



Northern Illinois  
University

**December 4, 2015**

NIU EIGERlab is a 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 resource for business support and growth.

**Land Here . Launch Here . Learn Here . Grow Here**

[www.EIGERlab.org](http://www.EIGERlab.org)



## Center for Product Development to host News Conference, Open House and *Innovation Tuesday Meetup*

***You're Invited!***



***Innovation Tuesday!***

**Clients, partners and innovators are invited to check out the new location of the NIU EIGERlab's Center for Product Development during a series of activities at the center on Tuesday, December 8.**

NIU EIGERlab's Center for Product Development (C4PD) is a one-stop, comprehensive innovation resource supporting the region with leading edge advanced manufacturing technologies. The C4PD provides product development and commercialization services to the region's entrepreneurs, innovators and business owners who are focused on designing and commercializing physical and digital products.

NIU EIGERlab and 3D Platform will be announcing a strategic partnership. 3D Platform is a leading manufacturer of large-scale, industrial-class 3D printers. Based in Roscoe, Illinois, 3D Platform is a company of skilled mechatronics engineers who embraces rapid advances in technology to innovate, design, and build next generation equipment for rapid prototyping.

NIU EIGERlab hosts a monthly Innovation Tuesday Meetup. December's Meetup will cap off the December 8 activities, including presenters on the changing world of 3D design, new 3D printer platforms and current advancements in 3D print materials.

**When: Tuesday, December 8**

**2 PM | News Conference**

**3:00 - 5:30 PM | Open house**

**5:30 - 7:30 PM | Innovation Tuesday Meetup**

**Speakers from:** 3D Platform, Computer Aided Technology (CATI) and the Center for Product Development Center

**Where:** NIU EIGERlab's Center for Product Development, 5299 Zenith Parkway, Loves Park, IL 815.965.3522 | Northwest of Rock Cut State Park and the new Woodward location between Perryville and Forest Hills roads

Register for the *Innovation Tuesday* meetup online via [Meetup](#) or email, [spritz@eigerlab.org](mailto:spritz@eigerlab.org).

## NIU's President Baker, "Fueling the Region's Economic Engine"

America doesn't make things anymore.

We've all heard that sadly common complaint, and maybe we've thought it true. But, I'm happy to say, the naysayers who spread that idea are entirely wrong.

Proof that our country is still working - still dreaming, still brainstorming, still building, still creating the kinds of jobs that forge a prosperous future - came earlier this week in Rockford.

I made trips Monday and Tuesday to the Forest City, the first to celebrate the news that the [Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute](#) will open its first chapter there and, one day later, to mark [the 20th anniversary of NIU-Rockford](#) and exciting changes to the NIU EIGERlab.

For businesses and the people they employ, these announcements offered good news about the "stateline" region and illustrated the depth of our commitment to helping drive the economy.

Rockford's DMDII chapter is "the place" for area small- and medium-sized manufacturers "to share ideas, develop and learn about industry-changing new technologies and contribute to the American manufacturing revolution."

Those aren't my words.

[U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin](#), [Congresswoman Cheri Bustos](#) and other elected officials and local business leaders heard that from Dean Bartles, executive director of [DMDII](#) and chief manufacturing officer for UI LABS, of which the institute is a collaboration.

[Click here](#) for the complete article.



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## Burress' secure "Shark Tank" connection

***CONGRATULATIONS to Tracie and Glen Burress! November 20th it was announced that they made a connection with "Shark Tank's" shark, Daymond John, CEO of FUBU.***



Daymond's company, "FUBU is an American clothing and hip hop apparel company. It includes casual wear, sportswear, a suit collection, eyewear, belts, and shoes. The name is considered to be an acronym for "For Us By Us".

[Click here](#) to visit the sockTABS website.

Please see the "NIU EIGERlab in the News" section below for the Burress' media coverage.



**NIU EIGERlab's new spaces: CoWorking Space, NIU-Rockford  
Center for Product Development, Zenith Parkway**

***Innovate | Accelerate | Commercialize***



**NIU EIGERlab has moved to its two new locations:**

***NIU EIGERlab, CoWorking Space, 8500 E. State St., Rockford, IL 61108***

***NIU EIGERlab, 5299 Zenith Parkway, Loves Park, IL 61111***

***NIU EIGERlab's CoWorking Space***

The purpose and focus of this space is to promote an energetic ecosystem for solopreneurs and early stage, product-based growth companies. Instead of toiling alone in your garage, basement or Starbucks, join NIU EIGERlab's CoWorking Program where entrepreneurs can access business coaching, mentors, investor networks, product-based project management, CAD design and 3D printing to accelerate the commercialization of your business ideas-inspiring inventiveness and imagination.



***NIU EIGERlab's Center for Product Development***

The purpose and focus of this space is to serve the region with leading edge business, engineering and project management support services. Manufacturing, art, engineering, urban design...you name it, we can be of assistance. Our functional additive manufacturing or 3D printing capabilities encompass the technology to first, transform your thoughts into computer models and second, covert those models to physical objects. In addition, we'll be introducing certification courses for 3D printer technicians this fall.



If you are in search of a space for your business, NIU EIGERlab can assist with two convenient locations. Membership levels include a choice of: common CoWorking space, dedicated cubicles or semiprivate accommodations. All memberships include a discount on business support coaching and business and product development programming. In addition, both locations have conference rooms which can accommodate client meetings. For pricing, please visit our [website](#). We welcome you to visit either location to determine which one may suit your needs.



To learn more about **NIU EIGERlab's CoWorking Space**, call Sherry Pritz at 815.316.6357. To learn more about **NIU EIGERlab's Center for Product Development**, call Tina Leombruni at 815.965.3522.

Land | Launch | Learn | Grow

## Welcome to our new NIU EIGERlab CoWorking Space Members

Dar Allen | Vascular Support Solutions | [Website](#)

Tim Benedict | Fire Chariot | website-in development

Dick Johnson | Rockwind Venture Partners | [Website](#)

Brad Marshall & Paul Fowler | AdsOrTails | [Online advertising platform](#)

Daniel Orto | Air Technology Solutions | [Website](#)

Nicole Sdao | NonProfitThrive.com  
| [Website](#)

Richard Werneth | Computer Aided Technology, Inc. (CATI) | [Website](#)

Small Business Development Center



**New location:  
1111 S. Alpine Rd., Suite 203, Rockford, IL 61108**

The Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) of Rock Valley College (RVC) is Winnebago, Ogle, Stephenson, and Boone counties' central resource for business development and creation.

The SBDC leverages a large network of resources to ensure the success of existing and start-up businesses that create jobs and grow our region's economy.

Questions? Call 815.921.2081 or [c.fuller@rockvalleycollege.edu](mailto:c.fuller@rockvalleycollege.edu)

*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

**New location:  
1111 S. Alpine Rd., Suite 203, Rockford, IL 61108**



Our mission is to provide guidance for business growth. The Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) at Rock Valley College provides no-cost services to businesses in Winnebago, Boone, Stephenson, and Ogle counties. The PTAC can help determine suitability for government contracting. The government marketplace poses unique challenges that can overwhelm a small business that does not have the proper resources. Let us help you determine if your company is ready for government prime or subcontracting.

The PTAC also has linkages with the federal, state, and local levels through the Illinois Small Business Development Center Network. We work closely with other business assistance programs to provide such services as trade/export assistance through international trade centers, access to financial and energy management assistance, and job training help.

### **Workshops**

**December 7, Project Management II: Managing Multiple Projects** | 10 AM - 1 PM | Rockford University, Puri Business Bldg

**December 14, Project Management III: Managing Project Closeout** | 10 AM - 1 PM | Rockford University, Puri Business Bldg

Questions? Call 815.921.2090 or [ptac@rockvalleycollege.edu](mailto:ptac@rockvalleycollege.edu)

## Entrepreneurial Events

**Webinar, Tue, Dec 8 | 10 Cybersecurity Mistakes You Cannot Afford to Make - Tips from the Federal Trade Commission**

The consequences of a data breach can be disastrous for a small business. The good news is there are steps you can take to protect your company's data. [Register](#).

**What You Need to Know About Exporting to Cuba | Dec 8, 2 pm ET**

The Bureau of Industry (BIS) under the U.S. Department of Commerce has scheduled monthly call-in programs to field questions from the exporting community concerning the Cuba rule published on January 16, 2015. [Learn more](#).



"Breakfast Buzz" | Rockford Chamber | Wed, Dec 9

Maximizing Your Chamber Membership | Be a Part of the Discussion with Einar Forsman on Positioning Yourself for Growth in 2016. [Register](#).

**Small Business Exporters: 2016 Hannover Messe Trade Show in Germany | Apr 25-29**

Hannover Messe 2016 is the premier international trade shows for industrial technology, and for the first time the U.S. is a partner country. [Learn more](#).

**The National SBIR/STTR Conference & 3rd Annual National Innovation Summit and Showcase World Conference, at the Gaylord Convention Center | Jun 14-17**

[Learn more](#).

**Superior Joining Technologies and Edge Factor Present: The Edge Factor Show**

Edge Factor is proud to announce that The Edge Factor Show is now airing throughout the Rockford DMA on WTVO Channel 17 (ABC) Sundays at 9AM CT, WQRF FOX 39 Fridays at 11PM CT and Rockford's My Network TV Mondays at 6:30PM CT. This is a 52-week commitment, with episodes from seasons one and two. The Edge Factor Show tells stories of innovative manufacturing teams working together to design and build incredible products. In each episode, Host Jeremy Bout meets the people who are using cutting edge technology to redefine what is possible, change lives and build our world. With a special focus on careers and technology, viewers will get an inside look at what happens behind closed doors in manufacturing shops across North America. Special thanks to Superior Joining Technologies, Mastercam, Sandvik Coromant, the Gene Haas Foundation and many other partners for helping to make this series possible.

[Learn more](#).

**IMEC Manufacturing Industry News | Manufacturing Improvement Specialists**

[Learn more](#).

## Entrepreneurial Information



**Blog: Women's Entrepreneurship Day**

Women today make up nearly 29 percent of all U.S. business owners, and according to preliminary data from U.S. Census Bureau, women's entrepreneurship is on the rise. [Learn more](#).

**Holiday Marketing Guide: 2015 Trends That Will Drive Sales**

If you haven't already started prepping your business for the holidays, now is the time to start. Here are a few key areas your marketing and sales efforts should focus on, and what you can do now to ensure a great shopping experience for your customers all season long. [Learn more](#).

### **Kauffman Index Shows Main Street Entrepreneurship on the Rise**

Small-business activity increased last year, reversing a six-year downward trend according to the 2015 Kauffman Index: Main Street Entrepreneurship. [Learn more.](#)

### **Valued Resources - Appy Pie**

From businessnewsdaily.com. Before you hire a developer to build a costly mobile app for your company, check out a more affordable option. Appy Pie is a mobile app maker that allows individuals with no technical expertise to create custom apps for their businesses. [Learn more.](#)

### **A Snapshot of the Emerging Entrepreneur**

The Kauffman Foundation interviewed thirty-five EY Entrepreneur of The Year 2015 winners in the emerging category from across the country. We would like to thank these high-growth entrepreneurs for helping us understand how they achieved their success in such a short time. [Learn more.](#)

### **Veteran Angel Investor Explains Startup Funding Strategies in New Kauffman Founders School Videos**

Entrepreneurs learn the keys to working with angel investors from one of America's leading experts. Learn more. [Learn more.](#)

### **Helping America's Servicemen and Servicewomen Transition to Business Ownership**

Helping America's servicemen and servicewomen make the move from military service to business ownership is an important mission of the America's SBDC network, and we are proud that one of our own has been named a "Boots to Business Instructor of the Year." That honor goes to Robin Stephenson, Business Advisor at the Watertown, New York SBDC. [Learn more.](#)

### **Raising Capital Through Regulation A+? You Still Need to Market Your Socks Off.**

Ever since Regulation A+ became the law in June, I have been inundated with calls from companies excited about the prospect of raising up to \$50 million in new capital online through a Mini IPO (initial public offering). [Learn more.](#)

### **5 Things You Need to Know About Projecting Startup Profits**

This year alone I've seen several startup business plans projecting year three profits at 40%, 50%, or more, as measured by dividing net profits into sales. And most of these are pretty good plans as measured by potential product-market fit, scalability, and credibility of the management team. [Learn more.](#)

### **Twenty Predictions For The Next 20 Years**

...Fast Company turns 20 this month too, and the world has changed dramatically since the cover of issue No. 1 declared "Work Is Personal. Computing Is Social. Knowledge Is Power. Break the Rules." Yet that manifesto is more relevant than ever. How we interpret those words has evolved-we did not predict an App Store or an Oculus Rift-but their spirit has become central to our culture. [Learn more.](#)

### **Spotlighting Millennial Entrepreneurs**

Millennials are an irreplaceable part of the entrepreneurial community. Studies show that Millennials represent the most diverse age group in history. [Watch the video.](#)

### **10 Ways Smart Business Owners Use Business Dashboards**

Data is everywhere today. Yet, the situation reminds me of that old saying, "Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink." Yes, you may be floating in an ocean of data, but that data won't help you if it's not usable. [Learn more.](#)

### **Abraham Lincoln loved our patent system. Let's not tear it down.**

[Learn more.](#)

### **Are You Ready to Be an Entrepreneur? Ask These 5 Questions**

You might be fixated on the idea of entrepreneurship, but are you ready to take on the challenge? These five questions will tell you.

[Learn more.](#)

## NIU EIGERlab in the news

In case you missed any of our recent media coverage.

11/06 | [NIU EIGERlab Making 'Digital' Connection](#) | WNIU/WNIJ

11/09 | [Premier Midwest research lab taps Rockford and Northern Illinois University to advance digital manufacturing](#) | RR Star

11/09 | [Digital Manufacturing Chapter Opening in Rockford](#) | WIFR

11/09 | [UI Labs to open DMDII branch in Rockford](#) | Chicago Tribune

11/09 | [New manufacturing lab opens in Rockford](#) | WREX

11/10 | [NIU EIGERlab Opens New Co-Working Space for Entrepreneurs](#) | WIFR

11/10 | [Northern Illinois University celebrates 20 years of collaboration in Rockford](#) | RR Star

11/15 | [Rockford couple hope to knock socks off celebrity judges on 'Shark Tank'](#) | RR Star

11/20 | [Local Inventors to Appear on ABC's Shark Tank with SockTABS](#) | WTVO

11/20 | [Stateline Couple Scores Big Investment on 'Shark Tank'](#) | WTVO

11/21 | [Rockford couple get an investment bite on 'Shark Tank'](#) | RR Star

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Dan Cataldi, Executive Director

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