



Welcome to the East Central MN Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club

Serving the counties of Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs & Pine
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Tuesday, March 22, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

The March Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club Meeting will be held in a hybrid format:
in-person at East Central Energy (412 Main Avenue North—Braham, MN)

and online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87349071758>

**Please check our website & social media feeds for updates on meeting format.*



Entrepreneurship... Brian Voerding

Brian Voerding is the Vice President for Inclusive Entrepreneurship at the Initiative Foundation, where he guides the Foundation's small business lending and entrepreneur programs and services. The Foundation focuses on supporting diverse, underserved and rural entrepreneurs and small business owners across the 14 counties and 2 Native nations it serves with programs like the Initiators Fellowship and Enterprise Academy and services including education, technical assistance, microlending and others.

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Business Success Story... Shawn Hopman

Shawn Hopman had a simple goal: He wanted to drink less soda. Seeking an alternative, he discovered the fizzy, health-oriented drink kombucha and started brewing at home. Fast forward a few years, and Shawn is now a commercial producer of kombucha with a regional distribution and runs Ya-Sure Kombucha, a downtown Brainerd taproom and event space. Shawn participated in a 2020 cohort of Enterprise Academy, a 12-week Initiative Foundation program paired with free technical assistance and access to flexible capital designed to help diverse and low- to moderate-income entrepreneurs launch their business ideas. "They've given me tools to take my business to that next level," Shawn said. With support from his technical assistance provider, Shawn was able to purchase his own building in downtown Brainerd, and his kombucha can be found in stores, restaurants and resorts throughout Minnesota and North Dakota. Learn more at yasurekombucha.com.



Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club Meetings are free to attend.

www.ecmnbusiness.com

Standing meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.



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