



NIU EIGERlab Innovation Network

Innovation, acceleration and product development in the Northern Illinois Region

April 3, 2015

NIU EIGERlab is a centrally located, state-of-the-art mixed-use accelerator serving the region with leading edge business and engineering support services. Whether you're a new or existing entrepreneur, inventor, a start-up or an existing company interested in expansion, EIGERlab is our regions one-stop resource for business support and growth.

Land Here . Launch Here . Learn Here . Grow Here

www.EIGERlab.org

NIU STEM Café | Feed your mind

STEM Café is Coming to Rockford!

**Tuesday, April 7th | The Olympic Tavern,
2327 N. Main St.**

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Talk

8:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. - EIGERlab Tour



Northern Illinois University's STEM Outreach presents the first of several STEM Cafés planned for Rockford. Adults are invited to eat, drink, and discuss the latest research and breakthroughs in science, technology, engineering, and math in a fun, casual environment.

This Month's Topic: Advancements in 3D printing are making it possible for researchers and average folks to print everything from car parts to body parts. How does additive manufacturing actually work and how is it changing our lives? Find out at the April STEM Café. This month's speakers are Dr. Federico Sciammarella, Associate Professor of Mechanical

Engineering at NIU, Dan Cataldi, Executive Director of EIGERlab, and Mike Cobert, Assistant Director of EIGERlab.

For more information, contact Judy Dymond at jdymond@niu.edu, 815-753-4751.



Tracie Burress, sockTABS InnovateHER CHALLENGE semifinalist!

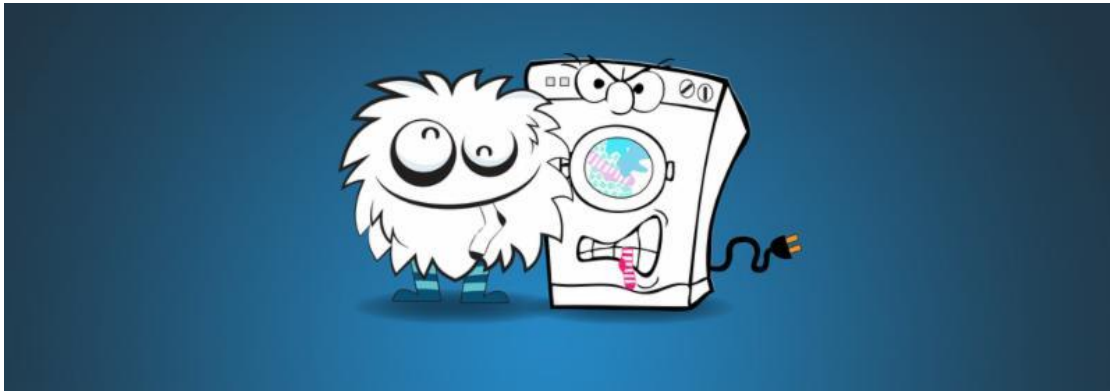
sockTABS wins again!



Tracie Burress, owner of sockTABS and winner of EIGERlab's 2014 *FastPitch Competition*, has completed yet another impressive challenge. **She is the only woman chosen in the state of Illinois as the semifinalist in Chicago's Women's Business Development Center InnovateHER CHALLENGE!** For the next stage of the **InnovateHER CHALLENGE**, Tracie is one of only 10 women throughout the United States who will compete for over \$30,000 in cash prizes in Washington, D.C.

To prepare for the submittal, she worked with both Sherry Pritz at EIGERlab and Brian McIntyre with the Small Business Development Center. **We at NIU-EIGERlab wish Tracie much success in the Competition!**

[Visit sockTABS' website](http://www.socktabs.com)



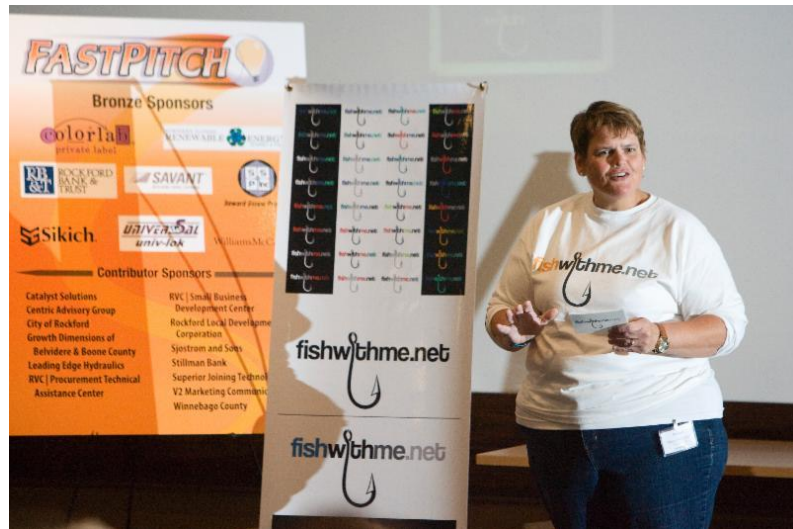
"Shark Tank" Rockford style | Save the date, 6/17

**"Shark Tank"
Rockford Style:
2015 FastPitch
Competition**

It's hard to believe that this year's event will be the **9th annual FastPitch Competition!** It will be held on Wednesday, June 17 at NIU-Rockford and is open to the public at 5:00 p.m. Over the past eight years, we've had an average of 48 people compete annually; totaling nearly 400 presenters.

[Click here](#) to read the complete article including an update on the **FastPitch Competition** first place winner, Tracie Burress | SockTABs, and second place winner, Stacy McCaskill | Fishwithme.net.

For more information or to register to compete for the Competition, [click here](#) to visit our website.



Small Business Development Center



Starting a Business in Illinois | Two hour session

When: 4/29, 6 to 8 p.m. | **Where:** Rock Valley College Woodward Technology Center, 3301 N. Mulford Rd., Rockford, IL | **Fee:** none | [Click here](#) and click on training events or call 815.921.2081

How to Start Your Own Business | Six week course

[See attached flyer](#) | **When:** April 9 - May 14 | 6 to 8:15 p.m. **Location:** EIGERlab | **Fee:** No cost to qualified low and moderate income households through funding from the City of Rockford. Others will pay \$150 tuition fee. Sign up now! [Click here](#) and click on training events or call 815.921.2081

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Rock Valley College

Procurement Technical Assistance Center

IDOT Business Training

Workshops are held at the EIGERlab and are open to all businesses. All PTAC workshops are free of charge. [Click here](#) to register. Then enter IDOT in the Keyword Search box. For more information, call (815) 921-2090. All PTAC workshops are free of charge.



- Financing Workshop** | April 15, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- How to Review a Subcontract Agreement** | April 28, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- How to File a Lien** | April 29, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- QuickBooks Overview Training** | May 14 | All day
- Developing a Business Plan** | June 17 | 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Attention local manufacturers: An overview of Quality Systems (based on ISO 9000) workshop being offered.



Quality Systems Overview (based on ISO 9000 Standard) Workshop

When: Wednesday, April 22, 8:00 a.m. - Noon | **Where:** EIGERlab, 605 Fulton Ave, Rockford | **How to register:** [Online registration](#). | Space is limited to 25 attendees. | **Cost:** Workshop is no-charge, advanced registration is required. **Questions?** Call 815.921.2090 or ptac@rockvalleycollege.edu

Entrepreneurial Events

NIU STEM Café | The 3D Printing Revolution: How 3D Printing is Changing the World | April 7 | The Olympic Tavern | 2327 N. Main St.

NIU's STEM Outreach presents the first of several STEM Cafés planned for Rockford. Adults are invited to eat, drink, and discuss the latest research and breakthroughs in science, technology, engineering, and math in a fun, casual environment. 6-8 p.m. - Talk | 8-8:45 p.m. - EIGERlab Tour

Micro-Enterprise Beloit, April, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) Wisconsin District Office will host Micro-Enterprise Beloit at the Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, April 8th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Participants will meet representatives from micro-enterprise lending sources and have an opportunity to talk with experienced business counselors. The event is free; [learn more](#).

Minority Business Expo | April 9 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. | Zeke Giorgi Center, Lower Level Auditorium (200 S. Wyman), Rockford | [Learn more](#).

Chicago UNCUBED | April 10 | Revel Downtown, 440 W. Randolph St., Chicago | [Learn more](#)

2015 Startup Weekend Madison, April 10th - April 12th

The 2015 Startup Weekend Madison will be held Friday, April 10th at 6:00 p.m. through Sunday, April 12th at 9:00 p.m. at the MGE Innovation Center. Startup Weekend events provide an opportunity for entrepreneurs to pitch ideas to their peers for feedback, and then work together to rapidly develop and present the best of those ideas to local entrepreneurial leaders. Tickets are \$99.00; [learn more](#).

Entrepreneurship Over Easy "Funding Your Enterprise" is April 14th, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Hyland Hall John Chenoweth, Dean of the College of Business and Economics at UW-Whitewater, will lead a panel discussion on "Funding Your Enterprise" at the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship next Entrepreneurship Over Easy. The event will be held on Tuesday, April 14th in Hyland Hall's Timmerman Auditorium. Registration and a light breakfast will start at 8:00 a.m., followed by the discussion at 8:30 a.m. [Learn more](#).

Clean Energy Challenge | \$1,000,000 in investment awards! | Final live pitch event, April 14

Clean Energy Trust strives to accelerate businesses and technologies that improve the ways we create, conserve and



consume energy. Over the past five years, our marquee program has been the Clean Energy Challenge. The Clean Energy Challenge has become a nationally acclaimed accelerator program that has jumpstarted more than 60 cleantech startups in the Midwest. [Learn more.](#)

Entrepreneurship Over Easy, April 14th, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Hyland Hall, Whitewater

The Whitewater University Technology Park will sponsor the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship "Entrepreneurship Over Easy" event on Tuesday, April 14th in Hyland Hall's Timmerman Auditorium. John Chenoweth, Dean of the College of Business and Economics, will lead a panel discussion on "Funding Your Enterprise." [Learn more.](#)

Taking Your Business International | Thursday, April 16, 2015 | 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Northern Illinois University - Rockford, 8500 E. State St., Rockford, IL

This is an opportunity for manufacturers and other business leaders to learn how to diversify with exporting an increase profitability. Whether your company has never exported before, or it already enjoys significant annual export sales, you'll benefit from this event. It also applies to bankers and attorneys looking to learn more about this realm of business for advising their clients. Cost: \$25.00 per person; \$15.00 per each additional person from the same company | [Click here](#) for more info & to register.

STEMpreneur Insights | April 16

Join the Women's Business Development Center and the Enterprising Women Foundation for a panel discussion with accomplished women entrepreneurs in STEM-related fields. The discussion will cover the benefits, challenges and strategies for establishing and growing successful businesses in science, technology and engineering as well as contracting opportunities and hurdles in the private and public sectors. [Learn more.](#)

ATHENAPowerlink Now Accepting Applications

The Rockford ATHENAPowerLink® (APL) is offering a professional consulting package, valued at \$40,000 for an entire year. A woman business owner will be chosen from the Rockford market to participate. ATHENAPowerLink is able to offer this business mentoring program for women with the support of PNC, and the Rockford Chamber of Commerce. Applications must be submitted by April 17, 2015. There is a \$250 application acceptance fee for the business selected for the program. Applications are available by [clicking here](#) (Microsoft Word Format) or by contacting: Heidi Garner, 815.316.4312 | hgarner@rockfordchamber.com

Minority & Women Business Enterprise Opportunities Seminar, April 23

The City of Rockford presents the Minority & Women Business Enterprise Opportunities seminar, Thursday, April 23, 8:30 a.m. to noon at RMAP, 313 N. Main St., Rockford. Includes guest speakers from the U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. Dept. of HUD, IDOT/District 2 and the City of Rockford. RSVP by April 20 by faxing the registration form to Nora Doyle at 815-967-6949. For questions, contact Ron Moore, 779-348-7396 or Ron.Moore@rockfordil.gov.

Save-the-Date: 12th Annual Women's Business Conference, April 30 | Eau Claire

The 12th Annual Women's Business Conference will be held at The Plaza Hotel and Suites in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on Thursday, April 30, 2015 from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The conference targets female entrepreneurs who are starting, expanding, or working to improve their businesses. [Learn more.](#)

Rockford-Auburn Mini Maker Faire | Call for makers! | Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

What do you make? Does anyone know of your hard work and dedication? Share the cool things you make with the Northern Illinois community at the Rockford-Auburn Mini Maker Faire - Auburn High School Field House. [Learn more.](#)

GOTO Chicago | Conference May 11-12 | Workshops May 13-14

GOTO Chicago is created "by developers, for developers" where the emphasis is placed on presenting latest developments as they become relevant and interesting for the software development community. The topics for 2015 are: Java, Testing, Distributed Systems, Data Science, Agile, JavaScript, Trends, Architecture, Languages & Security. [Learn more.](#)

2015 FastPitch Competition | \$5,000 first prize | Please save the date | Wednesday, June 17

Have you heard of ABC's *Shark Tank* T.V. show? Well our event, the 9th annual **FastPitch Competition**, is similar, only our judges are friendlier! Do you have a great idea for a new product, service or app? Would \$5,000 and partnering with product and business development entities at the EIGERlab assist in moving your idea to the next phase? For more information, visit our [website page](#) or phone 815.316.6357.

IMEC Manufacturing Industry News | Manufacturing Improvement Specialists

[Learn more.](#)

Entrepreneurial Information



Videos Spotlight Success Strategies for Women Entrepreneurs

A new six-part series of videos focusing on topics important to entrepreneurs is featured on the recently revamped online face of Kauffman FastTrac®. [Learn more.](#)

Kauffman @ SXSW: 4 Insights from the Fastest Growing Companies in America

Interesting..."Yet, the data shows a very different picture. Our research with 479+ companies among the Inc. 500|5000 list of fastest growing companies in America tells another story: the vast majority of them are not based in Silicon Valley, and less than 6.5% of them raised any venture capital." [Learn more.](#)

Sketchbook Draws Lessons from Extraordinary Entrepreneurs

Amy Wilkinson, author of *The Creator's Code*, describes key characteristics of extraordinary entrepreneurs in the latest installment of the Kauffman Sketchbook video series. Wilkinson conducted extensive research funded by

the Kauffman Foundation to determine the fundamental skills of today's leading entrepreneurs. She highlights six essential skills that can be learned, practiced, and passed on to others. [Click here](#) to view the video.

12 Point Checklist For Creating a Website

Creating a website can be daunting. Same goes for updating or improving your existing website. It feels like a huge project. You may feel like you don't know where to start. [Learn more.](#)

Seven things for entrepreneurs to know about debt and equity

The idea of using debt to support businesses in healthcare and life sciences tends to be viewed warily and with good reason. At MidAmerica Healthcare Venture Forum this week, GE Capital senior vice president in life sciences Joe Hammer offered up some helpful insights on the different kinds of debt available to biotech and medical device companies, from pre-revenue stage companies to more mature businesses. [Learn more.](#)

Seven Critical Questions to Contemplate Before You Become an Entrepreneur

As a mentor to aspiring entrepreneurs, the most common question I get is, "I want to be an entrepreneur -- how do I start?" The obvious answer is that you need an idea first, but I've come to realize that the process is really much more complex than that. Many people with great ideas never make it as entrepreneurs, and true entrepreneurs can make a business out of anything. [Learn more.](#)

The Five: Documents Every Entrepreneur Needs

How do you protect your business from potential legal issues or conflicts? Jeff Bell offers tips on documents every entrepreneur needs. [Learn more.](#)

Crowdfunding Benefits Go Well Beyond Just Raising Money

Kickstarter isn't just for funding anymore. In recent years, creative entrepreneurs have found other crowdfunding benefits when using the platform. For instance, some have found it to be a great way to get their name out to the public before launching. [Learn more.](#)

Five things you're getting wrong about innovation: a business analyst's perspective

Companies are finding it increasingly difficult to be innovative as they struggle to keep up with the ever-changing needs and demands of today's consumer. This is especially true of larger, process-driven companies. Unsurprisingly, smaller companies who unencumbered by large scales of operation are able to be more innovative, taking their solutions to the market in a more timely fashion. [Learn more.](#)

EIGERlab in the news

In case you missed any of our recent media coverage.

27 Mar | [NIU STEM Cafe expands to Rockford to present 3D printing revolution](#) | NIU Today

21 Mar | ['Bulldog' entrepreneur succeeds in landing manufacturing deal for fireplace covers](#) | The Journal Times

17 Mar | [NIU aims to expand entrepreneurship with Rockford EIGERlab acquisition](#) | RR Star

Open Positions | EIGERlab's tenants, clients & partners



EIGERlab's tenants, clients and partners are expanding and would like to fill key positions. Please peruse the following information and consider forwarding to interested parties. This is a portal service, for tenants and clients; please do not contact EIGERlab directly.

CLEO Communications

***An ideal candidate in the Rockford area could potentially work in Rockford yet report to individuals elsewhere.**

Finance Intern
Sales Operations Intern
Technical Writer Intern
Senior Support Engineer
QA Engineer
Implementation Consultant
Channel Development Representative

Leading Edge Hydraulics

Lead-End Form
Lead-Tube Prep
Brazing
Machine Shop
Saws

Lyons Consulting Group

***An ideal candidate in the Rockford area could potentially work in Rockford yet report to individuals elsewhere.**

Applications Engineer Intern, Ann Arbor, MI
Senior Project Manager, Ann Arbor, MI
Systems Administrator, Rockford, IL
Web Application Developer-Back End, Ann Arbor, MI
Applications Engineer Intern, Chicago, IL
Hybris Technical Architect, Chicago, IL
Magento Application Engineer, Chicago, IL
Senior Interface Engineer- Demandware, Chicago, IL
Senior Web Application Developer-Technical Lead, Chicago, IL
Senior Web Application Developer-Technical Lead, Ann Arbor, MI
Sr. Back End Applications Engineer, Chicago, IL
Web Application Developer-Back End, Chicago, IL
Web Application Developer-Front End, Chicago, IL
Web Application Developer-Front End, Ann Arbor, MI
Experience Architect, Chicago, IL
Senior Visual Designer, Chicago, IL
UX Director, Chicago, IL
Technical Trainer, Chicago, IL

Spider Company

HR Generalist

TAC Rockford

Sales Director

**Dan Cataldi, Executive Director | NIU EIGERlab | 605 Fulton Avenue | Rockford, Illinois
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