepreneurs
Empowered

Creating Opportunity Across the Commonwealth Since 2013

52%

Female
Students

48%

Male
Students

24%

Students
of Color

≥61%

Attended/Attending
College in KY

“You can’t put a price on the networking at GSE. I met incredible peers who will be future business leaders in Kentucky, along with inspiring speakers who may one day be my business partners.”

Thomas M.
GRANT COUNTY





GSE Collegiate Pitch

“Summer Startup will have a profound impact on my future. The friendships I made, the personal growth I experienced, and the confidence I gained throughout the process are truly unmatched.”

Taylor W.
HENDERSON COUNTY



“When I first came to GSE, I knew I wanted to own a business. Now I know I want to own a business and do something that gives back to my community—tying those two passions together.”

Alisyn C.
PERRY COUNTY

Funding Changemakers Since 2019

19
Colleges Served

169
Pitches Judged

54
Kentucky-Based
Businesses
Awarded Funds

“Getting to see other entrepreneurs in their element and pitching our own business—it really inspired us, along with the opportunity to network and collaborate. We wouldn’t be here without GSE.”

Golden Mashindi
JETSKI 502
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

“I gained more confidence. Collegiate Pitch helped me really believe in my idea. It just fuels you to keep going.”

Madison Bates
R.A.M. DEVICES
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

“Receiving feedback from the judges was amazing. I feel really confident about our product and how we can improve. It was a great experience, I had a blast.”

Emmanuel Haynes
G&E SOLUTIONS
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE





Board of Directors

- Koleman Karleski Chair
- Randall Stevens Treasurer
- Anne Nash Secretary
- Ceci Conway Boden
- Dr. Bill Dickens

GSE Leadership Team

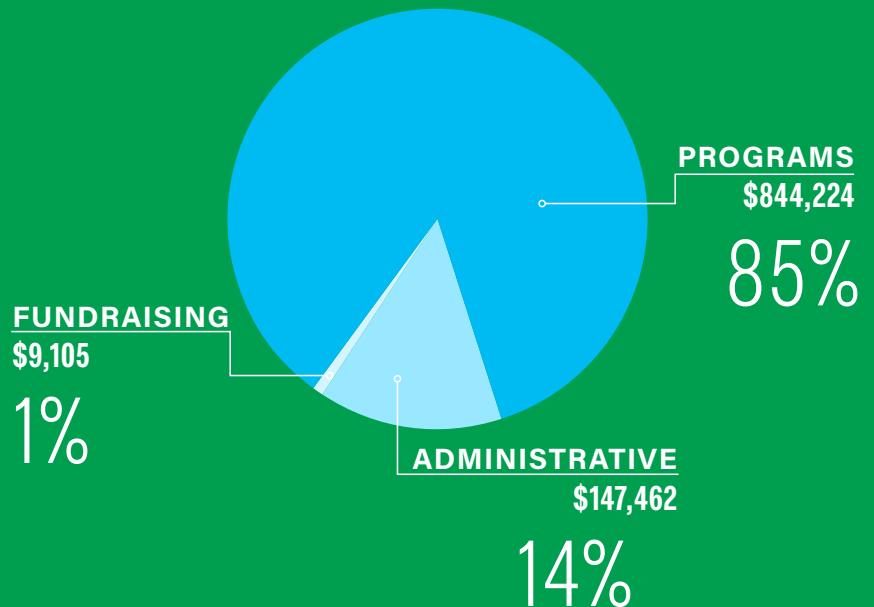
- Anne Jewell
President and CEO
- Erica Rust Pennington
Program Director
- Ev Lear
Program Coordinator



2025 Financials

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Total Income | \$1,195,091 |
| Total Ending Net Assets | \$1,670,211 |

ALLOCATION OF DOLLARS



Give Back

Our transformative programs are free for students, thanks to generous financial support.

Invest in Kentucky's future with us!

DONATE NOW

kentuckygse.com/donate

