



INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

Member Spotlight Follow-Up: An Open Letter from Chip Borkowski

After Autism Optimism Illinois founder Chip Borkowski's presentation at our last Member Meetup, several parents reached out with questions about navigating an autism diagnosis. In response, Chip wrote an open letter sharing his family's experience, practical guidance on early intervention, insurance, and school services, and an open invitation for any ID member who would like to connect and talk.

[Read the Letter Here](#)

Coming Up

ID Member Showcase Day Exhibitor Application

Innovation DuPage is hosting its first Member Showcase Day — a half-day, tradeshow-style event **tentatively on Tuesday, November 10, 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 29](#)

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

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



Accessing capital doesn't have to be confusing. Join us on Wednesday, August 5th from 5:30 to 7:00 PM for a practical workshop with Michael Nash, Community Lender at Allies for Community Business (A4CB). Michael will break down what lenders look for and how to confidently navigate the loan process, whether you're preparing to apply for funding or just want to strengthen your financial readiness.

You'll learn what it takes to qualify for a loan, how A4CB's application process works, and how their free business coaching can strengthen your application and connect you to trusted partners and resources.

[Register Here](#)



The next Member Meetup will be on August 5 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

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

Member Spotlight: Sam Rose of Rosebud Icecream

Member Resource: Amelia Mickley of Fractional HR Services

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

Opportunities

Complimentary Marketing Research for Your Business

Professor Arun Mani of North Central College is looking for five ID member companies to participate as clients in his Marketing Research course this fall. Teams of junior and senior level students will work directly with your business to identify a marketing problem or opportunity, develop a survey, analyze the data, and deliver concrete recommendations.

It is completely free and a great way to gain fresh perspective on your business. Those interested should [reach out to Arun](#) by **August 3**. If the fall semester fills up, spring participation may also be available.

ID Office Space Available

We have office space available for members looking for a more permanent home base to work from — beyond our short-term reservable spaces. If you're interested in learning more, reach out to [Dan Facchini](#), Managing Director, to discuss options.

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:

- 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.

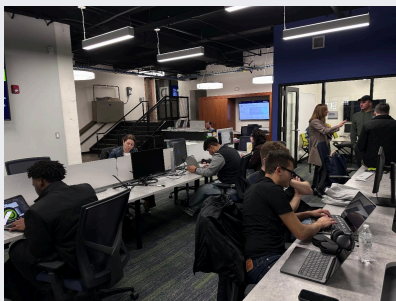
[To Schedule a Session](#)

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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