



INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

Coming Up

ID April Workshop: Raising Money Through Crowdfunding

Beyond the Pitch Deck: Raising Capital from Real People with Investment Crowdfunding



Dorian Dickinson

Wednesday, April 8th, 2026

In-Person: 5:30 – 7:00 PM

What You'll Learn:

- How Regulation Crowdfunding works and what the SEC framework actually allows
- The difference between donation crowdfunding, rewards crowdfunding, and investment crowdfunding
- What investors look for in a Reg CF campaign and how to position your business to attract them

535 Duane St. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

FUNDINGHOPE

Join us April 8 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. to learn about investment crowdfunding with Dorian Dickinson, CEO of FundingHope. Find out how to raise capital from your community and customers, what makes crowdfunding campaigns successful, and whether it's the right funding option for your business.

[To Learn More and Register](#)

Build Your Business Plan: A 6-Part Webinar Series

SCORE Land of Lincoln (formerly Fox Valley) is offering a free six-part webinar series to help entrepreneurs and small business owners build a complete business

plan from start to finish.

The series is already underway, but it's not too late to join — Part 2 kicks off April 9 and covers defining your target audience. Each session tackles a different section of the business plan, with guidance from experienced advisors and time for Q&A.

[To Learn More and Register](#)

AI Symposium at DePaul University: April 15

The AI Applied Consortium is hosting "The Spark: Where Industrial AI Gets Real" on April 15 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the Spark Center at DePaul University. The afternoon features three panels with operators, researchers, and industry leaders covering where AI is delivering real value today, how to design agentic systems that work in practice, and what the next operating model looks like as AI becomes part of everyday work.

[To Learn More and Register](#)



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 April 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Member Spotlight: Jake Mickley of Aila Technologies

Member Resource: Jessica Wain of Hobbs & Wain Advancement Partners and Innovation DuPage Grant Writer

Following the Member Meetup, there will be a Consumer Goods and Services 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

Opportunities

ID Member Industry Clusters

Innovation DuPage's Industry Clusters 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 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:

- April 15 – Consumer Goods & Services
- April 29 – EdTech and Education
- May 13 – Commercial Goods & Services

- May 27 – Female Founders from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

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](#)

Recommended Reading

Strategic Business Advisor, Mike Varon, shares this edition of the Midnight Oil, a newsletter from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Click below for some helpful resources on AI training, upcoming webinars, and grants.

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce Newsletter: The Midnight Oil](#)

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

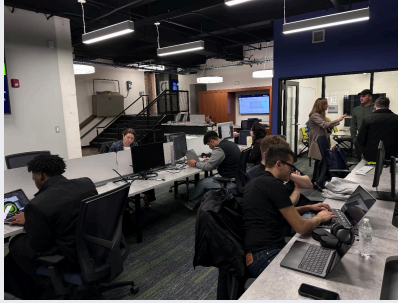
Share a recent win – big or small. It could be featured in our next letter! Email your accomplishment to [Hannah Macey](#).

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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