



INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

TrustBank Office Hours at Innovation DuPage

Have a banking question? Join the TrustBank team every other Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., immediately following our Member Meetup, for open Office Hours at ID.

Whether you're looking for guidance on business banking, lending, cash flow, credit, financial planning, or other financial topics, a TrustBank representative will be available to answer questions and share practical insights and best practices. No appointment is necessary. Just bring your questions and connect with the TrustBank team after the Member Meetup.



Staff Updates

Beth Ann Wymyslowski and Arlinda Bajrami have concluded their work with Innovation DuPage, and we wish them both the very best in his future endeavors. Questions can be directed to **Dan Facchini**, Managing Director.

Member Wins

Ivy League Potential Wins BMO Celebrating Women Grant

Congratulations to ID member Sonia Lal, founder of Ivy League Potential, on being named a **2026 BMO Celebrating Women grant recipient**! Sonia was one of just 15 businesses selected from across the country to receive a \$10,000 grant through BMO's program supporting the advancement of women in business. A former Harvard admissions interviewer and Harvard graduate, Sonia founded Ivy League Potential to help high school students navigate the college admissions process. A well-deserved recognition!

Coming Up



The next Member Meetup will be on September 16 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: Stephen Woodring of Woodring Strategic Advisors LLC

Member Resource: Jim Interlandi of ProVisors

Following the Member Meetup, there will be a Technology, Software, AI & Data Analytics 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

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



The 7 Investor Secrets Every Fundable Startup Gets Right



Tuesday, September 22nd, 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**



Join investor Shubha Chakravarthy to learn the seven core conditions investors look for, from market clarity to profitability to right-fit capital. You'll build the business and

financial acumen needed for capital-intensive and first-of-a-kind clean energy technologies and walk away with a practical success map to guide product development, customer acquisition, revenue strategy, and long-term growth. All Innovation DuPage members are welcome to attend.

Register through your ID member portal!

ID Workshop: Grow & Scale Your Business with AI



Grow & Scale Your Business with AI



Noor Aftab

Wednesday September 30th, 2026
In-Person: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

A hands-on session designed to help business owners identify where AI can create the greatest measurable impact across revenue, operations, productivity, and customer growth.

Participants will leave with:

- 3 high-value AI opportunities specific to their business
- 1 priority workflow mapped for AI automation or augmentation
- A 30-day AI action plan with clear next steps
- A personalized AI Opportunity Map showing where to focus first

535 Duane St. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Wondering where AI can help you move the needle in your business? ID member Noor Aftab, former Amazon Global Lead and founder of Skilium AI, is facilitating this interactive workshop designed to help business owners cut through the noise and identify their highest-value AI opportunities. Participants will leave with three AI opportunities specific to their business, a workflow mapped for automation, and a 30-day action plan to put it all in motion.

[To Register](#)

**OpenAI Academy and College of DuPage | AI Literacy Summit:
Oct 7**

AI Literacy Summit

A hands-on summit for applying AI across education, work, and everyday life.

College of DuPage and OpenAI Academy are hosting a hands-on AI Literacy Summit right here in Glen Ellyn! The full-day event is designed to help you use AI confidently and responsibly in your work and everyday life. Sessions include AI foundations, breakouts for ChatGPT for Work, ChatGPT for Parents, and Building with ChatGPT, and no prior experience is needed to attend.

[To Learn More and Register](#)

Opportunities

Showcase Your Products at the Chicago Toy & Game Fair: November 7 & 8

Innovation DuPage along with ID member, People of Play, is offering a free opportunity to showcase and sell your products at this year's **Chicago Toy & Game Fair** on November 7th & 8th at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont. The show attracts 30,000 annual attendees and is perfect for retail companies to showcase products ahead of the holiday season.

If you're interested in learning more, please email Joe Barron at joe@graymattersgames.com.

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.

[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.

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:

- September 16 - Technology, Software, AI & Data Analytics
- September 30 - Consumer Goods & Services
- October 28 - Commercial Goods & Services
- November 11 - Female Founders
- December 9 - Marketing

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

Innovation DuPage now has a **Member Request Form** in the Member Portal dashboard! Log into your portal and fill out the form to submit requests directly to ID. If you have any trouble accessing your portal, reach out to IT Project Manager **Anushka Verma** for assistance.

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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