

The Inventors Council is an independent, non-profit 50I C-3 corporation formed to help inventors pursue their dreams of bringing new and innovative products to market. Our goal is to help fellow inventors succeed in the most efficient and least costly manner possible by providing education and business networking.

Founded by Robert (Bob) Ross in 1995

PO Box 311, Flushing, Michigan 48433

Web Site: INVENTORSCOUNCIL.ORG

We meet monthly at Walli's Restaurant, 1341 South Center Road Burton, Michigan. Just Two blocks south of I-69, Exit 139

VOLUME SEVENTEEN

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY, August 8, 2013, 7:00PM

NUMBER EIGHT

Thursday August 8 2013 Meeting

The meeting will take place at 7:00 pm in the upstairs of Walli's Restaurant in Burton Michigan.

August's meeting will be dealing with marketing your invention, web sites and assistance, advertising, shipping methods, free training to help you, etc.

We will be discussing September and October speakers and what is in store for ICMM members in the fall.

Come and share our knowledge and fun.

See you all at the meeting. Meeting will start at 7:00pm Thursday August 8, 2013

Thursday July 11 2013 Meeting

The meeting will take place at 7:00 pm in the upstairs of Walli's Restaurant in Burton Michigan.

July Membership meeting was a roundtable review of different inventors product ideas by members and visitors.

Several members and visitors displayed products for discussion and review by the audience.

They all shared their experiences with all phases of taking a product to market and the ways they built and took them to market. Real not theory, real processes, products and results. It was fun for all.

ICMM Home of the Happy Inventors

Stop buying that stuff....

It never fails. I run into an inventor who tells me about the great new invention they have turned into a product and asks for some advice. No problem - I give advice all the time.

As the inventor is running down the laundry list of experience they've had, and almost hyperventilating with enthusiasm, it all starts to become very familiar. You see, it's almost always the same conversation.

I had this idea.... my family loved it.... there is nothing out there like it...I got a patent...I had a prototype made...then I... - you know the drill. A seemingly endless list of things that cost this person money but in reality have not gotten them anywhere close to the goal line.

Patents, prototypes, web sites, photographs, packaging, tooling, consulting, design work - and worst of all manufactured goods. These are just some of the high dollar things inventors love to spend money on. We even had a lady buy a Jingle for her product one time. Nice song, but the product was not very good. I guess it's not a big mystery why the inventor industry has so many people trying to take money from inventors after all many inventors spend money like drunken sailors.

Please Stop - I'm begging you - Please stop spending money on things you don't need and educate yourself on things you do need before you go buy them.

My advice -

If you have to spend money and you are licensing your idea/invention- Build a homemade prototype, nothing fancy, just show your theory works. Apply for a Provisional Patent Application (Even that is optional) then have a computer rendering made of the product and a manufacturers sell sheet done. All in all that's about a \$700.00 investment, drop the PPA and you are in the \$250.00 range. This small investment is more than enough to license a product to any manufacturer.



MARKETING

Hints from the Fog by Mike Ball, President



(cont. from Page 1)

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If you are trying to take your product to market yourself - Don't. Go back and find a product you want to license out, and only when you have mastered that process and the licensing royalties are enough to pay for the trip to market on another product should you even think about going down that road.

It's really that simple. So many inventors buy whatever they are told they "need" and have no clue if they really do. So follow these little steps before you send someone money.

- 1) Educate yourself about the process so your opinion about what you need actually means something.
- 2) Reach out to a reputable professional in the industry who isn't selling you something and ask for their opinion.
- 3) Ask your family after all they are in this boat with you, and if you throw away money they pay the price.

Please pass the garlic bread....

I love me some Lasagna, it's one of my favorite meals.

Having eaten Lasagna many times I know how it looks, how it tastes, I even know what you should serve with it - but I have no clue how it's made or what goes in it.

If I were to make Lasagna. I would first have to educate myself on the ingredients. Then figure out which ingredients were vital and which ones, if left out, had no real effect on the taste.

Of course, even with my new found education on the ingredients and the process. My desire to make myself a great Lasagna meal is predicated on my learned skills and natural abilities.

Let's face facts, as much as I love Lasagna and as much as I have educated myself on the ingredients, I can barely boil water. So I'm probably not the guy you want cooking your next meal.

Inventing is much like making that lasagna. I know a lot of professional inventors who make very good money and spend very little making it, because they figured out what goes into the dish and what parts they can leave out and still have a meal.

Understand the ingredients in your invention, learn the way its made, figure out how it goes together, and be honest about your ability to be making it in the first place. After all, what good is a great looking dish of Lasagna if it taste so bad no one wants to eat it?

A Reprint from United Inventors Association of America article

Invention Review Panel

For objective evaluation and priceless feedback, share your invention ideas with an educated group of inventors, business owners, engineers and authors!

Our Panel will sign a non-disclosure agreement to guarantee your ideas are kept secret while we provide you with the input needed to make decisions, no matter what stage of the invention process you're at!

There's a \$25.00 Donation for a Review. The Panel meets at 6:15pm before each meeting. Call Panel Chairman Rick Mason at 810-659-7935 for an appointment.

Review Panel Members Marty Sovis Rick Mason Jim White

Bob Ross 1919 - 2004 Inventors Education Column

Inventors Resources

Michigan Inventors Clubs Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan Inventorscouncil.org

Muskegon Inventors Network Muskegoninventorsnetwork.org

Grand Rapids Inventors Network GRinventorsnetwork.org

Jackson Inventors Network Jacksoninventors.org

MidMichigan Innovation Center ww.mmic.us

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Marty Sovis Sec/Treasr 810-659-6741 Msovis @comcast.net

Mary Kordyban *Director* 313-481-1391 mkordyban@gmail.com

Home of the Happy Inventors

Links for ICMM Inventors to Review to find networking opportunities

GLEQ Announces Fall Business Plan Competition

Sign up for the GLEQ statewide Business Plan Competition August 26 through October 30.

Participants are matched with a Coach, meet Investors, get valuable feedback on your plan, and possibly win prizes in one of these three tracks:

New Business Idea Competition **Emerging Company Competition** Vision to Action Challenge

Workshop and Networking Opportunities for GLEQ participants:

Ask-the-Investors in Grand Rapids, Detroit, Ann Arbor and Sterling Heights Introduction to Business Model Canvas Four Essential Components of a Successful Pitch Peer to Peer - Developing Your Business Model Canvas

For more information visit http://www.gleq.org.

2nd Annual Women's Business Plan Competition – 2013 (UPDATE). The Entrepreneur YOU business plan competition is open to female entrepreneurs who have or are planning to establish a business in Michigan. Participants will submit entries in three competition levels: Women Owned or Led High Growth Businesses, Life Style Businesses and Social Enterprise. Finalists will be announced, August 15 and a pitch competition will determine the prize winners on September 24. \$15,000 cash awards for top winners in all categories. DEADLINE EXTENDED to Wednesday, August 7

http://miwf.mediathree.net/womens-entrepreneurship-2013-competition-apply-here/

2013 Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition. The Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition is an international business plan competition for later stage entrepreneurial companies worldwide along with Michigan based university and college students. The Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition and event were incredibly successful in 2012 and they're excited to meet more innovative companies and bright students in 2013.

Wednesday, August 14, Application deadline for Company Teams Thursday, September 26, Application deadline for Student Teams

ACTIVATE for Women Starting Tech Ventures. Have you ever thought about starting your own technology venture? ACTIVATE® can help you turn your idea into reality. Join in for an introductory session online to learn more about ACTIVATE. The ACTIVATE Class of 2014 will begin in September 2013 at co-locations in southeast and west Michigan. ACTIVATE is a proven methodology that guides women through idea generation and commercial validation to launch growth oriented businesses. The program is focused on women who have an idea or technology to commercialize, already have an early start up and those with solid career experience and transferrable skills to unleash their entrepreneurial spirit.

For more information and webinar times visit https://www.inforummichigan.org/news/activate

Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MISBTDC). The MI-SBTDC offers a comprehensive selection of trainings and workshops statewide for Entrepreneurs – almost 100 each month. The topics are geared to those just starting their first business and also those experienced entrepreneurs looking for ways to improve and enhance their success. Topics include: Writing a Business Plan, Business Accounting and Budgeting, Business Start-up, Cash Flow Management, E-Commerce, Finance, Government Contracting, Venture Plan Workshops (excellent way to get the support you need over a 6 to 10 week program), Managing a Business, Managing Employees, Marketing and Sales, Taxes, and Technology. The GLEQ calendar will highlight select events offered, but many more are available.

August 1-31

Venture Start - Starting a Business. Starting a Business: A workshop to help aspiring entrepreneurs assess his or her ability to lead and manage a company, as well as to help evaluate market and sales potential for products and services. The basics of business ownership and start-up issues are introduced, along with a presentation of the resources available to help launch a new venture. Tuesday, August 6, 9-11 a.m.

SBTDC, 163 Madison Street, Detroit

Capital Raise Meetup. If you are a startup or early-stage growth-based business looking for funding, come meet and listen to capital expert, Mike Brennan, Business Commercialization and Capital Investment Advisor for the Macomb-OU INCubator. He will detail the various capital sources in Michigan, and talk about how to properly position your company to be qualified for private funding, including private equity, the angel network and venture capital, and/or public funding, including grants, pre-seed, micro-loans and venture match Tuesday, August 6, 9:30-11 a.m.

Macomb-OU INCubator at Velocity, 6633 Eighteen Mile Road, Sterling Heights

Motor City Connect Live - Novi. Join the business professionals of Motor City Connect for an effective and fun alternative to the traditional networking meeting. This is a chance for everyone to come face-to-face with other MCC members. MCC Live lunches are relaxed, casual and usually good for a few laughs. It's never a something you have to attend; it's an event you want to attend. No sixty-second commercials. No ten-minute speakers. This is just a chance to break bread together, meet new people, seek to understand their needs and connect on a new level.

Tuesday, August 6, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. BD's Mongolian BBQ, 43155 Main Street, Novi

Selling Smart Workshop - Pitching Your Business to Make Impact. Most people blather-on to prospective customers about all of the stuff they love about their product or service and then wonder why the prospect doesn't "get it". This session will demonstrate and then help you to state your business in a brief, targeted way so a prospective customer will appreciate your value, and get emotionally involved enough to want to know more about your offerings. The panel will share how this approach has helped them build successful businesses, and how they have adapted the concepts to match their own personalities, so they don't even sound like they are "selling" Wednesday, August 7, 9-11 a.m.

SPARK Central, 330 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor http://www.annarborusa.org/events

Best Shot - Sales Pitch Competition. MidMichigan Innovation Center (MMIC) is looking for a big audience and 10 self-proclaimed Salesmen/women to dazzle the panel of (3) judges with their 4 minute presentation. Each presenter is allowed to use one slide as a sell sheet and they must identify their ideal customer, must explain the ideal sales channel/s and deliver the winning pitch (think infomercial!) and field 3 questions from the judges to win top prize. Top prize awarded are services such as Legal Assistance, Accounting Services, Public Relations and Marketing Help, Website Build Out and SEO Work, Printing and more. MMIC is seeking competitors, sponsors and audience members to participate in this exciting event. Wednesday, August 7, 6-9 p.m.

1526 Broadway St., Detroit

D-newTech. Five presenters this month take the stage for ten minutes each, five minutes to demo and five minutes to answer questions, followed by open announcements and community networking Wednesday, August 7, 6-7:30 p.m.
Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway Street, Detroit

http://www.meetup.com/DNewTech/

August Events and Opportunities

Remember to check the sites for the specific events and opportunities as they are subject to change.

Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MISBTDC). The MI-SBTDC offers a comprehensive selection of trainings and workshops statewide for Entrepreneurs – almost 100 each month. The topics are geared to those just starting their first business and also those experienced entrepreneurs looking for ways to improve and enhance their success. Topics include: Writing a Business Plan, Business Accounting and Budgeting, Business Start-up, Cash Flow Management, E-Commerce, Finance, Government Contracting, Venture Plan Workshops (excellent way to get the support you need over a 6 to 10 week program), Managing a Business, Managing Employees, Marketing and Sales, Taxes, and Technology. The GLEQ calendar will highlight select events offered, but many more are available.

/www.misbtdc.net

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w mishtdc.net

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Motor City Connect Live - Novi. Join the business professionals of Motor City Connect for an effective and fun alternative to the traditional networking meeting. This is a chance for everyone to come face-to-face with other MCC members. MCC Live lunches are relaxed, casual and usually good for a few laughs. It's never a something you have to attend; it's an event you want to attend. No sixty-second commercials. No ten-minute speakers. This is just a chance to break bread together, meet new people, seek to understand their needs and connect on a new level Tuesday, August 6, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

BD's Mongolian BBQ, 43155 Main Street, Novi

Motor City Connect - Live Brown Bag (with Raffle). Join the business professionals of Motor City Connect for an effective and fun alternative to the traditional networking meeting. This is a chance for everyone to come face-to-face with other MCC members. MCC Live lunches are relaxed, casual and usually good for a few laughs. It's never a something you have to attend; it's an event you want to attend. No sixty-second commercials. No ten-minute speakers. This is just a chance to break bread together, meet new people, seek to understand their needs and connect on a new level Tuesday, August 20, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

American Mattress Gallery, 43235 12 Mile Road, Novi

Innnovator Spotlight - Jacquetta Dantzler. The Innovator Spotlight is a one hour educational gathering in which an industry authority will speak on a technology-related topic. Attendees will be exposed to the expert's experiences, successes and failures and how to replicate successes or avoid pitfalls. This is an interactive event where questions will be answered and attendees have the opportunity to network with forward-thinking, experienced entrepreneurs.

Tuesday, August 20, noon-1 p.m. MMIC, 2007 Austin St., Midland

Know-Do Crowdfunding. Fundington - The Funding Capital brings you this event to learn: Crowdfunding 101 (Terms, Tips & Tricks), Campaign Design (How to Reach Funders Beyond the Noise) and Campaign Management (Leveraging Social Media & Other Tools for Sustainability and Success). At the end of this seminar, you will have achieved a good understanding of the crowdfunding model, tools and have met a few people to collaborate with.

Wednesday, August 21, 6-9 p.m.
Walsh College 3838 Livernois Road Troy, MI

Bootstrappers Breakfast. At a Bootstrappers Breakfast® meeting we have serious conversations about growing a business based on internal cash flow and organic profit. Join other entrepreneurs who eat problems for breakfast and compare notes, exchange ideas, learn from others' mistakes, brainstorm with peers and more. Wednesday, August 21, 7:30-9 a.m.

The Hudson Café, 1241 Woodward Ave., Detroit

http://upto.com/e/HTwLentre

Women's Business Certification (WBE) Orientation - Livonia. The Michigan Women's Business Council invites women business owners to learn what it means to be certified as a Women's Business Enterprise. If you have a product or service that you would like to market to American corporations, here is your chance to explore certification. In the seminar, attendees will learn: What is involved in the certification process How to complete the application package How to become part of a national database of certified women business enterprises If you will benefit from being certified Other resources available for small business The Michigan Women's Business Council is the Michigan certifying partner of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), a national, certifying body recognized by major American corporations. Wednesday, August 21, 9-11 a.m.

Schoolcraft College MI-SBTDC, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia

GLEQ Fall Business Plan Competition Signup Opens. Calling all entrepreneurs with new business ideas or emerging companies, you can take advantage of the valuable opportunity to validate your business, connect with a business coach for one-on-one time and get valuable feedback from investors. This program is free to participants. The sign-up period for this phase of the GLEQ Business Plan Competition will be open through October 30.

Monday, August 26, Signup Opens

http://www.GLEQ.org

Social Media for Startups. Social Media has been around for a couple years now, but the tried and true strategies for entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs working in the lean-startup model aren't well known. In this Social Media for Startups class Paul will overview brief strategies for the major social platforms helping you achieve success in whatever phase of the startup you are in, from problem discovery, to problem validation, from problem/solution fit, to product/market fit. Learn how to leverage social media to acquire real customers. Wednesday, August 28, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Start Garden, 50 Louis Ave., Grand Rapids

www.StartGarden.com

Open Office Hours – Chat with Charlie @ TechTown. Are you an entrepreneur working on a technology-based or web-enabled business? Do you want to get an expert's opinion on your big idea, or are you seeking direction on how to secure funding, line up resources, make connections or more? Charlie Moret (http://www.linkedin.com/pub/charlie-moret/4/5a3/352) wants to help.

Thursday, August 29, 9 a.m.-noon TechTown, 440 Burroughs St., Detroit

Team SBA Financing Roundtable - Waterford. Before you apply for a business loan, we recommend that you first attend this Financing Roundtable. The roundtables are a free loan orientation conducted by a business banker, a business consultant from the SBAs network of Small Business Development Centers, and an SBA representative. During the roundtable, we'll debunk the myths and demystify the process of small business financing. You'll learn how the lending process works and what is expected of you and you'll understand how the SBA can assist with our SBA Guaranteed Loan Program. This session is best suited to those who have good credit, a solid business idea, and some money to invest in their business.

Thursday, August 8, 9 a.m.-noon

Oakland County Business Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Building 41 W., Waterford

Open Office Hours - Chat with Charlie @ TechTown. Are you an entrepreneur working on a technology-based or web-enabled business? Do you want to get an expert's opinion on your big idea, or are you seeking direction on how to secure funding, line up resources, make connections or more? Charlie Moret (http://www.linkedin.com/pub/charlie-moret/4/5a3/352) wants to help. Sign up now to get an expert's help thinking about your business.

Thursday, August 8, 9 a.m.-noon TechTown, 440 Burroughs St., Detroit

Intro to GROW. Intro to GROW is the required first step for anyone eager to learn how to start or expand their small business. Get an overview of our programs and services, meet the staff, and watch our graduates describe their experiences in our inspirational video! Cost: Free.

Thursday, August 8, Noon-1 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.

GROW, 25 Sheldon Boulevard, Suite 210, Grand Rapids. www.GROWBusiness.org

SBIR/STTR Proposal Preparation for DOD. This Dept. of Defense-focused seminar provides detailed instruction on the ins and outs of preparing a proposal to meet the requirements of the DOD, including both technical and commercialization plans, and navigating the submission process. Thursday, August 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Macomb/OU INCubator, Velocity, 6633 18 Mile Road, Sterling Heights

Team SBA Financing Roundtable. Before you apply for a business loan, we recommend that you first attend a Team SBA Financing Roundtable. This is a free loan orientation conducted by a business banker, a business consultant from the SBAs network of Small Business Development Centers, and an SBA representative. Learn how the lending process works and what is expected of you and you will understand how the SBA can assist with our SBA Guaranteed Loan Program.

Thursday, August 8, 9 a.m.-noon

Oakland County Business Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford

nationallev.com/a

Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan. With their mission to help fellow inventors succeed in the most efficient and least costly manner possible by providing education and business networking, these monthly meetings are the second Thursday of each month.

Thursday, August 8, 7pm-9 p.m.
Walli's Restaurant, 2nd floor Banquet Room, 1341 Center Road, Burton

Venture Forward – Waterford. Venture Forward is an intensive, 10-week program designed for owners, CEO's and top management team members of businesses with at least two years of operating experience, revenue of at least \$100,000, and a minimum of 2 full-time employees. Focused on issues most important to business health and growth, attendees gain knowledge to make critical decisions about their business and strategy, investigate next-stage growth and opportunity, plan for strategic growth, build and maintain a competitive advantage and maximize cash flow for profitability. Fridays, August 9-October 11, 9 a.m.-noon

Oakland County Business Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Building 41 W., Waterford

Ann Arbor OpenCoffee. This is a networking event for entrepreneurs, investors and those who work with innovation businesses, particularly in IT, cleantech and life sciences. So far we've kept the agenda open, allowing those who show up to set it as they wish. It's heavy on networking, full of interesting opinions and stories, and has led to several successful business partnerships and gigs. Tuesday, August 13, 8-9:30 a.m.

SPARK Central, 330 East Liberty, Lower Level, Ann Arbor

Marketing Roundtable Summer Workshops. If you have ever been to a Marketing Roundtable event - you may have noticed there are a lot of very interesting and knowledgeable people at the event, but getting one-on-one time with people is a lot tougher in a crowd. So we decided to offer several workshops where you can do exactly that - get that personal face time with someone that has expertise in a particular field.

Tuesday, August 13, 5-7 p.m.

SPARK, 300 E. Liberty, Lower Level, Ann Arbor

http://www.annarborusa.org/events

CEED Microloan Orientation. Many small businesses face obstacles when trying to obtain a business loan. The recognition of the serious need for working capital for existing businesses, start-up or expansion, equipment purchases, and job creation is not the priority it once was. If you have a need for alternative financing consider the MicroLoan Program. Discover the requirements and process necessary to apply and obtain a microloan.

Wednesday, August 14, 9-11 a.m.

Oakland County Business Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Building 41 W., Waterford

http://www.misbtdc.net

Financial Management Basics. As an introductory seminar, the course covers the basics of financial management, including how to start an accounting system and how to apply the information from key financial statements to help you manage your business. Accounting language including debits and credits, preparation of the balance sheet and profit & loss statement are explained. Cash flow analysis and breakeven are also covered with specific small business examples.

Thursday, August 15, 9 a.m.-noon

Oakland County Business Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford

nws eventinfo?id=a086000000JHBnEAAX http://www.automationallev.com/a2

Government Contracting 101. Did you know the federal government purchases more than \$250 billion of goods and services a year? Find out what it takes to successfully sell your goods and services to the federal government. In addition, learn about the services and continuous support the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) has available to help your company with the contracting process. Doing Business with the Federal Government.

Thursday, August 15, 10 a.m.-noon

Macomb/OU INCubator, Velocity, 6633 18 Mile Road, Sterling Heights

Startup Office Hours. Join in for free mentoring from Bizdom business model experts, free food and networking with the Detroit startup community. What are your most pressing questions about how to move your startup forward? Come prepared to ask questions and take notes.

Friday. August 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Bizdom, 1528 Woodward, Detroit

Michigan Inventors Coalition EXPO'13 - Save the Date. Join in the fun at this event where inventors can collaborate and network with other professionals. Attendees can enjoy key note speakers, valuable break-out sessions, a shark tank competition, networking, venture capitalist, and much more. Wednesday, September 4

Kellogg Center, E. Lansing

http://michiganinventorscoalition.org/mic-expo-13/

Automation Alley 13th Annual Awards Gala. The Awards Gala recognizes the most creative, innovative and forward-thinking individuals and organizations in Southeast Michigan's technology community. Award categories include Automation Alley Member of the Year, Educational Program of the Year, Entrepreneur of the Year, Global Trader of the Year and Technology Company of the Year. Friday, September 13, 6-11 p.m.

The Henry Hotel, Dearborn

2nd Annual Proud to Manufacture in Michigan Conference. Hear Keynote speeches on Manufacturing Hot Topics and listen to Michigan manufacturers tell their tale of success and how they overcame their challenges in innovation, leadership, succession planning, supply chain management, exporting, and employee development. September 18-19, 2013

Hagerty Center, Traverse City http://bit.ly/14EEtxa

Entrepralooza 2013 – Save the Date. U-M Ross School of Business will again be holding a day long gathering in celebration of entrepreneurship. Save the date on your calendar to engage with expert panels, see key not speakers and network. Entrepalooza is co-presented by the Ross School of Business Entrepreneur and Venture Club and the School's Zell Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial

Friday, September 20, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

MichBio EXPO. Save the date for exhibiting MichBio members, presentations and the MichBio annual dinner meeting

October 15-16, 2013

Radisson Plaza Hotel, 100 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo

Http://www.MichBio.org

2012 Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition. The Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition event showcasing the best of brightest concepts to investment capital to help foster their growth in Michigan. November 12-14, 2013

emichigan.org/