



INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

ID Staff Updates

Thank you to Justin Mayer as he steps away from his role as Strategic Technology Advisor in order to meet the demands of his growing business.

Meanwhile, our staff is quickly growing, and we are excited to welcome the following new members to the team:

- **Jill McWilliams** joins as **Partnerships Manager**, building and strengthening relationships with our network of partners and supporters.
- **Beth Wymyslowski** joins as **Operations Director**, overseeing organizational operations and ensuring smooth daily functions across Innovation DuPage.
- **Ricardo Magallon** joins as **Program Manager** for our Clean Energy Incubator Program, leading leading recruitment and advisement to incoming clean energy businesses
- **Arlinda Bajrami** joins as **Program Assistant** for our Clean Energy Incubator Program, supporting day-to-day operations, coordinating events, and assisting with participant onboarding.
- **Ozge Guney** joins as **Strategic Business Advisor** for our Clean Energy Incubator Program, and will be helping develop and deliver cohort-based training for clean energy companies.
- **Jim Bell** is transitioning from his operations director role to **Partnerships Coordinator**, where he will focus on strengthening our relationships with area chambers of commerce and our academic partners.

Opportunities



Clean Energy Incubator Program

Seeking Clean Tech Companies!

Innovation DuPage is actively looking for startups and small businesses working in the clean energy or clean technology industry - or referrals to companies that could benefit from our targeted support.

To Learn
More

Coming Up

Help "Rhymes with Duck" Win a TAGIE Award!



Long-time Innovation DuPage member company Gray Matters Games is a TAGIE Awards finalist for their game "Rhymes with Duck"!

You can find them in Category #4: Adult/Family Game Innovator.

Vote here by Oct. 24th!

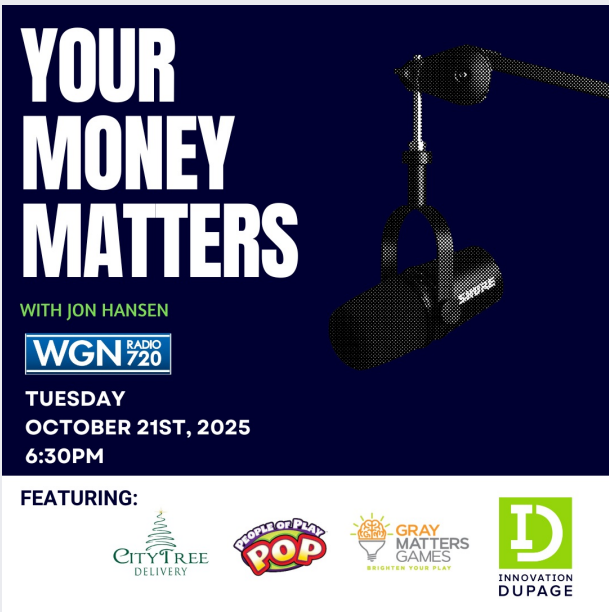
Live Webinar: Understanding the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act"



Our partner SCORE Fox Valley is hosting a webinar on **October 20th at 6:30 p.m.** on the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" of 2025, the most comprehensive tax overhaul in recent years Join this session to understand how these changes impact entrepreneurs and get answers to your questions so you can make informed decisions for your business and personal finances.

To Learn More and Register

WGN Radio, Your Money Matters
City Tree Delivery, People of Play, and Gray Matters Games



Don't miss this month's "Your Money Matters" on WGN 720 AM on **Tuesday, October 21st at 6:30 p.m.** Host Jon Hansen will welcome Innovation DuPage member companies City Tree Delivery, Gray Matters Games, and People of Play alongside ID Managing Director Dan Facchini. They'll highlight City Tree's convenient Christmas tree delivery service and the upcoming Toy and Game fair.

ID October Workshop: Top 10 Tax Strategies for Entrepreneurs



Top 10 Tax Strategies for Entrepreneurs

Presenters: Sean O'Connell & Peter Avila



- Maximize deductions & depreciation
- Simplify accounting & mileage tracking
- Plan smarter with retirement & §529 options
- Navigate sales, marketing & QBI strategies

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

🕒 5:30 - 7 p.m.

📍 535 Duane St. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Join us on **October 22nd at 5:30 p.m.** for Innovation DuPage's October workshop on key tax strategies for small business owners. Like all of our workshops, this session is free and open to the public.

To Learn More and Register

Join the Celebration: Member Book Launch



Come celebrate Innovation DuPage member Heidi LaFleur, CEO of Heidi With a Why, Inc., as she launches her new book "Better the Ball Leadership" on**October 23rd from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** at Innovation DuPage.

"Better the Ball Leadership" highlights becoming unselfishly aware, solution-seeking, and fiercely determined to make a difference in the lives of others. The book features a foreword by NFL placekicker Robbie Gould.

Appetizers and drinks will be served. We hope to see you there!

RSVP Here

Explore Global Markets: Illinois Export Roadshow



The International Trade Center of the Business Development Center at College of DuPage invites you to the Illinois Export Roadshow on **October 28th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** at the Business Development Center, 535 Duane Street, Training Room 301, Glen Ellyn.

Connect with trade specialists to learn about export strategies, the Illinois State Trade and Export Promotion (ISTEP) program, and state resources to help your business expand internationally.

To Learn More and

NaperLaunch Academy: Growing a Business



Join **Naperville Public Library** for a four-week series focused on helping you craft a business plan and sharing tools to get a business off the ground. To get the most out of the program, participants should attend all sessions and complete homework assignments outside of class. Register by **October 29th**.

To Learn More and Register



Join biweekly Member Meetups at Innovation DuPage! Network, enjoy bagels & coffee, and learn from spotlight members & resource experts.

October 29th from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Member Spotlight: Renetta Gunn-Stevens of Sophisticated Press
Member Resource: Christine.Kickels of All Rise Legal Counsel

If you can't make it in person, attend virtually through our [Zoom Link](#)

[Sign up](#) to present at a future Member Meetup

Female Founders Quarterly Meeting: November 6th



Innovation DuPage is hosting a series of in-person gatherings for women entrepreneurs, designed to foster authentic connection and personal growth. Led by ID member and nationally recognized Emotional Intelligence coach Jules Wilhelm, these sessions offer a thoughtful space for deeper dialogue, reflection, and relationship building.

This event is exclusive to Innovation DuPage members.

Members must sign into the portal to register.

2025 Chicago Toy and Game Fair



The annual Chicago Toy & Game Fair takes place November 8th-9th at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont. Long-time Innovation DuPage member Joe Barron, founder of Gray Matters Games, will be there showcasing their family and adult party games. Stop by to play some of their fun games and see what this family-owned business has been creating!

Get your Free Ticket Using Code:
ID2025

Thank You



Thank you to Rob Glaser, Founder and CEO of Virtual Time Capsule, for his Member Spotlight presentation. Rob discussed how his platform helps people preserve and share messages, photos, videos, stories, and conversations with loved ones in the future, creating lasting legacies for generations to come.



Thank you to Leslee Cohen of All Rise Legal Counsel for her Member Resource presentation. Leslee explained how her firm supports entrepreneurs through legal guidance on mergers, acquisitions, securities, and other business transactions that help companies grow.

Let us help you share your success with the ID community!
Share a recent win – big or small. It could be featured in our next letter! Email your accomplishment to [Hannah Macey](#).

Resources

Clean Energy Incubator Program

Member Portal Login Page

Member Meetup Signup Sheet



Reminder: Innovation DuPage is open for members as a coworking space 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Keep up with Innovation DuPage on social media!



Innovation DuPage | 535 Duane St. | Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 US

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