



INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

Coming Up

Intellectual Property & Innovation Strategy Workshop: May 19



FIRESIDE CHAT + WORKSHOP | IP & Innovation Strategy
May 19 | 6:00 PM | Innovation DuPage



Elina Conley
Innovation Strategy
Azenity Consulting



Mark Polyakov
IP Attorney, Partner
Wood Phillips

RSVP Required

Join Innovation DuPage's Entrepreneur in Residence Elina Conley, Founder of Azenity Consulting, and IP attorney Mark Polyakov, Partner at Wood Phillips, for a fireside chat and workshop covering white space innovation, licensing, and acquisition due diligence, with valuable takeaways for founders, product leaders, and executives navigating growth.

[Register Here](#)



The next Member Meetup will be on May 27 from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Member Spotlight: Susan Stewart of Stewarts' Cheesecakes

Problem Solving Session: Mark Karasek of The Private Directors Association

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

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

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

Virtual Business Model Canvas Workshop Series with Phil Brown

Sessions: June 16, 23, 30 and July 7 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Turn Your Idea Into a Real Business Plan



4-Week Business Model Canvas Workshop Series

Led by Phil Brown, SCORE, Land of Lincoln & Innovation DuPage Mentor

Through our partnership with SCORE Land of Lincoln, ID recommends our early-stage companies participate in The Business Model Canvas, a 4-week workshop series that provides entrepreneurs with fundamental business knowledge and guides participants in developing a business plan.



Have a business idea but don't know where to start?

This hands-on workshop series is designed specifically for early-stage entrepreneurs who **don't yet have** a business plan.

What You'll Gain

- Create a clear, one-page Business Model Canvas
- Identify key components of your business
- Evaluate viability and risks
- Plan your next steps—or if you need to pivot

Program Structure

- 3 Interactive Sessions (2 hours each)
- 1 Final Q&A Session
- Small Group Setting

Who This Is For

- Aspiring entrepreneurs with an idea
- Early-stage founders without a business plan
- Anyone looking to validate and structure their concept

Why This Matters

- Most businesses fail due to lack of clarity—not lack of effort
- This workshop gives you the foundation needed to move forward with confidence

Spots Are Limited!

- Only 10 participants
- Sessions scheduled once 8 are confirmed



Get Started!

Secure your spot and turn your idea into an actionable business model!

Secure your Spot!

Opportunities

Illinois Innovation Voucher Program: Now Accepting Applications

Illinois small and mid-sized businesses can apply for vouchers covering up to 75% of costs (up to \$75,000) to partner with Illinois universities and research institutions on R&D projects. Eligible uses include product development, prototyping, testing,

and access to labs and equipment. Applicants must be Illinois-based for-profit businesses.

[To Learn More and Apply](#)

ID Member Industry Clusters

Innovation DuPage's Industry Clusters are designed to connect ID Members working in the same industry. Industry Clusters 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:

- June 10 - Marketing
- June 24 - Technology
- July 8 - Consumer 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](#)

Resources

Grant Writing Support: Jessica Wain, Co-founder of Hobbs & Wain Advancement Partners provides grant writing and proposal development support, helping you identify, pursue, and secure funding opportunities that can accelerate your company's growth and scalability.

[Jessica's Booking Link](#)

Dorian Dickinson, CEO of FundingHope has shared his presentation from his workshop on raising capital through investment crowdfunding. The slides cover how Regulation Crowdfunding works, what investors look for, and how to evaluate if your business is ready.

[Access the Presentation Here](#)

Allies for Community Business provides capital, coaching, and connections to help entrepreneurs grow businesses that create jobs and wealth in their communities. Allies for Community Business offers loans up to \$500,000 to support community businesses.

[Schedule a Session: Allies for Community Business](#)

The Illinois Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) located throughout the state provides information, confidential business guidance, training, and other resources to start-up and existing small businesses. In addition, the Illinois SBDCs help clients with securing needed business capital, marketing, exporting, commercialization of new ideas, development of innovative products and services. Client projects range from early-stage, pre-revenue concepts to established business operations.

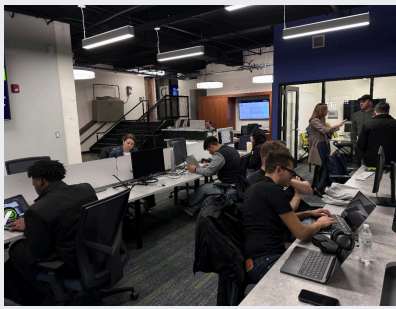
[Check Grant Availability Here](#)

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](#).

[Sign Up to Present at a Member Meetup](#)

[Member Portal Login Page](#)



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!



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