



INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

Important Reminder

This past Saturday, a small fire started near the rear doors of the Civic Center. We kindly ask all members and visitors not to discard cigarettes or any smoking materials into the mulch or landscaped areas, as this can create a serious fire hazard. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Coming Up

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



The 7 Investor Secrets Every Fundable Startup Gets Right



Tuesday, June 9th, 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



All Innovation DuPage members are invited to an investor-led workshop on Monday, June 9 from 5:00–7:00 p.m. This session covers the seven conditions investors look

for when evaluating a startup — from identifying a real market problem to aligning capital strategy — and equips founders with the business judgment needed to build a durable, fundable company.

To Learn More and Register



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

Member Spotlight: Carly Williams of Fitvengers

Problem Solving Session: Claire Brinley of Illinois Climate Bank

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

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

Brewpoint Coffee | Makers & Shakers VOL. VI: June 25

The poster for 'Makers & Shakers Vol. VI' is set against a light beige background. The title 'MAKERS & SHAKERS' is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. To the right of the title, the date '6.25.26' and time '6PM TO 930PM' are listed in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Below the title, the text 'For the founders, operators, and creators building what is next in our communities.' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the poster, there are three logos: the Pan American Bank & Trust logo (a globe icon), the Brewpoint Coffee logo (a coffee cup icon), and the Headshot Haus logo (a tree icon).

We are proud to sponsor Makers & Shakers VOL. VI, hosted by Brewpoint Coffee founder and ID member Melissa Villanueva. This year's edition features three live case studies on AI, finance, and the relationships that matter most in business, broken down by industry experts — plus headshots by Headshot Haus, giveaways, and refreshments.

ID members can register for free through the member portal!

[To Learn More and Register](#)

Opportunities

Get Your Company Listed on Pitchbook

Pitchbook is a leading private market database used by investors, VCs, and strategic partners to discover and research early-stage companies. Innovation DuPage is now offering all members the opportunity to be listed under ID's profile — giving your company added visibility and third-party validation as a program participant. This is an opt-in benefit available to all active members.

[Secure your Spot!](#)

Founder Institute | Midwest Startup Ideation Bootcamp: June 29 to July 9

Innovation DuPage is launching a pilot partnership with the Founder Institute to support early-stage members through the ideation phase. Cost is fully covered by Innovation DuPage, and spots are limited.

Participants will refine their business idea, validate concepts with real customer feedback, and get direct input from experienced founders and investors. If you are still shaping your idea and want a clear path forward, this is a strong next step.

[Secure your Spot!](#)

Rep. Margaret DeLaRosa | Small Business Saturday Spotlight

Illinois State Representative Margaret DeLaRosa, who represents Glen Ellyn in Springfield, is highlighting small businesses each Saturday this summer on her social media channels. Rep. DeLaRosa will visit your business during the week for photos and a feature across her Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn — and welcomes the chance to hear about any issues or policies impacting your operations.

To participate, email ILHouse42@gmail.com

ISTC | 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 a.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
- July 22 - EdTech and Education
- August 5 - Commercial Goods and Services

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.

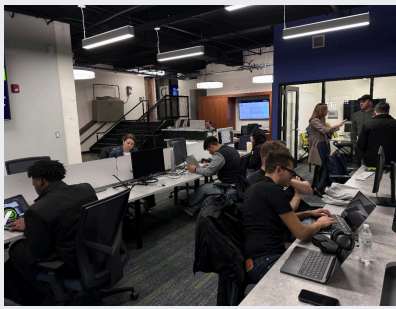
[Check Grant Availability Here](#)

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!



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

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