



Northern Illinois
University

March 7, 2016

NIU EIGERlab serves the region with leading edge business and engineering support services targeting physical and digital product-based initiatives. Whether you're a new or existing entrepreneur, inventor, start-up or an existing company interested in innovation, NIU EIGERlab is a regional resource for commercialization and growth.

Land . Launch . Learn . Grow

www.EIGERlab.org

Introducing **Launch Pad!**

NIU EIGERlab's **Launch Pad** coworking space supports a regional community of like-minded inventors, designers, hackers, developers, solopreneurs and early-stage innovative businesses by providing a fluid environment to convene, learn, collaborate and commercialize next generation digital and physical product-based businesses. **Launch Pad** delivers a supportive atmosphere for ideation, implementation and collaboration to accelerate the growth of your enterprise.

Members have discounted access to:

- Common meeting spaces
- Semiprivate spaces
- Business coaching
- Business development tools
- Innovation programming/Meetups
- Speakers series
- Mentors, investors and professional service providers



Membership options include:
Social memberships | \$30 per month
Part-time open spaces | \$60 per month
Full-time open spaces | \$125 per month
Dedicated semiprivate cubicles | \$250 per month



Visit us at:
NIU-Rockford, 8500 E. State St., Rockford, IL | 815.753.2192

Innovation Tuesday Meetup | "Circuit Building 101: Intro to Electronics"

You're Invited!



Innovation Tuesday!

When: Tuesday, March 8, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Where: NIU EIGERlab, NIU Rockford, 8500 E. State St. Rockford, IL

Why: One of the key concepts in electronics is the printed circuit board (PCB). At this month's Meetup, our speaker will discuss the fundamentals of a PCB including: composition; terminology; methods of assembly; and the design process.

Suggested attendees would include: engineers, makers, and individuals interested in both product development and DIY.

Cost: \$10 | Networking before and after the presentation | Food and drink provided

Register for the *Innovation Tuesday* meetup online via [Meetup](#). If you have any questions, contact Sherry via email, spritz@eigerlab.org or 815.753.2192.

February's Innovation Tuesday Meetup—informative!



"Excellent Forum. Nicely Done!"
-Andrew Fulrath

February's *Innovation Tuesday* Meetup's panel on, "What is Intellectual Property," was very informative. They provided a wealth of knowledge, answered a wide variety of questions and provided feedback on many real-world scenarios including:

- When to Patent | Copyright | Trademark
- Can you do your own patent research
- Cost to file/protect Intellectual Property
- Create a brand fast vs. patent protection

Please visit our [website](#) for the following valuable resources:

- **Video - complete presentation** | Approximately 55 minutes
- **"A User's Guide to Patent Services"** | Provided by Attorney Jeff Dixon
- **"Patents"** | Provided by Attorney Eric Waltmire
- **"Patent Services"** | Provided by Attorney Jeff Dixon

Our distinguished volunteer panelists included:

- **Jeff Dixon**, Patent Attorney, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP | Chicago
- **Yolanda King**, Professor/Patent Attorney, NIU College of Law | Advitam IP | Chicago
- **Matt Mondek**, Professional Engineer - holds an MBA, BSME, CPM and five U.S. patents | Wonder Lake
- **Eric Waltmire**, Patent Attorney, Erickson Law Group, PC | Wheaton

[Click here](#) to read the panelists' bios.



Please consider being a member of NIU EIGERlab's Innovation Network Meetup group...there's no charge unless you're attending a Meetup. [Learn more.](#)

The Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute (DMDII)



DMDII
+ a UI LABS Collaboration



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

EIGERlab Innovation Network

Innovation, Acceleration and Product Development



Dean Bartles
Executive Director, DMDII
Chief Manufacturing Officer, UI LABS

From DMDII's Director's Chair

Welcome to the February issue of the DMDII Newsletter. This was easily one of the most exciting months for DMDII, as we awarded \$15 Million in R&D Project Awards to a multitude of partners -- our biggest investment yet!

The projects bring together teams with expertise in a variety of manufacturing disciplines -- including cybersecurity -- and include major multinational corporations, small enterprises, government entities and university researchers. This group of awardees shows what DMDII and UI LABS are all about: smart cross-sector collaboration that is going to enhance competitiveness for the entire industry. Through these projects, we are lowering cost and access barriers to implementing digital manufacturing practices for small manufacturers across the country. [Click here](#) for the complete article.

\$15 Million in New R & D Project Contracts Awarded

Big news this month! DMDII issued six national contract research awards, spanning 27 partners across 17 states, including funding to test and aid compliance with the nation's cybersecurity standards for digital manufacturing. The projects span several digital manufacturing disciplines, but each reflects the core mission of DMDII: propelling the field of American digital manufacturing and design forward. [Click here](#) for the complete article.

DMDII's Vision

The Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute is a unique public-private partnership acting as a world-class, first-of-its-kind manufacturing hub. Based in Chicago, the Institute has the capabilities, innovative spirit and collaborative expertise to transform American manufacturing.

TED Talks | "How Great Leaders Inspire Action"



People don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it.

Simon Sinek has a simple but powerful model for inspirational leadership - starting with a golden circle and the question "Why?" His examples include Apple, Martin Luther King, and the Wright brothers.

[View the video](#) (previously viewed 25M+ times)



FastPitch Competition, 10th Anniversary! | Save the date



FastPitch Competition
Wednesday, September 28 | NIU-Rockford

Join our Meetup Group

Please consider being a member of NIU EIGERlab's Innovation Network Meetup group...there's no charge unless you're attending an event. [Learn more.](#)



Entrepreneurial Events

Rockford Chamber's Breakfast Buzz, Wellness in the Workplace | Mar 9, 7:30 - 9 AM

Shelley Wagner, Wellness Coordinator, and Michael Parson, Large Group Director with Williams-Manny Insurance Group will present at the March Breakfast Buzz. [Learn more.](#)

Women's Business Development Center Aurora Launch | Mar 9

Please join us, our community partners, city representatives including Mayor of Aurora Tom Weisner and State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia, and business owners as we celebrate the new Center in Aurora, Illinois. [Learn more.](#)



Midwest Small Business Expo 2016 | Mar 9-10, Hilton Chicago/Northbrook, Northbrook, IL

The Society of American Military Engineers will host this expo. This event is for Architecture/Engineering, Construction, Environmental, and related trades. General registration for small businesses is \$200 prior to February 12, and \$250 after that date. [Learn more.](#)

Deadline to Apply to Meet with Major Firms at Tech Summit | Mar 16

The Wisconsin Tech Summit is scheduled for Monday, April 25, 2016 at the GE Healthcare Institute in Waukesha, Wisconsin. [Learn more.](#)

Rockford Chamber's "Growing the Business Bottom Line: Preventing Cyber Fraud," Mar 24, 11:30 AM - 1:15 PM

Jeff Lanza, a retired FBI agent and security expert uses real life examples of the latest hacks, security breaches and computer scams to demonstrate how cybercrime occurs and what countermeasures businesses can take to combat the innovations of criminals. [Learn more.](#)

Find and Utilize the Top Influencers in Your Industry: How to Get on their Radar! Mar 30, 3:30 - 6 PM

Influencer Marketing is said to be the next big thing and a key aspect of digital PR. It can increase your rankings, social shares, leads, traffic and so much more, but there are several steps that need to be taken in order to reap its benefits. [Learn more.](#)

Spring Networking with Global Entrepreneurship Project | Mar 31, 5:30 - 8 PM

Global Entrepreneurship Project, Inc. understands that continuous training and education are key success factors in today's global competitive market place. [Learn more.](#)

Add an MBE certification to your marketing arsenal and attract more corporate buyers

If you're a Chicago based business, WBENC clients of the WBDC are eligible to receive 50% off the first-time application fee of Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certification through Mar 31. [Learn more.](#)

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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.](#)

DuPage County Regional Business Outlook, May 3, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM | Save the date

Join business executives and leaders for a luncheon featuring an economic and business outlook.

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



Six Innovative Social Media Tools for Small Business

Luckily, new technologies and services are making it easier than ever for business owners to take full advantage of social media in marketing their business. Here are six services that companies should know about. [Learn more.](#)

The Case for Teaching Your Kids to Code

Not only are tech jobs going to be the jobs when your son or daughter graduates high school (by 2020, the U.S. will create 1.4 million jobs in computer science-related fields), chances are, those who have them are going to have more job security, a better salary, and probably more helpful robot butlers than you. [Learn more.](#)

U.S. Tech Industry Employment Surpasses 6.7 Million Workers

Discover this and more in Cyberstates 2016: The Definitive State-by-State Analysis of the U.S. Tech Industry published by the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA). [Learn more.](#)

Six Critical Steps to A Winning Company Culture

Creating the right company culture must be a top priority of every entrepreneur and business leader. Simply speaking, culture-driven businesses put their people first, and people make the business, rather than the other way around. [Learn more.](#)

How Technology Is Disrupting Industries in 2016

New technology is disrupting several industries, allowing for this greater access to valuable information and opening up more opportunities for local marketing, efficient management of assets and improved healthcare. [Learn more.](#)

Seven Steps to Master the Art of Persuasion

Many entrepreneurs are so passionate about their new startup idea that they can't believe any intelligent being, investor or customer wouldn't react just as excitedly after a quick introduction. [Learn more.](#)

Dan Cataldi, Executive Director

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