



INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

ID in the News



Innovation DuPage is the cover story in the July issue of Neighbors of Glen Ellyn magazine, featuring President Joe Cassidy on the cover. The photo was taken by Jose Ricardo Ramirez of Artsition, an ID member company.

The article covers ID's seven-year journey supporting entrepreneurs, creating jobs and strengthening the regional economy, and highlights our partnerships with the College of DuPage, the Village of Glen Ellyn and our network of 70+ community and

business partners.

Thank you to Laura Black and the Neighbors of Glen Ellyn team for sharing our story.

Coming Up

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



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.

To Register



The next Member Meetup will be on July 22 from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

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

Member Spotlight: Chip Borkowski of Autism Optimism Illinois

Member Resource: The Small Business Development Center

Following the Member Meetup, there will be a EdTech and Education 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

ID Member Showcase Day Exhibitor Application

Innovation DuPage is hosting its first Member Showcase Day — a half-day, tradeshow-style event **tentatively on November 10th, 2026 at the Glen Ellyn Village Hall**. Member companies exhibit at a table, with an optional block of pre-scheduled 15-min 1:1 meetings with external guests (clients, buyers, partners, investors).

Exhibitor space is limited, so this is an application — we'll review submissions and confirm spots. This takes about 4 minutes.

[Please Apply Here by July 15](#)

Opportunities

ID Golf Outing Sponsorship

Innovation DuPage's golf outing returns this September at Arrowhead Golf Club, and sponsorship spots are open now. It's a great way to showcase your business, connect with fellow members and partners, and support ID's mission. Member sponsorships start at just \$200, with multiple levels available. Marketing deadline is Friday, September 4, to be included in event materials.

[Sponsorship 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: Now Scheduled for August 3-August 13

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

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:

- July 22 - EdTech and Education
- August 5 - Commercial Goods and Services
- August 19 - Female Founders
- September 2 - Marketing
- September 16 - Technology, Software, AI & Data Analytics

Proudly sponsored by the Bank of America.



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

The ID Mentoring Program is a flexible, high-impact program that connects ID members with vetted industry experts for 1:1 mentorship tailored to their needs. Whether you're seeking a one-time conversation or an ongoing relationship, mentors provide guidance, insight, connections, and encouragement while helping you stay accountable to your goals.

Support areas include business development, funding and loans, legal guidance, business planning, marketing, government contracting, and more. The program is designed to be adaptable and collaborative, allowing you and your mentor to co-create a structure that best fits your journey and level of support needed.

To Get Connected to a Mentor

Grant writing and proposal development support is available to member companies through **Jessica Wain, Co-founder of Hobbs & Wain Advancement Partners**. Jessica helps companies identify, pursue, and secure funding opportunities that can accelerate 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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