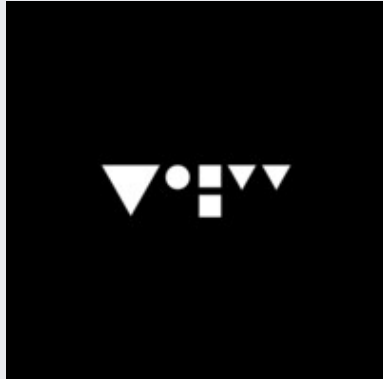




# INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

## Member Wins



Congratulations to ID member Miew on being named a 2025 Anthem Awards Gold Winner for Innovation in Humanitarian Action and Services! Miew built a platform that removed bureaucratic barriers preventing nonprofits and businesses from accessing government funding, using AI-powered translation to reach organizations across 160+ countries in multiple languages and automating the proposal process — saving an estimated 100,000 hours of staff time annually.

[To Learn More](#)



Congratulations to ID member and Owner-2-CEO grad Susan Stewart and her husband Cameron on being named a 2025 Chicago Bears Small Business All-Pro, presented by PNC! Stewart's Cheesecakes was one of just four businesses selected from across the Chicago area for this recognition. Their Bloomingdale-based bakery is known for handcrafted cheesecakes in over 16 rotating flavors.

[Read the Full Article](#)

[Fox 32 Segment](#)

## Opportunities

### 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:

- March 18 – Marketing
- April 1 – Technology
- April 29 – EdTech and Education
- May 13 – Commercial Goods & Services

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

### Seeking Clean Tech Companies!



**Clean Energy  
Incubator Program**

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 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**Member Spotlight:** Karin Knecht of Dunamis Coaching and Consulting

**Member Resource:** Jacob Barry of Illinois Science and Technology Coalition

Following the Member Meetup, there will be a Marketing Cluster meeting.

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

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

### Innovation DuPage Workshop: Networking Like a Pro

A flyer for a workshop titled 'Networking Like a Pro: Build Meaningful Connections That Create Opportunities'. The flyer has a dark blue background with white and green text. It features a circular portrait of Karin Knecht, a woman with short brown hair wearing a purple top. To the right of the portrait, the date 'Wednesday, March 18th, 2026' and time 'In-Person: 5:30 - 7:00 PM' are listed. Below this is a bulleted list of five topics: 'Learn what networking really is, and isn't', 'Start conversations with confidence and curiosity', 'Identify the skills of an exceptional networker', 'Reduce networking anxiety with proven strategies and tools', and 'Create a simple networking plan that includes preparation and follow-up, the #1 driver of real opportunities'. The location '535 Duane St. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137' is at the bottom. Logos for 'Workshops' and 'DUNAMIS' are also present.

Networking is one of the best ways to grow your business, but it's not always easy. ID member Karin Knecht, founder of Dunamis Coaching and Consulting, is leading this our next workshop to help you build meaningful relationships, start conversations with confidence, and create a follow-up plan that drives real opportunities.

Are you interested in leading a future workshop? Reach out to [Rob Glaser](#), Program Manager, to learn more.

[To Learn More and Register](#)

### 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: Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy

### Knowledge is Power: How C-PACE Financing Can Bring Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects to Life!



Anna Maria Kowalik

Monday, March 30th, 2026

In-Person: 5:00 – 6:30 PM

- What is Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy financing?
- How does C-PACE work?
- What are the qualifying property types and improvement measures?
- What are the benefits of using C-PACE in the capital stack?

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.

Anna Maria Kowalik will be stepping in for Shubha to lead a workshop on Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing on Monday, March 30. A 30-year commercial real estate veteran and nationally recognized C-PACE pioneer, Anna Maria has been “the Face of C-PACE” in Illinois and is a 2022 PACENation PACESETTER Award recipient.

Learn what C-PACE is, how it works, what projects qualify, and how to pair it with other incentives. Whether you're a founder, building owner, developer, or part of the clean energy ecosystem, this session will give you the tools to leverage C-PACE for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

[To Learn More and Register](#)

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

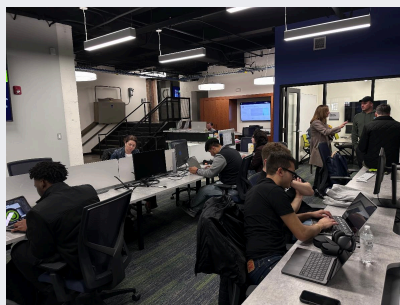
Share a recent win – big or small. It could be featured in our next letter! Email your accomplishment to [Hannah Macey](#).

# 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!



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

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