



INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

ID Staff Out of Office

ID Staff will be out on June 18 & 19 in recognition of the Juneteenth Holiday.

Member Wins



Congratulations to Susan Stewart of Stewart's Cheesecakes!

Susan recently completed the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program! The rigorous 12-week program included intensive coursework and an in-person graduation celebration in New York alongside 300 fellow small business owners. Through hard work and determination, Susan walked away with new skills, a powerful peer network, and a bold vision for the next five years of her business.

ID Golf Outing

Innovation DuPage Golf Outing Interest Form

LOCATION

Arrowhead Golf Club

DATE AND TIME

09/28/26 9:00am - 09/28/26 3:00pm America/Chicago

Would you be interested in playing in this year's golf outing?

Yes

No

Coming Up



The next Member Meetup will be on June 24 from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Member Spotlight: Noel Thompson of Nakamakula Productions

Problem Solving Session: Dawn Smith of the Alliance of Downtown Glen Ellyn

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 Technology 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 font. 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, a red rectangular box contains the text 'Vol. VI' in white, serif font. At the bottom left, the tagline '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 right, there are three logos: Pan American Bank & Trust (a globe icon), Brewpoint Coffee (a coffee cup icon), and Hill Country (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](#)

Gray Matters Games | Cross the Line Game Launch Party: July 16



The poster features a dark background with a light blue border. In the top left is the ID logo. The top center reads 'GAME LAUNCH PARTY!' in large white letters. The top right is the Gray Matters Games logo with the tagline 'BRIGHTEN YOUR PLAY'. The center text lists the location: 'Innovation DuPage, 535 Duane St, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137'. Below that, it says 'Join Us! Thursday, July 16 From 5-7PM'. On the right is a 3D rendering of the 'CROSS THE LINE' game box, which is black with colorful horizontal bars and the text 'CROSS THE LINE' and 'SOME LINES ARE MEANT TO BE CROSSED'. At the bottom left of the box, it says 'PARTY GAME' and shows icons for 10+ players and 30 minutes.

Innovation DuPage member Gray Matters Games is celebrating the launch of their newest game, Cross the Line, with a game night at Innovation DuPage on July 16 from 5:00–7:00 p.m.

The evening includes a Cross the Line tournament with a life-size final round and prizes for the winners, plus gameplay from other Gray Matters favorites like Rhymes with Duck, Slip It In, and the Root Beer Float Challenge. Great for the whole family; games are recommended for ages 10 and up. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Register through the member portal today!

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.

Interested? Reach out to [Elina Conley](#) to get started.

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.

Interested? Reach out to [Rob Glaser](#) to 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



We're excited to share that Bank of America is now sponsoring Innovation DuPage's Entrepreneur in Residence role and our Industry Cluster Program. We're grateful for their support in helping us continue offering these resources to our members.

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 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.

[To Book Time with Jessica](#)

Just upstairs from Innovation DuPage is the **Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC)**, part of College of DuPage's Business Development Center. SBDC advisors provide confidential guidance, training, and resources to start-up and existing small businesses, helping with everything from securing business capital and marketing to commercializing new ideas and developing innovative products and services. Client projects range from early-stage, pre-revenue concepts to established business operations.

[To Learn More](#)

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.

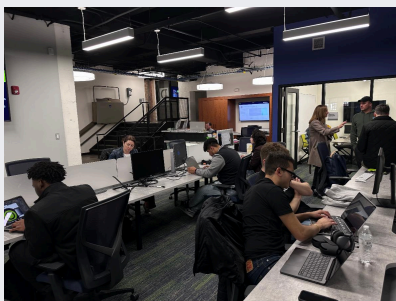
[To Schedule a Session](#)

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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