

# **MEMBER MEETUP**



[July 23rd, 2025](#)

# Agenda



1. Bagels & Coffee
2. Intros
3. Keeping up with ID
4. Upcoming Events & Offerings for Members
5. **ID Member Spotlight:** Dr. Christina Podraza from Peak Principal Consulting
6. **ID Member Resource:** Dan Facchini & Joe Cassidy from Innovation DuPage

# Keeping up with ID:



- **Member Portal is available for your use!**
- **Room Booking is available through the portal**
- Owner 2 CEO applications for Fall sessions are open!

O2CEO:

- O2CEO Start and End Date: 08.26.2025 – 10.30.2025
- O2CEO Application Deadline: 08.08.2025

Scan the QR code to keep up with the news:



# GRANT Opportunity!!!



- Apply for the **2025 Backing Small Businesses Grant** — 400 grants of \$10K available to help local businesses grow, recover, and deepen community impact. **Applications close July 31 at 11:59 p.m. CT.**



Scan the QR code to Apply Now:



# Upcoming Workshop:





## The Certification Process



**Presenter: Dr. Ileen Kelly**

A big picture discussion to small business contracting certifications (set-aside programs).

- Introduction level 101
- Benefits of major certifications & key eligibility
- An overview of the requirements & nuances

**Wednesday, August 13, 2025**

🕒 5:30 - 7 p.m.

📍 535 Duane St. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Scan to register and attend:



# Upcoming Event:



## Event Details

**Date:** Thursday, July 24, 2025

**Time:** 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**Location:** College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

**Venue:** Student Resource Center, SRC 2000



Scan to register and attend:

# Resources and Workshops



# Additional Resources



**Strategic Business Advisor**

**Mike Varon**  
**Innovation DuPage**



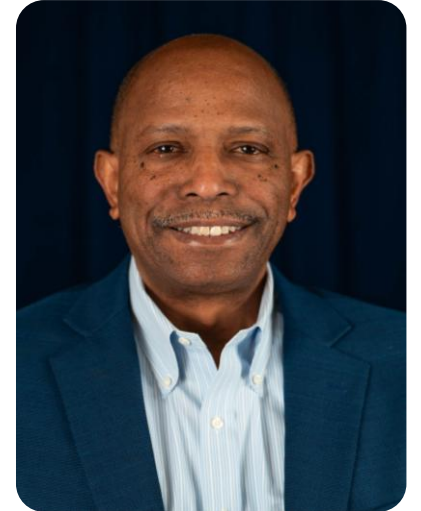
**Entrepreneur-in-Residence**

**Melissa Villanueva**  
**Innovation DuPage**



**Strategic Technology Advisor**

**Justin Mayer**  
**Innovation DuPage**



**Executive-in-Residence**

**Bill Payne**  
**Innovation DuPage**





# **MEMBER MEETUP**



## **ID Member Spotlight:**

Peak Principal Consulting

Dr. Christina Podraza



**Dr. Christina Podraza**

*Empowering new principals to  
become transformational  
leaders*

# Dr. Christina Podraza

- Experienced leader with 25 years in education
- Former principal of an Illinois Exemplary School
- Doctorate in Educational Leadership & Organizational Change
- 10+ years coaching in schools around the country





# School Leadership Matters



Decades of research has shown that students learn substantially more in both reading and math in schools with more effective principals.

-The Wallace Foundation



# School Leaders Want Support



Principal turnover in the United States is estimated to be between 12-18%.

A recent review of the research by the Learning Policy Institute shows that the number one reason principals leave is inadequate preparation & coaching support. (2019)



# The Peak Principal Success Path



- 10 month comprehensive coaching program designed to support new principals in their first year of leadership
- Focuses on three key areas\*
  - School Culture
  - Instructional Leadership
  - Data Analysis
- Sets principals up for success by helping them to prioritize goals and create effective systems

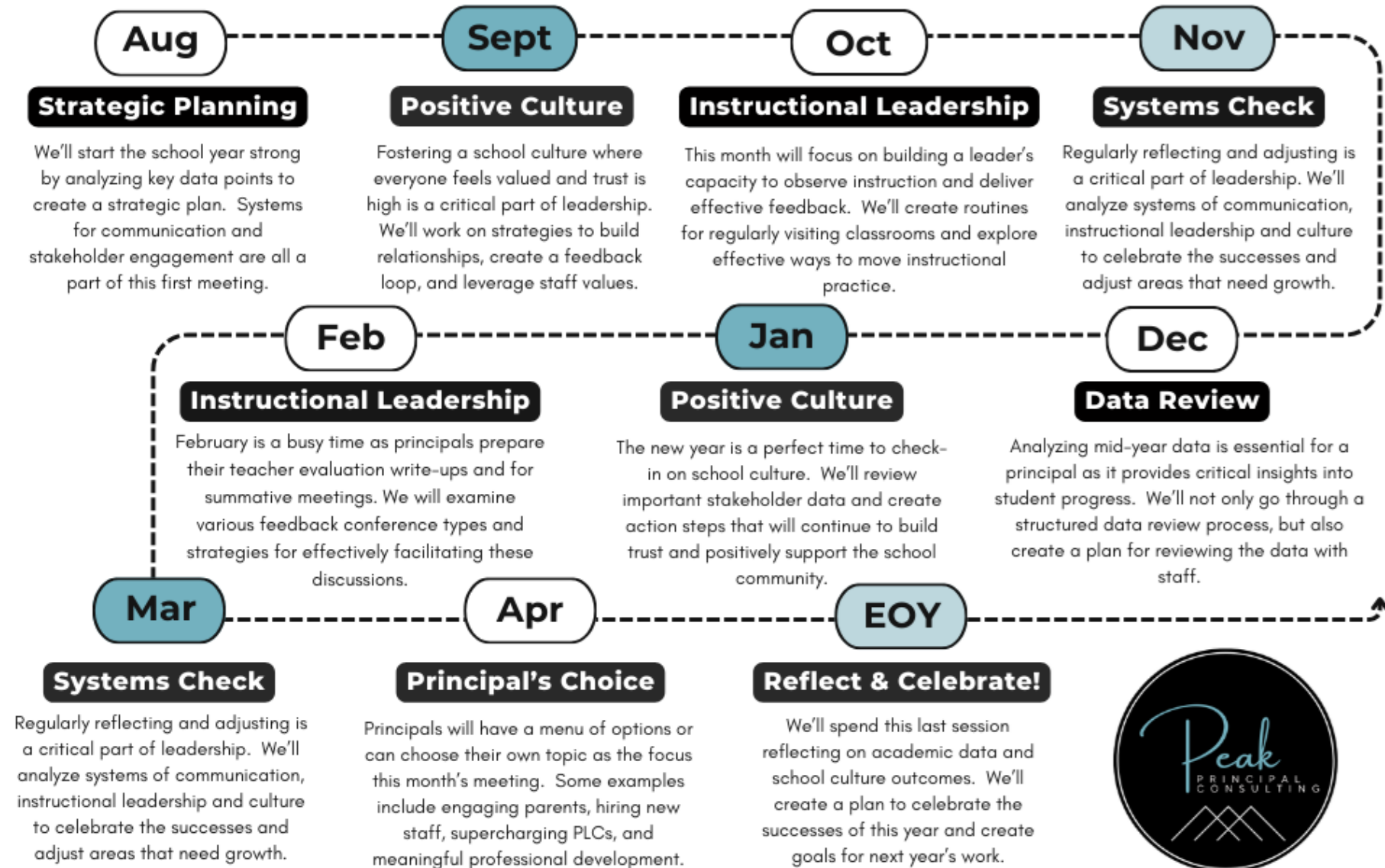
# The Peak Principal Success Path



- **Strategic Planning Session (3 Hours)**
- **Monthly Focused Coaching Sessions (1-2 Hours)**
  - School Culture
  - Instructional Leadership
  - Data Analysis
- **Unlimited Access to the *Principal Success Studio***
- **Bi-Monthly Leadership Webinars & Networking**
- **Email/Phone Call Support**



# The Principal Success Path





# Peak Principal Consulting Value



3 Hour Strategic Planning Session	\$1,500
Monthly 1:1 Coaching Sessions	\$8,500
The Principal Success Studio Resources	\$2,500
Bimonthly Leadership Webinars & Networking	\$1500
Email/Phone Call Support	\$1,000
<b>BONUS:</b> Principal Preparation Webinar Recordings	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	\$16,000

Cost of the **Principal Success Path**: \$6000 per school

***The Principal Success Path: Transforming Inexperience into Impact***

# Competitors



## Illinois Principals Association

Offers mentoring and coaching programs, including a program for first-year, first-time lead/head principals in contract lengths of 20, 40, or 60 hours, including one-on-one and optional collective mentoring sessions. Cost is between \$1749-6734 depending on number of hours and membership status.

## Regional Offices of Education

Free mentoring program that connects a new principal with a mentor for generalized coaching. (Depending on federal & state funding, there can be a charge for this program)

## Other Education Consulting Companies

Offer a variety of non-specific leadership coaching services

# Ideal Client



**Role:** Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent or Director of Human Resources

**Location:** Midwest

## Goals & Motivation:

- Ensure successful transitions for newly hired principals
- Improve principal retention rates
- Accelerate new principal effectiveness
- Create consistency in leadership practices across schools
- Build a positive district reputation to attract talent
- Reduce time spent personally mentoring struggling principals
- Show measurable results to superintendent and school board



# How I Can Help



***Thought Partner*** - My reputation as a coach is someone who *asks really good questions & helps me to create my own solutions*

***Educator Network*** - I'd be happy to partner on a project or share your business with education professionals I know

***Leadership Workshops & Keynote Speaking*** - I offer a variety of workshops & engaging presentations on leadership topics including change management, innovation & positive work culture





# Support I Need



***Building Awareness & Brand Recognition*** - Share information about Peak Principal Consulting with Superintendents & Assistant Superintendents of Human Resources  
[peakprincipalconsulting.com](https://peakprincipalconsulting.com)

**Collaboration Opportunities** - Opportunity to co-present or co-facilitate trainings, workshops, podcasts, social media (@peakprincipalconsulting)





**Dr. Christina Podraza**

*peakprincipalconsulting.com*

*630-440-9734*

*cpodraza@peakprincipalconsulting.com*

*@peakprincipalconsulting*

# **MEMBER MEETUP**



## **ID Member Resource:**

Innovation DuPage  
Dan Facchini & Joe Cassidy

# Collaborate • Scale • Succeed

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INNOVATION  
DUPAGE

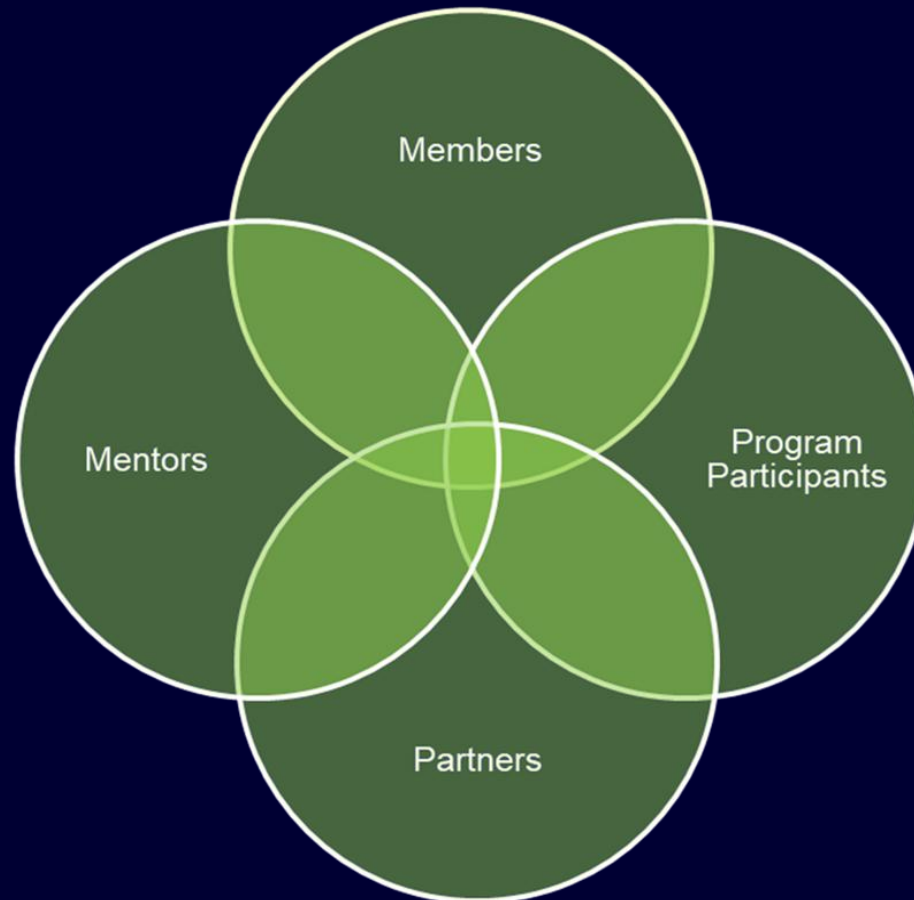




# Four Primary Stakeholders



A community based around the needs of entrepreneurs and small businesses



# Six Years of Impact



- More than 400 companies in residence
- 165+ active members, representing:
  - Over \$46M in annual revenue
  - More than 850 full- and part- time jobs
  - 70% Women and/or minority businesses
  - 70% Based in DuPage County
  - 30% Self-identify as low- to moderate- income
- Over \$750,000 in scholarships awarded
- 0% equity stake taken
- 175+ student internships provided
- Thousands engaged through workshops and events

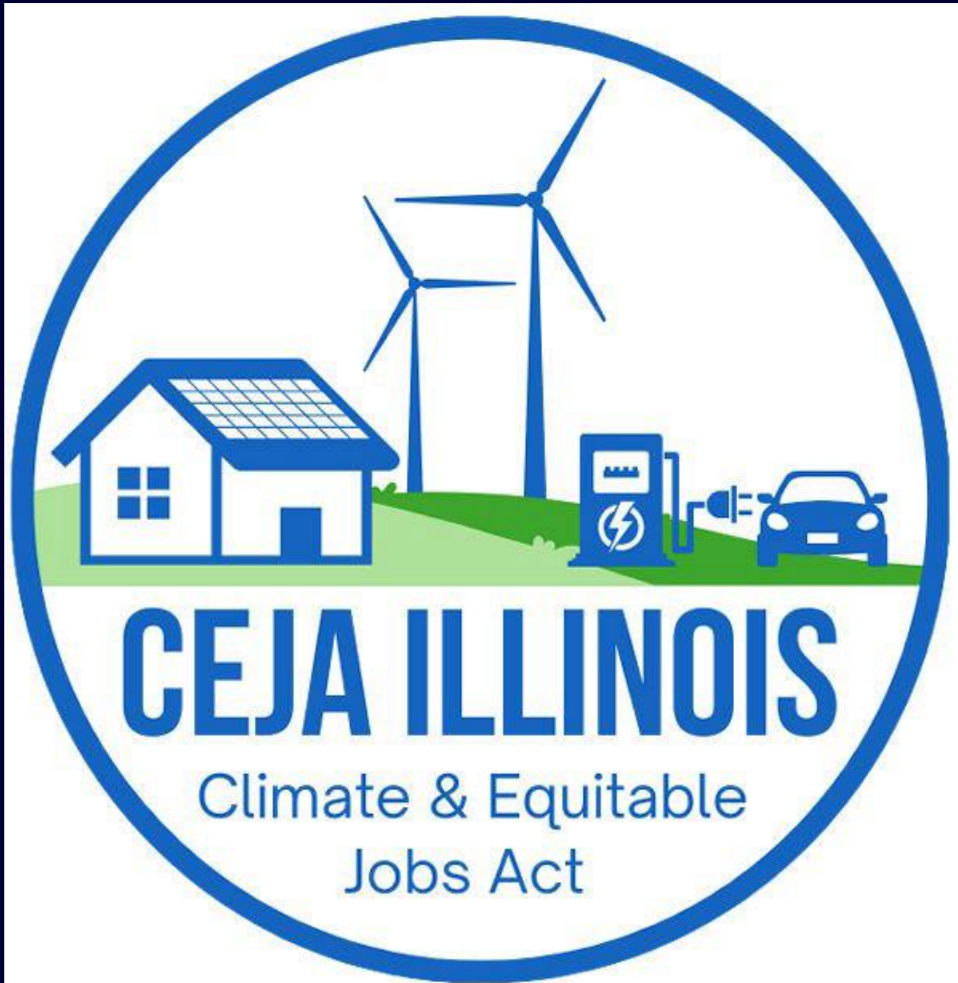


**INNOVATION  
DUPAGE**

## **In FY25, Innovation DuPage:**

- Welcomed 56 new members
- Accelerated 36 small businesses
- Delivered 250+ business consultations
- Hosted 24 Member Meetups
- Produced 15 workshops and special events
- Published 100+ social media posts
- Created and sent 50 email newsletters
- Facilitated 15 public speaking opportunities
- Launched the Member Portal
- Administered the Annual Survey
- Conducted a Membership Survey

# What's to come in FY26



## Continued Growth:

- Attracted 8 new members so far in FY26
- Launch the 20<sup>th</sup> cohort of Owner 2 CEO in Fall 2025
- Deeper partnerships with WGN Radio & Daily Herald
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Midwest Innovation & Entrepreneurship Summit

## New Initiatives:

- Clean Energy Incubator Program
- Grow ID to 12 staff
- Connecting members through Industry Clusters
- Welcome a new president at COD
- New Partnerships, Events and Opportunities



# Testimonials



***"I can tell you firsthand that innovation DuPage has helped me scale my business!"*** - Eduardo Salgado, CS Architectural Woodworking

***"The innovation DuPage community has been an amazing place to collaborate."*** - Kieth Wakeman, Super Better

***"I love being able to bounce different ideas off the other entrepreneurs. Innovation DuPage saves all of us time, it saves us money, and it gets us growing faster than we could have on our own."***  
- Joe Barron, Gray Matters Games

***"Innovation DuPage has brought us resources beyond belief, and they've made connections for us that we could have never made on our own."*** - Maureen Longoria & Lisa Burns, LivNow

***"Whether it's their co-working space, weekly meetups or their Owner to CEO accelerator program, Innovation DuPage is a great place to learn, grow and network in DuPage County."***  
- Melissa Villanueva, Brewpoint Coffee

***"The Owner to CEO program has truly transformed my leadership skills and my strategic thinking and I have built so many beneficial relationships."*** - Shian Jno-Lewis, Tidy Queens

***"Innovation DuPage has been a miracle for me. They've really helped me understand what it is to be a business owner, how I can grow my business, and be the best I can possibly be."***  
- Heidy LaFleur, Heidy with a Why

***"As a new entrepreneur, I quickly learned that this is not a journey to be done alone. You need support and a community to advise you along the way. I have found exactly that at Innovation DuPage."***  
- Jason Krantz, Strategy Titan

***"When you're a startup, you have limited resources. Innovation DuPage helps fill those gaps."*** - Kim Grotto, Gotivation

***ID was hands-on in helping me properly position our product and get in front of the best partners for our company"*** - Brent Hasse, Flat LLC

# Collaborate • Scale • Succeed

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**Catch the next Meetup on 08/06/2025**



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