



INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

Staff Update

Innovation DuPage is currently seeking a Clean Energy Incubator Program Associate to support our expanding program. Interested candidates — or those with referrals — are encouraged to contact our Operations Director, Beth Wymyslowski, for more information.

Opportunities

ID Member Pins

If you haven't yet, stop by Beth's office to pick up your ID Member Pin. And please remember to wear your pin to the Midwest Innovation and Entrepreneurship Summit on February 26! It's a great way to show your connection to the ID community while networking with entrepreneurs, investors, and industry leaders.

Sign Up for Green News

Innovation DuPage is excited to launch Green News, our official bi-weekly newsletter focused on clean energy, sustainability, and updates from our Clean Energy Incubator Program. All CEI Program participants will be automatically subscribed. If you're not a CEI Program participant but would like to receive Green News, please contact [Hannah Macey](#) to register.

NIU MBA Capstone Program: One Spot Left for an ID Member!



Northern Illinois University
Your Future. Our Focus.

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.

This impactful program has already supported nearly 20 Innovation DuPage member companies, and NIU is still seeking one more ID Member company to participate this cycle.

If your company is interested in having an MBA team develop a customized business plan, please contact Ed Buckley by February 28 at: ed.buckley@allqualityinc.com, or (847) 778-6960

New Resource for ID Members: PitchBook

Innovation DuPage is excited to announce that PitchBook is now available as a research and fundraising resource for our members. Entrepreneurs seeking angel investment, venture capital, or strategic partnerships can now tap into PitchBook's extensive data on investors, deals, and emerging market trends to support their growth. Anyone interested in accessing this resource should be in touch with Ricardo Magallon, Mike Varon or Dan Facchini.

ID Member Industry Clusters

Innovation DuPage has launched 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 10:45 a.m.–12:00 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 next quarter:

- Feb 4 – EdTech & Education
 - February 18 - Commercial Goods & Services
 - March 18 – Marketing
 - April 1 – Technology
 - April 29 – Consumer Goods & Services
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- March 4 - Female Founders from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

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

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 March 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Member Spotlight: Elina Conley of Azenity Consulting
Member Resource: Brad McConnell of Allies for Community Business

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

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

APEX Accelerator: Annual Contracting Summit

3rd Annual Illinois Government Contracting Summit



Tuesday, March 17th, 2026

In-Person: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

- Learn how to "win" government contracts
- For small businesses seeking to perform services
- sell products to the federal, state and municipal government within Illinois.

7600 Roosevelt Rd. Forest Park, IL 60130

Our partners at the Illinois APEX Accelerator are hosting their 3rd Annual Government Contracting Summit on Tuesday, March 17 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This full-day event connects small business owners with federal, state, and local government contracting opportunities, featuring panels, an SBA Mentor-Protégé Lunch & Learn, and one-on-one matchmaking sessions with procurement professionals.

[To Learn More and Register](#)

Clean Energy Incubator Workshop: The 7 Investor Secrets Every Fundable Startup Gets Right



The 7 Investor Secrets Every Fundable Startup Gets Right



Monday, March 30th, 2026
In-Person: 5:00 – 7:00 PM

- Learn the seven core conditions investors look for—from market clarity to profitability to right-fit capital.
- Build the business and financial acumen every fundable founder needs, especially for capital-intensive and first-of-a-kind technologies.
- Walk away with a practical framework to test your assumptions, gather 'receipts,' and de-risk your path to viability.

Shubha K. Chakravarthy **535 Duane St. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137**



The Clean Energy Incubator Program is hosting its first workshop at Innovation DuPage! Program participants and Innovation DuPage members are welcome to attend.

Join investor Shubha Chakravarthy to learn the seven core conditions investors look for, from market clarity to profitability to right-fit capital. You'll build the business and financial acumen needed for capital-intensive and first-of-a-kind clean energy technologies and walk away with a practical success map to guide product development, customer acquisition, revenue strategy, and long-term growth.

[To Learn More and Register](#)

Let us help you share your success with the ID community!

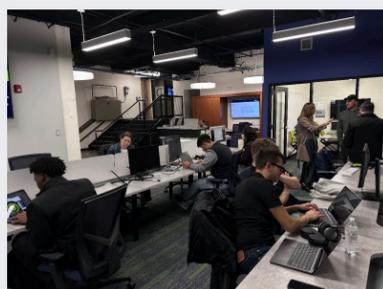
Share a recent win – big or small. It could be featured in our next letter! Email your accomplishment to [Hannah Macey](#).

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!





Try email & social marketing for free!