



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Northwest Illinois Economic Development Announces 2025 Build It Grow It Program**

**Hanover, Illinois** – Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) has announced its plans for the 2025 Build It Grow It program, a free entrepreneurial bootcamp designed to empower aspiring business owners and entrepreneurs. Building on the success of the 2024 program, which saw 44 individuals register and 23 graduate with certificates of achievement, Build It Grow It 2025 will offer even more valuable resources and opportunities.

**What is Build It Grow It?**

Build It Grow It is a collaborative effort among NWILED, The Foundation for Northwest Illinois, Gradient Coaching & Consulting, Highland Community College, and Basket Case Galena. This year's program will run from January to April, with session locations alternating between the Davis Community Center in Mount Carroll and Mud Run Beer Co. in Stockton.

**What will participants learn?**

The program will cover a range of essential business topics, including:

- Business Legacy and the Long Game (January 30th at the Davis Community Center in Mount Carroll)
- Entrepreneurship and Financial Management (February 27th at Mud Run Beer Co. in Stockton)
- Digital Marketing and Branding (March 27th at the Davis Community Center in Mount Carroll)
- NWILED's Shark Tank and Program Graduation (April 24th at Mud Run Beer Co. in Stockton)

**What are the benefits?**

- **Free of charge:** Thanks to a special grant from The Foundation for Northwest Illinois, the entire program is free for participants.
- **Light meals provided:** Each session will include a light meal.
- **Networking opportunities:** Connect with other entrepreneurs and industry professionals.
- **Expert mentorship:** Learn from experienced business leaders and mentors.

- **NWILED's Shark Tank:** Pitch your business idea to a panel of investors for a chance to win up to \$5,000.

**Who should attend?**

Build It Grow It is open to small business owners, managers, entrepreneurs, and high school and college students. Whether you're just starting out or looking to expand your existing business, this program can help you achieve your goals.

**How to register:**

Registration is now open! Contact David Schmit at [DSchmit@nwiled.org](mailto:DSchmit@nwiled.org) to register or for more information.

**About NWILED:**

Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting economic growth and development in Northwest Illinois throughout Jo Daviess and Carroll counties.