



Northern Illinois
University

May 3, 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

25 People Who Inspire | Northwest Quarterly

It's easy to talk about transforming our region.

But actually doing something to change the world - that's the hard part. Meet 25 individuals who have made their mark through positive actions, both big and small. Some act in an official role; others simply follow their passions. They contribute a diversity of experiences, many job titles and dedication to serving the community. Through their tireless actions, these leaders have inspired a positive outlook on our region.

Innovation Tuesday!

When: Tuesday, May 10, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

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

Why: Would you like to learn about funding your venture or business through traditional bank funding, Crowdfunding such as Kickstarter or Indiegogo or perhaps an Angel investment group? Join us and let our panel of experts share insights into each.

Cost: \$10 | Networking 5:30 - 6 p.m. | Presentation 6 - 7 p.m. | Additional networking post-presentation, 6:30 - 7 p.m. | *Food and drink provided-***please RSVP****

[Next month's topic](#)
QuickBooks Basics to Manage Your Business,
June 14

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

Fuel your business growth at **LaunchPad! Complimentary trial membership**

NIU EIGERlab's **LaunchPad** 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, and commercialize next generation digital and physical product-based businesses. **LaunchPad** delivers a supportive atmosphere for ideation, implementation and collaboration to accelerate the growth of your enterprise.

Complimentary One Month Trial

Curious if **LaunchPad** is a good fit for you and your company? ***Enjoy a 30-day complimentary trial membership*** in one of our professional office cubicles including all of the amenities.



Members have discounted access to:

- Common meeting spaces
- Semiprivate spaces
- Business coaching
- Business development tools
- Innovation programming/Meetups
- Speaker 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

Please call to schedule a tour at either location.

NIU-Rockford, 8500 E. State St., Rockford, IL | 815.753.2192
Center for Product Development (C4PD), 5299 Zenith Parkway, Loves Park, IL | 815.965.3522
www.EIGERlab.org

Seeking Mentors



A rising tide lifts all boats!

NIU EIGERlab is seeking mentors to guide and nurture our solopreneurs, inventors, and entrepreneurs. We are seeking individuals who are able to impart wisdom and leadership in their perspective fields. We are interested in providing this invaluable service twice monthly--on the first and third Tuesdays from 3 to 5 p.m.

Seeking mentors for the following areas:

- Accounting
- Banking
- Business Development
- Legal

Please contact us at 815.753.2192 or spritz@eigerlab.org.

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

Welcome to the April issue of the DMDII Newsletter.

The theme for this month's newsletter is execution, so we wanted to take a look at a couple of our DMDII R&D projects currently underway.

We currently have over \$20 Million in Research and Development funding awarded to partners across the country.

As we award additional projects, I would like to invite you to view our new interactive Project Award map. The map -- which will be updated with every new award announcement -- is an exciting representation of how many regions of the United States we are actively involved in. Seeing "project clusters" form in tech strongholds across the country is something we did not expect but are delighted to see.

Finally, I would like to welcome all of our new DMDII partners that have joined us since our last newsletter. See the full list of new members at the bottom of this newsletter.

Thank you,
Dr. Dean L. Bartles
Chief Manufacturing Officer, UI LABS
Executive Director, DMDII

Mind the GAP: Filling the Gap between CAD and CNC with Engineering Services

Team: STEP Tools, Inc. (lead), Penn State University, Vanderbilt University

What problem is your project solving?

We are bridging the gap between design and manufacturing by developing new cloud services for CNC machining. The new services allow third parties to validate machining processes using smart phones and tablets and suggest new solutions by substituting better tooling.

For the complete article and newsletter, [click here](#).

Intelligent adaptive machining fixtures for castings (IAMFix R)

Team: Product Development & Analysis (PDA) LLC (lead) Design Automation Laboratory of Arizona State University, American Foundry Society (AFS) and Steel Founders Society of America (SFS)

What problem is your project solving?

Complex sand castings have dimensional variability from piece to piece which is inherent to the casting process. This requires manual setup time occupying the machining cell, relies on the operator's skills and occasionally results into scrap and rework.

For the complete article and newsletter, [click here](#).

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.

Videoconferencing Services

*When you can't meet in person,
videoconferencing is the next best thing.*

Facilitate your online virtual meetings by utilizing NIU EIGERlab's videoconferencing equipment, located in one of our seminar rooms (capacity 10). Hourly rate, \$125.



TED Talks | "The happy secret to better work"

Positive Psychology | Shawn Achor

We believe we should work hard in order to be happy, but could we be thinking about things backwards? In this fast-moving and very funny talk, psychologist Shawn Achor argues that, actually, happiness inspires us to be more productive. [View the video](#) 13,164,377 Total views



Consider joining 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. On the second Tuesday of the month, our speakers and panelists share a wealth of information on entrepreneurial topics. [Learn more.](#)

Entrepreneurial Events

National Small Business Week | Small Business Administration | Free Webinars | May 1 - 7

YP Marketing Solutions: Cloud, Mobile, and Social: Great Apps and Services That Will Grow Your Business

Tuesday, May 03 | 2:00 PM | [Learn more](#)

Sam's Club: Access to Capital and Business Loans: Best Practices

Wednesday, May 04 | 3:00 PM | [Learn more](#)

Intuit QuickBooks: Tips for Getting Your Business Financially Fit

Thursday, May 05 | 2:00 PM | [Learn more](#)

Illinois Small Business Week Happenings | [Learn more](#)

Rockford Chamber's Business Women's Council | May 3, 11:15 AM - 1 PM

"Creating Your Road to Success" with Penny Lechtenberg, Lechtenberg Law Office. [Learn more.](#)

Your Everything Guide to Small Business Week | May 2 - 7 | Chicago

Six day, dozens of events and thousands of networking opportunities. [Learn more.](#)

Spring 2016 Innovators' Showcase | May 4, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

The Innovators' Showcase is an opportunity for business community leaders, entrepreneurs and start-up owners, faculty, students and staff to see the results of their collaborative efforts, network, and plan new endeavors. [Learn more.](#)

Webinar, Assess Your Business: Introduction to the Growthwheel® Tools | May 5, 12 - 1 PM

This webinar series introduces business owners to the Growthwheel®, an action plan for entrepreneurs. [Learn more.](#)

Breakfast Buzz - Social Media Strategies | May 11, 7:30 - 9 AM

At the May Breakfast Buzz, we will hear from Ron Giordan, Director-Social Media/Public Relations Strategy at Mid-West Digital Marketing. [Learn more.](#)

Starting and Growing a Business: Making the Right Decisions | May 13, 7:30 - 10 AM

Earl Humphrey, UW-Whitewater graduate, Fort Atkinson native, SCORE volunteer mentor, and angel investor, will present "Starting and Growing a Business: Making the Right Decisions." [Learn more.](#)

Chicago Innovation Awards | May 18, 5:30 - 8 PM | Chicago

The Chicago Innovation Awards in partnership with Attract Retain Advance and the Women's Business Development Center celebrates Women in Innovation. [Learn more.](#)

Rockford Chamber's Celebration of Leadership Luncheon | May 19, 11:30 AM - 1:15 PM

Please join us in celebrating the 2016 Leadership Rockford graduates at our Celebration of Leadership Luncheon. [Learn more.](#)

Joint Innovation Events | National SBIR/STTR Conference, May 23-25 | National Innovation Summit and Showcase, May 22-25 [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. [Click here](#) to visit Superior Joining Technologies' website. [Learn more.](#)

IMEC Manufacturing Industry News | Manufacturing Improvement Specialists
[Learn more.](#)

Entrepreneurial Information



This Fund Will Invest In Startups That Aren't Run By White Men In Big Cities

Between 2011 and 2013, companies with a female CEO got only 3% of the total venture capital dollars available. That's \$1.5 billion out of the total \$50.8 billion invested in that two year period-a tiny slice of the pie. [Learn more.](#)

Five Ways a New Business Credit Line Can Benefit Your Business

Having access to cash is an essential part of success in business whether your company is just getting started or has been in operation for quite some time. [Learn more.](#)

Innovative Companies Get Their Best Ideas from Academic Research - Here's How They Do It

Since World War II, the U.S. has been an innovation superpower. In virtually every advanced field, whether it's information technology, biotechnology, agriculture, or renewable energy, America holds a leading position. [Learn more.](#)

Seven Strategies for Sustained Innovation

Sustained innovation comes from developing a collective sense of purpose; from unleashing the creativity of people throughout your organization and from teaching them how to recognize unconventional opportunities. [Learn more.](#)

Three Rules That Helped Me Launch a Multimillion Dollar Business

In 2003, as a single mother with a young son, I sold my house to start JBK Associates International, a business that has since become a multimillion-dollar firm. [Learn more.](#)

Resource - 2016 State Small Business Profiles

The user-friendly, data-rich profiles combine catchy visuals and more in-depth data than previous editions. They capture vital data on U.S. and state-level economic growth, industry, and jobs using completely reproducible data from the leading government statistical agencies. [Learn more.](#)

U.S. Manufacturing Competitiveness Rising, Says Deloitte Study

Analysts contend U.S. is Set to Take No. 1 Spot from China by 2020. [Learn more.](#)

Five Reasons Entrepreneurs Should Use Mind Mapping

A manager might maintain a business at a constant, static level, but an entrepreneur must undertake the task of expanding the organization, of moving it to the next level. [Learn more.](#)

Dan Cataldi, Executive Director
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