



INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

Happy Holidays!



From the ID Staff, wishing you all the merriest of holidays and a happy new year. We will be out of office from Wednesday, December 24th, to January 4th. We will return to normal office hours on Monday, January 5th.

New for 2026!

Coming in the new year, Innovation DuPage is launching a new meeting series, designed to connect ID Members working in the same industry. Industry Clusters will give you the opportunity to:

- Network with peers in your field
- Share resources and tools
- Discuss trends and challenges
- Request future speakers and programming

Clusters will meet 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in our event space, right after our regular Member Meetups (9:30–10:30 p.m. on Wednesdays). You're welcome to attend both! Here's the schedule for the new year:

- Jan 7 – Technology
- Jan 21 – Consumer Goods & Services
- Feb 4 – EdTech & Education
- Mar 4 – Female Founders
- Mar 18 – Marketing

More details and invitations coming soon. Questions? Reach out to [Elina Conley](#), ID's Entrepreneur in Residence.

Opportunities

Construction Owner-2-CEO Applications Now Open



Are you or someone you know in the construction industry looking to take your business to the next level? Innovation DuPage and HACIA's Construction Owner-2-CEO is a free 10-week virtual business accelerator for construction professionals.

Gain expertise in project management, contract bidding, leadership, marketing strategy, and human resources through expert-led training and networking.

[Apply here by January 12th](#)

Clean Energy Incubator Grant Opportunity

Members participating in Innovation DuPage's Clean Energy Incubator (CEI) Program can now apply for the Equitable Energy Future Grant Program through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). This program provides substantial funding for pre-development activities that advance renewable energy and energy-efficient initiatives.

Grant Details:

- Award Range: \$250,000 – \$1,000,000
- Application Deadline: **December 31st, 2025**

Contact **Bill Payne**, Director of the Clean Energy Incubator Program, for support through the application process.

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)

Amex Shop Small Grants Program

To help small businesses grow, innovate, and support their local communities, American Express is teaming up with Main Street America this Small Business Saturday® to launch the Amex Shop Small Grants Program. The Program will provide an initial \$5 million to fund 250 grants of \$20,000 each to eligible small business owners across the US.

To be eligible for this program, applicants must:

- Own a for-profit, independently owned small business
- Operate out of a physical “brick-and-mortar” storefront
- Be located in one of the 50 U.S. states or Washington, DC (Businesses located in U.S. territories are not eligible)
- Currently employ 20 or less FTE (Full Time Equivalent) employees

They are seeking proposals for projects to help your small business grow, innovate, and support your local community.

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)

Are You Looking For Sustainability Resources?



Check out Cool DuPage, a new initiative from DuPage County's Environmental Division, offered through its **Sustainable DuPage program**. Innovation DuPage is proud to partner with the County to help clean-energy startups and sustainable businesses thrive.

The County's **Business Sustainability page** provides a practical toolkit that complements ID's entrepreneurial support. Through no-cost resources like the **Green Business Assessment and Planning Tool**, companies can:

- Evaluate energy use, waste, and facility operations
- Receive tailored action plans
- Access incentives such as energy-efficiency grants, renewable-energy rebates, and long-term financing options like **Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)**

By combining ID's incubation expertise with DuPage County's sustainability programs—including Cool DuPage—we're creating a powerful pathway for businesses to scale responsibly, reduce costs, and contribute to a greener regional economy.

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



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

The next Member Meetup will be on January 7th from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. followed by the Technology Cluster Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Member Spotlight: Scott Hubbard of Hubbard Communication

Member Resource: Patty Cavanaugh of Your Local Gem

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

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

The 2nd Annual Midwest Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summit



College of DuPage and Innovation DuPage Present **The Midwest Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summit**

**Thursday
Feb. 26
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Networking and drinks to follow

Jack H. Turner Conference Center
Student Resource Center
(SRC 2000)

Free attendance
Lunch and refreshments
provided

Learn more and register
<http://bit.ly/47R686Z>



AI, Quantum and the Future of Work

The Midwest is famous for getting things done. Since the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, the Chicago area has been a hub of innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurs.

Join College of DuPage President Dr. Muddassir Siddiqi, along with a host of thought leaders and experts, for the second annual Midwest Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summit. Moderated by Jon Hansen of WGN Radio, the summit will explore emerging markets with industry trailblazers from organizations including Intel, Lenovo and more.

Featured Sessions

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Work
- Critical Resources to Build Your Entrepreneurial Team
- Practical Strategies for Funding Your Startup
- Emerging Markets: Quantum, Fintech, Advanced Manufacturing and Clean Energy
- Inspirational Success Stories from Successful Entrepreneurs

College of DuPage

INNOVATION
DUPAGE

For ADA accommodations, please email access@cod.edu with the event title in the subject line and your accommodation request. Please email two weeks in advance.
©2025 College of DuPage. All rights reserved. CE-25-112954(12/25)300

[Register Here](#)

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!