



From the Managing Director.....

Clean Energy Incubator Program Launches

Innovation DuPage is thrilled to announce the launch of the Clean Energy Incubator Program, a bold new initiative powered by a three-year grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Secured by the College of DuPage and funded through the Clean and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), this program is designed to support Illinois-based startups driving innovation in the clean energy sector.

This program offers access to expert guidance, strategic support, and a thriving entrepreneurial community. Currently, approximately 10% of Innovation DuPage companies are focused on Clean Technology, and this initiative will strengthen our commitment to building a more sustainable and inclusive economy, while helping clean energy entrepreneurs across the region turn bold ideas into impactful businesses.

Are you interested in applying or know someone who would be a great fit? Contact [Bill Payne](#) to learn more about this opportunity.

Annual Survey Results

At our upcoming Member Meetup (07.23), Dan Facchini and Joe Cassidy will present the results from our Annual Survey, exploring Innovation DuPage's past achievements, current impact, and future direction within the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

NIU MBA Capstone Program

Northern Illinois University's MBA Capstone Program offers an exciting opportunity for local companies to receive comprehensive strategic business plans developed by Executive MBA student teams. Under the guidance of Professor Ed Buckley, these teams integrate their expertise in sales, marketing, finance, operations, and technology to create value for participating organizations. If your company is interested in having an MBA team develop a business plan, please contact Ed Buckley by **August 11th** at ed.buckley@allqualityinc.com or (847) 778-6960.

Coming up:

- **Makers and Shakers: Money Rewritten, 07.17:** Join Melissa Villanueva, our Entrepreneur in Residence and CEO of Brewpoint Coffee, for the latest edition of her entrepreneur event series on July 17, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Stage 119 in Elmhurst. This financial-focused event brings together business leaders and expert panelists sharing practical insights on managing finances, scaling your business, and building sustainable growth. Whether you're launching a new venture or looking to strengthen your financial foundation, this event offers actionable guidance and valuable networking opportunities. [Register here.](#)
- **Member Meetup, 07.23:** In addition to the presentation of the Annual Survey results, Christina Podraza, founder of Inspired Education, will present as our Member Spotlight, sharing her entrepreneurial journey and business insights.
- **2025 Manufacturing Solutions Summit, 07.24:** Don't miss the 2025 Manufacturing Solutions Summit on Thursday, July 24, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at College of DuPage's Student Resource Center. Hosted by College of DuPage, Argonne National Laboratory, and the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition, this event brings together industry experts and business leaders to explore the future of Illinois manufacturing. Connect with professionals, discover growth opportunities, and learn how national labs and academic resources can drive business success. Innovation DuPage is proud to partner with Make It In Illinois and Choose DuPage on this event. Contact Julie Ryan at ryanj864@cod.edu for details. [Register here.](#)

Much Appreciated

Thank you to David Lung, Founder & CEO of [NuCaffeine](#), for his Member Spotlight presentation and to Ed Buckley, Professor at Northern Illinois University, for serving as our Member Resource at our recent Member Meetup. David shared his entrepreneurial journey and showcased NuCaffeine's liquid caffeine concentrate that provides a customizable energy solution without the sugars and artificial additives found in traditional energy drinks. Ed presented the opportunity for his Executive MBA students to create comprehensive business plans for interested Innovation DuPage members through this collaborative program.

Farewell

Charlotte Chandok's last day at Innovation DuPage was Monday 7.07. We wish her well on her future endeavors.

Many thanks, and have a great week,

Dan Facchini

Dan Facchini,
Managing Director,
Innovation DuPage