INFORMER

Official Newsletter for the Innovation DuPage Community

Member Wins

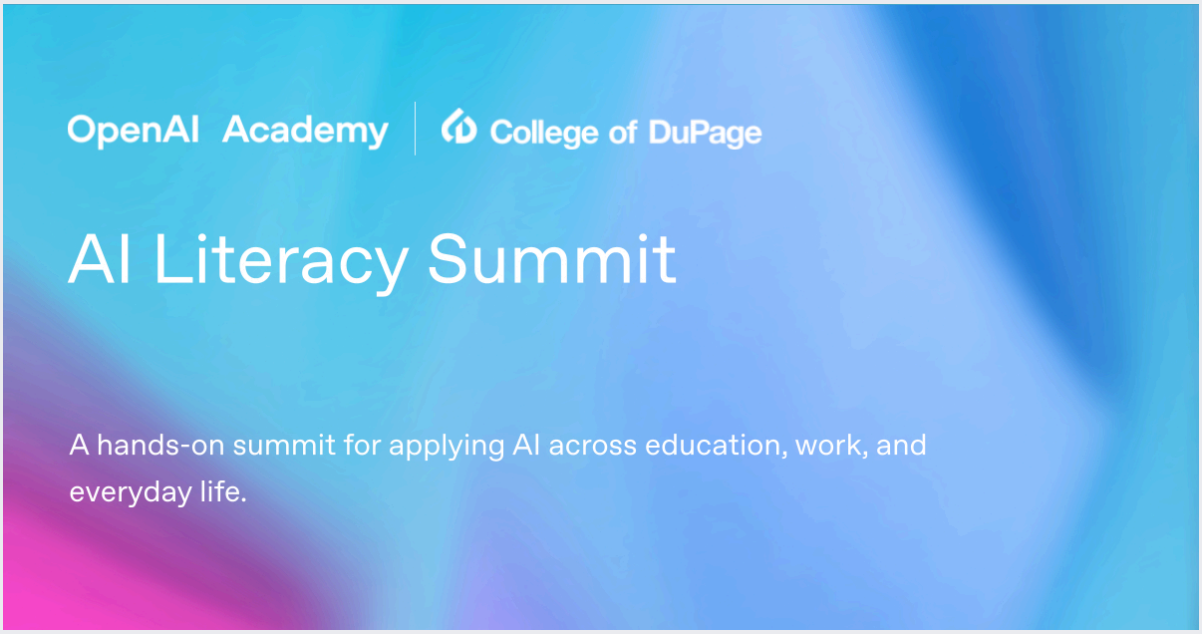
Cross the Line: TAGIE Award Finalist for Game Innovator of the Year

Cross the Line, made by ID Member Gray Matters Games, has been named one of just seven finalists for the TAGIEs Game Innovator of the Year award! The recognition goes to Joe Barron, Sophia Ricciardi, David Yakos, Brady Peterson, Danielle Standring, and Grant Lyon. Voting is open now and about 10 seconds, so help them bring home the win!

Vote for Cross the Line!

Coming Up

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

Gear Up Consignment | Kids' Resale Event: October 9-11

ID Member **Gear Up Consignment** is hosting its Kids' Resale Event at the DuPage Event Center & Fairgrounds (2015 Manchester Rd, Wheaton) from October 9 through 11. Shop gently used toys, clothes, books, shoes, and gear at up to 90% off retail prices. Unsold items benefit the DuPage ROE Parents as Teachers Program. Want first pick before the crowds? Grab a Friday pre-sale ticket for early access to the best selection. Saturday and Sunday are free and open to all!

To Purchase a Pre-Sale Ticket

Business Certification Workshop Series

Our partners at the College of DuPage Business Development Center are hosing a four-part workshop series exclusively for ID Members to guide you through acquiring your Women/Minority/Disability/Veteran Business Certification.

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.



The next Member Meetup will be on October 14 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: Matt Johnson of Miew
Member Resource: Van Ikner of the Clean Energy Jobs & Justice Fund (CEJJF)
Industry Cluster: EdTech & Education 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

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

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

ID Member Showcase: Meet 40 Members on November 10



Innovation DuPage is hosting its first-ever Member Showcase on Tuesday, November 10, from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Glen Ellyn Village Hall. Forty member companies will be on hand to share their products and services, spanning clean energy, AI, consumer goods, food and beverage, and professional services.

Attendees can meet the founders behind these businesses, explore new opportunities, and connect with potential clients, partners, collaborators, and investors.

Register to attend today!

Female Founders Quarterly Meeting: November 12

Join us for our next Female Founders quarterly meeting on Thursday, November 12 at 5:30 p.m., hosted by Jules Wilhelm, ID member and founder of Jules Wilhelm Inc. It's a relaxed evening to connect with fellow founders, swap wins and challenges.

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.

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.

TrustBank™ WHEATON

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:

- October 14 - EdTech & Education
- October 28 - Commercial Goods & Services
- November 12 - Female Founders @ 5:30 p.m.
- 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

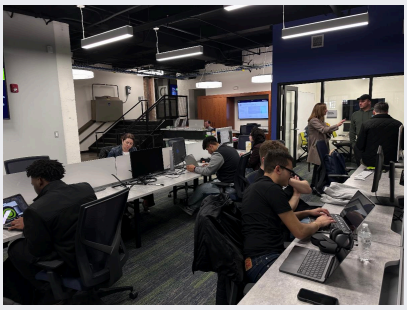
Allies for Community Business provides capital, coaching, and connections to help entrepreneurs grow businesses that create jobs and wealth in their communities. Allies for Community Business offers loans up to $500,000 to support community businesses.

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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