

MEMBER MEETUP



[July 22, 2026](#)

Agenda



1. Bagels & Coffee
2. Intros
3. Keeping up with ID
4. Upcoming Events & Offerings for Members
5. **ID Member Spotlight:** Chip Borkowski from Autism Optimism Illinois
6. **ID Member Resource:** Arun Vijay Mani from North Central College

Keeping up with ID:



- **Industry Cluster Meeting Today – Cluster EdTech and Education**
- **Fall Owner 2 CEO Applications Now Open** – Connect with Rob
- **Clean Energy Incubator Program:**
 - Fill out the Connect Form
 - Connect with Ricardo or Arlinda

Scan the QR code to keep up with the news:



Upcoming Events



Public

**Small Business Lending Made Simple:
A workshop with Allies for Community Business**



Michael Nash

Wednesday, August 5th, 2026
In-Person: 5:30 – 7:00 PM

What You'll Learn:

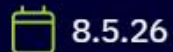
- Learn what it takes to qualify for a small business loan
- Understand A4CB's application process from start to finish
- Discover how free business coaching can strengthen your application
- Get connected to trusted partners and resources beyond funding

535 Duane St. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Join Community Lender Michael Nash for an overview of how Allies for Community Business (A4CB) supports entrepreneurs with affordable financing, expert business coaching, and resources designed to help businesses start, grow, and thrive.

Small Business Lending Made Simple: A workshop with Allies for Community Business



8.5.26



5:30 pm



Glen Ellyn, IL

Join us!



Resources and Workshops



Additional Resources



Strategic Business Advisor

Mike Varon



Entrepreneur-in-Residence

Elina Conley



Strategic Technology Advisor

Adam Jeffries



Mentor Program Advisor

Heather Sattler



Interim CEI Program Director

Ricardo Magallon



Interim CEI Program Manager

Arlinda Bajrami



**Strategic Business
Advisor - CEI**

Ozge Guney



Grant Writer

Jessica Wain

MEMBER MEETUP



ID Member Spotlight:

Chip Borkowski

Autism Optimism Illinois



Autism Optimism Illinois

Compassion. Empower. Thrive.

AUTISM OPTIMISM ILLINOIS (AO-IL)

FALÉ LĀ ABA – AN AUTISM OPTIMISM ILLINOIS CLINIC

A MISSION TO TRANSFORM AUTISM CARE

Chip Borkowski - AO-IL Founder & President

Innovation DuPage Member Meetup

July 22, 2026

The Journey Starts with Family



- Over 3 Decades of Lived Experience
- Father of Bennett, 36, who has autism
- Navigated waitlists, IEP battles, and insurance denials
- Experienced the exhaustion... and the joys □
- The Bennett Test:
"Would this have helped our family 30 years ago?"
If the answer is no, we go back to the drawing board

The Problem We're Solving



- The Autism Therapy Landscape is Broken
- 6 to 18-month waitlists — Families wait too long for services
- Clinician burnout — High turnover, loss of expertise
- Fragmented care — ABA here, speech there, PT & OT somewhere else
- Corporate chains — Billable hours prioritized over human outcomes
- *“We're building a better way.”*

Our Solution



Integrated, Whole-Child Care Under One Roof

- Clinical Services:
 - *Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)*
 - *Speech, Occupational & Physical Therapy*
- Clinician-Owned & Mission-Driven:
 - *Empowering clinicians with autonomy and ownership*
 - *Family-centered, strength-based approach*

10% of net profits donated to Misericordia Heart of Mercy in perpetuity

The Advisory Board



17 Voices. One Mission. One Family.

Family Voice:

Chip (ID) & Bennett Borkowski

Franchise & Growth:

Gregg Rondinelli & Robb Sackett

Community Relations:

Efrain Aguilar (ID)

Clinical & Operations:

Casey Prescott & Pat Curran

Legal & Finance:

Matt Pfeiffer & Steve Schwarz (ID)

For Cause Partner:

Kevin Connelly (Misericordia)

16 people on this board have known Bennett for 20+ years.

Innovation DuPage Community



Why ID Matters to Our Growth

- Mentorship — Select experts helped refine our business model
- Network — 70+ partners, 400+ companies served
- Resources — Market research, future subsidized interns, practical tools
- Community — Fellow entrepreneurs solving hard problems together

Shared Values:

- 60%+ of the ID incubation program members are women or minority founders
- Our commitment: bilingual services & equitable access

How You Can Support Us



4 Ways to Help

1. Spread the Word - Connect us with families navigating the autism journey
2. Invest in Impact
 - SEC-regulated Reg CF campaign on FundingHope
 - Fund the DuPage County flagship clinic & IL statewide network
3. Connect Us - Schools, pediatric offices, community organizations
4. Share Your Expertise - Operations, franchising, finance, compliance

How We Give Back



Supporting the ID Community

- Internships — Practicum hours for future BCBAs & RBTs
- Guest Speaking — Share our startup & healthcare experience
- Community Support — 10% net profits to Misericordia
- Peer Mentorship — Learn & grow together
- *"We're here to share what we've learned... and to learn from you."*

Scaling Our Impact



From Flagship to Statewide Network

Phase 1: Launch Flagship | Downers Grove

Soft Opening in June 2026

Grand Opening in July 2026

5,100 sq. ft. integrated therapy center

Phase 2: Prove the Model

Cash flow positive by Month 4 to 5

~35% net margins at scale

Phase 3: Scale Across Illinois

Documented, replicable blueprint

Starting in DuPage County

Grow in Chicago DMA

Phase 4: Create a Legacy

Clinician autonomy & ownership

10% pledge to Misericordia

FAQs



Q1: What is the investment opportunity? What's the range for investors?

A1: Our SEC-regulated Regulation Crowdfunding campaign on FundingHope is open to anyone, with investment opportunities typically ranging from \$100 to \$100,000.

To give you a sense of the scale, it costs approximately \$250,000 to open a single, fully-equipped clinic like our flagship location in Downers Grove.

Your investment directly funds our mission to build a statewide network of integrated autism care centers.

Invest in the Future of Autism Care

Supporting autistic individuals and their
families across Illinois and inviting the
community to invest in that work.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN
MORE & INVEST

<https://qr.codes/8JLmPh>



Autism Optimism Illinois, an Innovation DuPage member, is conducting an offering under Regulation Crowdfunding (Section 4(a)(6) of the Securities Act) to raise capital in support of its Illinois-based programs and services for the autism community. The offering is being conducted exclusively through FundingHope LLC, an SEC-registered, FINRA-member funding portal.



Autism Optimism Illinois
Compassion. Empower. Thrive.

FAQs



Q2: Who should my referral reach out to if they want to learn more or get involved?

A2: Please have them contact me, Chip Borkowski, directly. I'm happy to answer any questions, give a tour of our Downers Grove clinic, or connect them with our team. The best ways to reach me are...

(630) 254-1718 or Chip@AutismOptimism-IL.com.

FAQs



Q3: What specific student opportunities are available through your partnership with the College of DuPage?

A3: We hope to build a formal relationship with COD as a premier clinical training ground for students pursuing careers in autism therapy.

We hope to offer internships and practicum hours via COD for students working toward BCBA and RBT credentials.

We also see a future pathway for co-developing continuing education workshops for existing professionals and potentially creating new academic programming in ABA and Autism Studies with the College of DuPage... and with Innovation DuPage.

FAQs



Q4: As an ID member or entrepreneur, how could I collaborate with you or learn from your experience?

A4: We're deeply committed to the "give back" part of our membership.

Beyond just internships, we can offer guest speaking sessions on launching a mission-driven startup, serve as a peer mentor for other entrepreneurs in the network, and share our operational insights as we scale our clinic model.

We believe every entrepreneur in this room has faced similar challenges, and we're here to share what we've learned and learn from you.

Important Links



- *Autism Optimism Illinois Website:* [_https://www.autismoptimism-il.com](https://www.autismoptimism-il.com)
- *Fale La ABA Website:* <https://www.falelaaba.com>
- *Misericordia Heart of Mercy:* [_https://www.misericordia.com](https://www.misericordia.com)
- *Company Video:* <https://vimeo.com/1141155318/484ef0bdbbc>
- *Advisory Board Roster:* https://ac5b727e-93be-4c7e-b59d-57eeacb9ee6e.filesusr.com/ugd/b9d087_4890701b40754fca91d6bf584f567c02.pdf
- *Press Releases / Blog:* <https://www.autismoptimism-il.com/blog>
- *Radio Interview:* <https://omny.fm/shows/part-of-the-answer/autism-optimism?t=13m0s>
- *Funding Hope (Reg CF) Campaign:* <https://invest.fundinghope.com/offering/aoil/details>

Thank you, fellow ID members!



MEMBER MEETUP



ID Member Resource:

**Arun Vijay Mani
North Central College**



Complimentary Marketing Research Study for your Business!

North Central College has a unique opportunity to evaluate your business as part of a Market research course this fall. Please read the below information to learn more about the program and how your business can benefit from this FREE experience!

Introduction

Arun Mani is a professor of Marketing at North Central College. He is looking to collaborate with local businesses in Naperville who are interested in being a client in the ***Marketing Research*** class this **Fall Semester, 2026**.

What will the class be focused on?

In this class, the junior/senior-level students are divided into teams of 4 or 5. Each team will work with a client to identify a marketing problem or an opportunity that they are facing. Then the team develops a survey, collects and analyzes data, draws conclusions from the data, and makes concrete recommendations to the client based on the results.

What is the client/businesses time commitment?

The clients come to the campus two times. Once at the beginning of the semester, to meet the students to discuss problem statements and then come back at the end of the semester to hear the final results. Students will prepare a presentation of their recommendations and also give the client a comprehensive written document with all the results.

Why should a business consider this participation?

All the work done by the students is **free** to the business client. The Marketing Research class is a great community-engaged learning experience for our NC students and ideally helps the clients in the business community as well. We like to think of it as a win-win.

If you are interested in participating in the Marketing Research class this semester, please reach out to avmani@noctrl.edu to set up a call!

About Arun Mani

I am a Product and Strategy leader with more than 15 years of experience across multiple industries. I have managed products and developed strategies to grow profitability and drive successful marketing campaigns across telecom, Food retail, Food B2B, Industrials, and Pharmaceuticals across the globe. I currently own and operate a management consulting firm helping SMB clients across the US with strategy, operations, and marketing campaigns. I have a master's in electrical engineering from the University of Texas at Dallas and an MBA from Northwestern University.

**The NACC is not affiliated with the course and is partnering with North Central College to distribute this opportunity to our members.*



Stick Around – Cluster EdTech and Education



Catch the next Meetup on August 5

Collaborate • Scale • Succeed



INNOVATION
DUPAGE