INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

Coming Up

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



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!

SCORE Land of Lincoln | Dispelling the Myths and Fears of Selling: September 24

Selling doesn't come naturally to everyone, and that's okay. SCORE Land of Lincoln is hosting a free in-person workshop in St. Charles to help business owners work through their selling fears with experienced sales mentors. The session covers everything from prospecting and building relationships to handling objections and closing, with time for Q&A. Taking place at the St. Charles Public Library.

To Learn More and Register



The next Member Meetup will be on September 30 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: Samir Mulla of CannaTherm Solutions
Member Resource: Jane Mack-Crane of Vision 1948
Industry Cluster: Consumer Goods & Services meeting at 10:45 a.m.

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

If you can’t make it in person, attend virtually through our **Zoom Link**

Sign up to present at a future Member Meetup

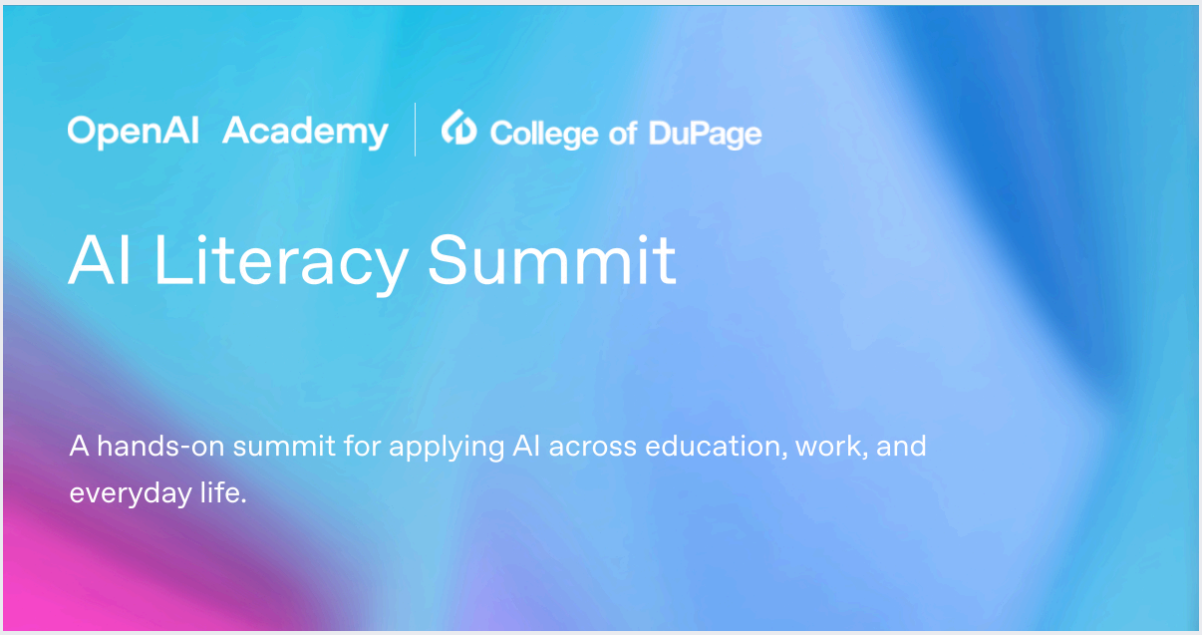
ID Workshop: Grow & Scale Your Business with AI



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



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

College of DuPage Business Development Center | Certification Process Workshop Series

Our partners at the College of DuPage Business Development Center are hosting a four-part workshop series through the Illinois APEX Accelerator. Learn how the certification process works and what it takes to get started, with guidance from experienced APEX advisors.

Dates: Tuesdays, October 13, 20, 27, and November 3, 2026
Time: 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
Location: Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Room 301
Instructors: Colleen Sall, with Andres Blandon and Ileen Kelly

Reach out to **Rob Glaser**, ID Program Manager to get signed up.

ID Workshop: 60-Second Executive Update



Make every minute of your 1:1s and small group meetings count. ID Member Scott Hubbard of Hubbard Communications will teach you the 60-Second Executive™ framework, a simple way to lead with the headline, back it up with only the evidence

that matters, and end with a clear next step. It's hands-on, practical, and built for busy professionals.

To Register

World Business Chicago | Chicago Venture Summit: Future of Health: October 20

The Chicago Venture Summit returns on October 20, and this year's theme is Future of Health. Hosted by World Business Chicago, the Summit brings together founders, investors, healthcare systems, researchers, and corporate leaders to explore how emerging technologies are transforming patient care and health innovation. Startups can apply for the Startup Portfolio for complimentary tickets, growth support, and exclusive introductions to investors and ecosystem leaders.

Attendance Interest Form and Startup Portfolio Application

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**.

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.

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 representatives 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.

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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 30 - Consumer Goods & Services
- October 28 - Commercial Goods & Services
- November 11 - Female Founders
- December 9 - Marketing

Proudly sponsored by the Bank of America.

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Questions? Reach out to **Elina Conley**, ID's Entrepreneur in Residence.

Seeking Clean Tech Companies

THE CEJA ILLINOIS CLEAN ENERGY CONTRACTOR INCUBATOR PROGRAM

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

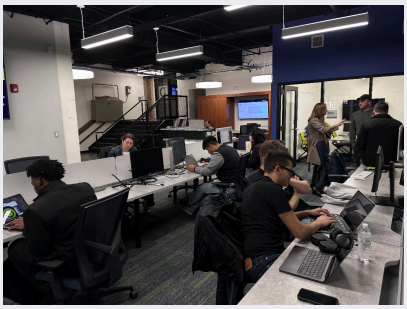
communities. Allies for Community Business offers loans up to $500,000 to support community businesses.

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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