



The Dolphin Tank Story: Building Ecosystems Through Innovative Programming

JANUARY - JUNE 2025

Keenan Center Report



 **KEENAN**
CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP,
INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY



The Keenan Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity is focused on integrating an entrepreneurial mindset into curriculum and business practices across Central New York. Named for Tim and Kathleen (Fehlan) Keenan '81, it seeks to advance the economy by utilizing personal enterprise to promote economic development and combat poverty. The Center elevates the profile of both Le Moyne College and the Madden College of Business and Economics in the regional and global marketplace and plays a critical role in the Upstate New York entrepreneurial ecosystem.



Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION	4
Letter from the Director	
Keenan Team	
II. KPIS AND METRICS	6
Key Performance Indicators	
Dolphin Tank Metrics	
III. THE EVOLUTION AND GROWTH OF DOLPHIN TANK.....	8
Unprecedented Attendance and Community Support at Dolphin Tank 9	
Canisius High School Visit Exemplifies Madden Center Impact	
Dolphin Tank Guest Judge Profile: Tim Keenan	
IV. KEENAN COLLABORATION IN CENTRAL NEW YORK	13
2025 Maker Faire Expands with 750 Makers	
The 2025 Game Tower: ERIE21 at Maker Faire	
Collaborative Spirit in Action: Le Moyne, Keenan, and the Community	
V. KEENAN EDUCATION IN UPSTATE NEW YORK	17
From Ideas to Impact: Keenan Innovators Update	
Cubing in the 'Cuse: A Middle Schooler's Vision, Realized	
Repair Café CNY: Fixing More Than Just Things	
The Good Life Youth Foundation: Six-Month Impact Summary	
VI. CONCLUSION	22
Let's Connect	
Keenan Collaborators	

Letter from the Director

So far, 2025 has been a highly impactful year for the Keenan Center as we broaden and deepen our impact on Le Moyne, Central New York, and beyond.

This report is relatively unique compared to others that I have been involved in since I started as the director of the Keenan Center in 2019. While many of the previous reports centered on the students, entrepreneurs, and various community members who are the primary focus of our efforts, this one aims to capture some of the audience and community members' perspectives on all that the Keenan Center offers.

Dolphin Tank 9 yet again exceeded expectations set by the outcomes of the previous year. This report captures the perspective of those who attended the event in an effort to better communicate the unique nature of the impact that the Keenan Center is having on the communities of both Le Moyne and Central New York.

For example, the impact the student-entrepreneurs

have on the hope and aspirations of their peers, alumni, and community members across Upstate New York can often be overlooked. Also, the intersections among people at events like Dolphin Tank is also notable. **This is when the magic happens**, especially when combined with the optimism, aspirations, and hope that an event like Dolphin Tank provides.

This report also includes a sample of our efforts to promote the growth of budding innovators and creatives across Central New York. Every person reading this report can surely identify people or experiences early in their life that changed its trajectory. We firmly believe that our work with younger populations is having that same impact. We help students shape their own paths and positively influence those around them, much like the student-entrepreneurs do each year at Dolphin Tank.

A big thank you for the enduring efforts of Tim and Kathleen Keenan! This was a special year for the Keenan Center, marked by their participation in this year's Dolphin Tank. Your journey embodies and inspires all that we do at the Keenan Center.



Thank you to James Shomar, Jacki Boulter, and all of our work-study students for their typical above and beyond effort on Dolphin Tank this year. I would also like to thank Isaac and Stephanie Budmen for the immeasurable impact and inspiration they provide, which is illustrated in the various sections of this report.

From Upstate New York, happy summer to all!

Mike D'Eredita '92
Director

INTRODUCTION

Keenan Team

The Keenan Center continues its reputation for progressive learning and growth thanks to the passionate and creative minds that make up the Keenan Team. Together, we expand the Center's strategic partnerships, network, and collaborative relationships, building a strong and reliable reputation for the Center as an important part of the regional innovative landscape.



MIKE D'EREDITA

Director



JAMES SHOMAR

Associate Director



ISAAC BUDMEN

Designer of Educational
Programming and Mentorship



STEPHANIE BUDMEN

Designer of Educational
Content and Programming



JACKI BOULTER

Project Manager
Grants Liaison



MATT READ

Professor of Practice
Marketing



HASAN STEPHENS

Entrepreneur in Residence

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

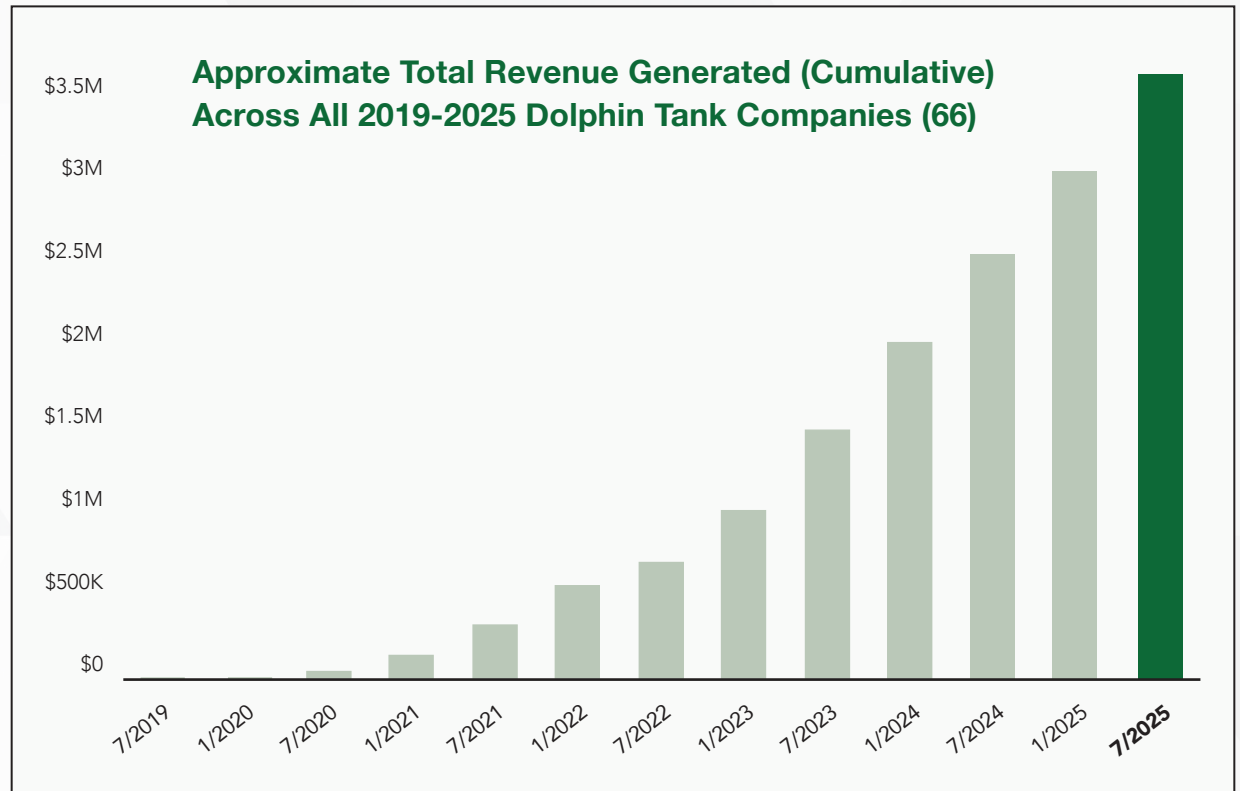
As we continue to emerge as a leader in innovation and growth, the following Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) offer insight into the Keenan Center's progress toward our strategic goals.

NAME	DESCRIPTION	JAN 2024	JULY 2024	JAN 2025	JULY 2025
ENTREPRENEURSHIP					
Entrepreneurial Activity	Entrepreneurs and/or investors from the local or regional ecosystems engaged. These include meetings, coaching sessions, small group networking, introductions, etc.	64	140	127	272
Dolphin Tank Outcomes	Dollars raised and/or earned by Dolphin Tank teams since Spring 2019.	\$1.9 M	\$2.5 M	\$3.0 M	\$3.6 M
Event Attendance	People who attended Keenan Center organized and sponsored events.	78	1,422	876	975
Corporate Sponsors	Dollars donated by corporate sponsors annually.	\$50,000		\$60,000	
CRM Entities	Unique visits to the Keenan Center by people and entities from the community tracked and logged in the CRM system since October 2023.	127	333	579	797
EDUCATION					
Student Enrollment and Programming	Enrollment in ENI202, ENI203, ENI210, ENI311, ENI312, and the number of Keenan Center Workstudies.	65	76	44	96
Entrepreneurial Programming Hours	Time spent coaching individuals or teams on business development, pitch refinement, and venture growth.	-	-	-	557
STEAM Programming Hours	STEAM programming hours.	4,513	1,043	3,524	861
STEAM Students	Students across programs.	353	586	146	280
Drone Programming Hours	Number of drone programming hours.	-	654	550	1,401
Drone Students	Number of student participants.	-	25	45	64
Program Participation	Coach and student programming hours. Total of individual student hours of engagement added across the population of student and coaches. Excludes undergrads.	4,757	1,748	4,160	2,189
MAKER INSTITUTE					
Maker Projects	Projects completed or in progress within the Maker Space.	45	60	225	190

KPIS AND METRICS

Dolphin Tank Metrics

Dolphin Tank 9's record attendance watched as 10 student entrepreneurs presented their businesses to 10 sponsors, each of whom donated \$5,000 to the total award amount for the event. To date, these teams have collectively generated approximately \$3.6 million in revenues from a total award amount of \$320,000. Of these entrepreneurs, 37 have built businesses that have generated revenue.



Dolphin Tank winners have raised or earned, through investment or sale of a company,

\$3.6M
(cumulatively) to date.

Total funds distributed to date

\$320K

Companies that reached sales (out of 66)

37

\$0-\$300K Current range of annual revenues



THE EVOLUTION AND GROWTH OF DOLPHIN TANK

In April, the Keenan Center hosted Dolphin Tank 9, welcoming a crowd of over 300 to watch the heads of 10 student-run businesses compete for \$50,000 to grow their ventures. This unprecedented support of industry leaders from every corner of the state demonstrates the growing impact of the Keenan Center's mission and its place in New York state's innovation ecosystem.

THE EVOLUTION AND GROWTH OF DOLPHIN TANK

Unprecedented Attendance and Community Support at Dolphin Tank 9

There was a freak weather event, but Dolphin Tank 9 was still going strong. Outside, three to four inches of snow were coming down hard, and it looked like blizzard conditions—in April.

But miraculously, that didn't deter industry leaders, students, community partners, and sponsors from showing up to the annual signature Keenan Center event. In fact, it was standing room only.

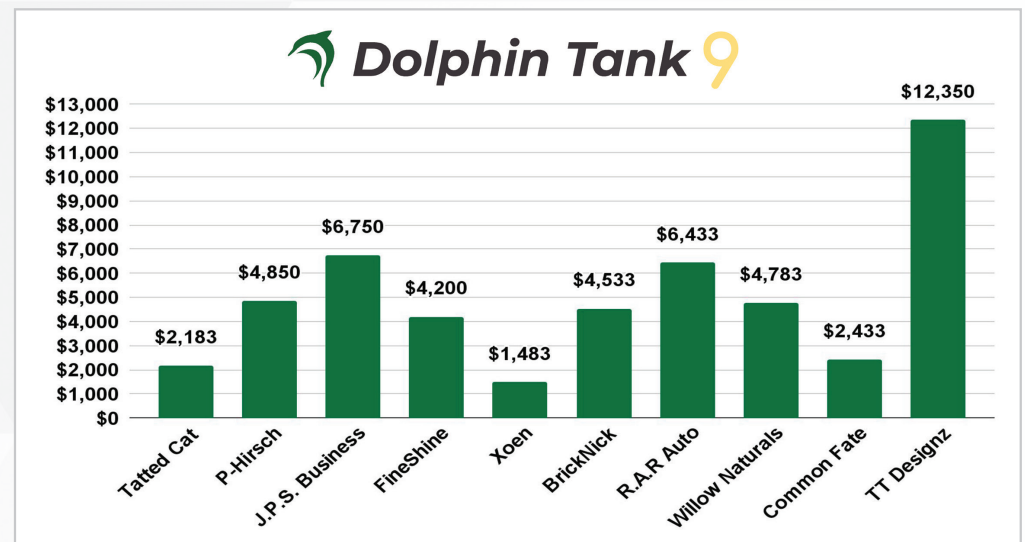
"We had the most diverse crowd in terms of background," James Shomar says. "Everyone from entrepreneurs who live in the Le Moyne neighborhood to Stephen Gilfus, founder of Blackboard, was there. People from the entrepreneurial community came out to support the next generation. That's what this is all about."

The Keenan Center was especially happy to host Tim and Kathleen Keenan '81 at Dolphin Tank 9, including welcoming Tim as a judge.

"I went to two of the early Dolphin Tanks," Kathleen Keenan says. "It's very different now. What a great mix of community. It was also a great opportunity to speak to community members to see why they were there and what they are looking forward to in the future."



Pinnacle was the first-ever event sponsor of Dolphin Tank.



Breakdown of earnings for Dolphin Tank 9 participants.

THE EVOLUTION AND GROWTH OF DOLPHIN TANK

Dolphin Tank began as a part of an entrepreneurial class taught at the Madden School of Business at Le Moyne in 2017, featuring pitches exclusively from students enrolled in the class. As the Keenan Center expanded and Mike D'Eredita and Shomar joined the team, the event evolved into a signature program that now offers structured mentorship, personalized coaching, and expanded opportunities for community engagement and professional networking.

Shomar notes an important distinction between Dolphin Tank and other business competitions: Most of the students pitching are already generating revenue. They aren't just looking for venture capital.

"The purpose here isn't creating the next Silicon Valley," Shomar says. "We support the next generation of founders in our community, which will, in turn, help build our community's economy."

The focus on the long game of regional economic development has garnered the support and attention of many innovative and entrepreneurial leaders in the area for the Keenan Center and the Dolphin Tank event.

"Small businesses are the backbone of regional economies, particularly in New York state," says Jennifer Tegan, managing director, NY Ventures at Empire State Development, who attended Dolphin Tank 9. "It was great to see students who were not waiting to start their businesses until after graduation. Most were already starting to build and grow and test their product."

"Any event like Dolphin Tank or infrastructure platform like the Keenan Center that provides an ability for members of the community to generate ideas which can benefit the overall welfare of the community



Npenda Fofana of Willow Naturals pitches to Dolphin Tank 9 judges.

Canisius High School Visit Exemplifies Madden Center Impact



Special guests at Dolphin Tank 9 included a group of students from Buffalo's Canisius High School—home to Mike Madden's Madden Center for Global Learning—along with their principal Tom Coppola. "Observing the Dolphin Tank event gave our entrepreneurship students a firsthand look at how collegiate-level innovators present and refine their ideas," says Coppola. "The trip exposed our students to the energy and professionalism of a real pitch environment while also highlighting the resources and support available at institutions like the Keenan Center. The whole thing inspired our students to envision the next steps in their entrepreneurial journeys and see what's possible beyond high school."

THE EVOLUTION AND GROWTH OF DOLPHIN TANK



The Keenan Center is one of the engines driving the growth that will enable the region to fulfill the promise of this opportunity,” says Mitch Gelman, president and CEO at WCNY.

deserves support,” says Rick Miller, managing member, Shippan Point Advisors LLC, who served as both a judge and sponsor at Dolphin Tank 9.

Judges and sponsors like Miller are more than event participants; they are active contributors to the future of the region’s entrepreneurial ecosystem. It’s their financial support, mentorship, and presence at events like Dolphin Tank that helps create a pipeline of opportunity for emerging founders, fostering a culture of innovation and sustainability across Central New York.

Shomar says the structure of Dolphin Tank has promoted business growth, encouraged a network of entrepreneurs, and helped the Keenan Center itself build community partners. This year, for the first time, the Keenan Center secured an event sponsor, Pinnacle Holding Company, LLC.

“Dolphin Tank is not Shark Tank,” says Shomar. “It’s not about picking which business is the best, which makes the entrepreneurs practical about

what they need funding for. Since 2019, over \$320,000 in awards has been distributed through Dolphin Tank. Those companies have gone on to cumulatively generate over \$3.6 million in revenue since receiving their awards.”

The pitches, which ranged this year from multimedia services to a small business holding company to beauty products, were thoughtful and compelling. But, the event is more about the students behind the pitches and their potential as entrepreneurs.

“There’s a great optimism in the region right now with the types of investment and planning that’s going on,” says Mitch Gelman, president and CEO at WCNY, a supporter of Dolphin Tank.

“It will lead to a transformative period in terms of what Syracuse and the region can do economically and culturally regarding workforce development. The Keenan Center is one of the engines driving that growth and will enable the region to fulfill the promise of this opportunity.”



Presenters impressed judges at Dolphin Tank 9.

THE EVOLUTION AND GROWTH OF DOLPHIN TANK

Dolphin Tank Guest Judge Profile: Tim Keenan

It all started with a milk truck.

Tim Keenan, co-founder of the Keenan Center and lifelong entrepreneur, treated the record crowd at Dolphin Tank 9 to his iconic story about the milk truck that launched his first business, before he took a seat as one of this year's judges.

"I was at Ohio State and didn't have enough money to continue, so I was looking for a way to pay my bills," he said. "I started a company hauling the junk from the local manufacturing plants using an old milk truck I bought for \$25. I sold the refrigeration unit in it to a local farmer, then I sold the scrap metal I hauled. I got five cents a pound and made a business from it."

Between the scrap metal and the money he also made hauling beer for the fraternities and sororities, Keenan was able to pay for not only his education, but for his brother's and sister's too.

This would be the first of four businesses Keenan would start during his career. Today, he and his wife, Kathleen, are paying his

innovative spirit forward by setting up entrepreneurial centers on college campuses in regions in need of economic growth. Currently, the Le Moyne Keenan Center is one of two of its kind. The second Keenan Center resides at Tim Keenan's alma mater, Ohio State University, and several more are being discussed.

Keenan believes the entrepreneurial community will always show up to help the entrepreneurial community, so the key to building an innovative ecosystem is connecting them and spreading the word.

"Connect the entrepreneurs, tell them about the need, and tell the young people about the resources," he said. "Run programs for high and middle schools to let them know the Center is here for them, too. This will give them hope for the future



Tim Keenan at Dolphin Tank 9 and the milk truck photo he carries in his wallet—a reminder of his first entrepreneurial endeavor.

of their jobs. The whole idea is to create an ecosystem in a community that will then change the economic outlook and the future of a lot of people."

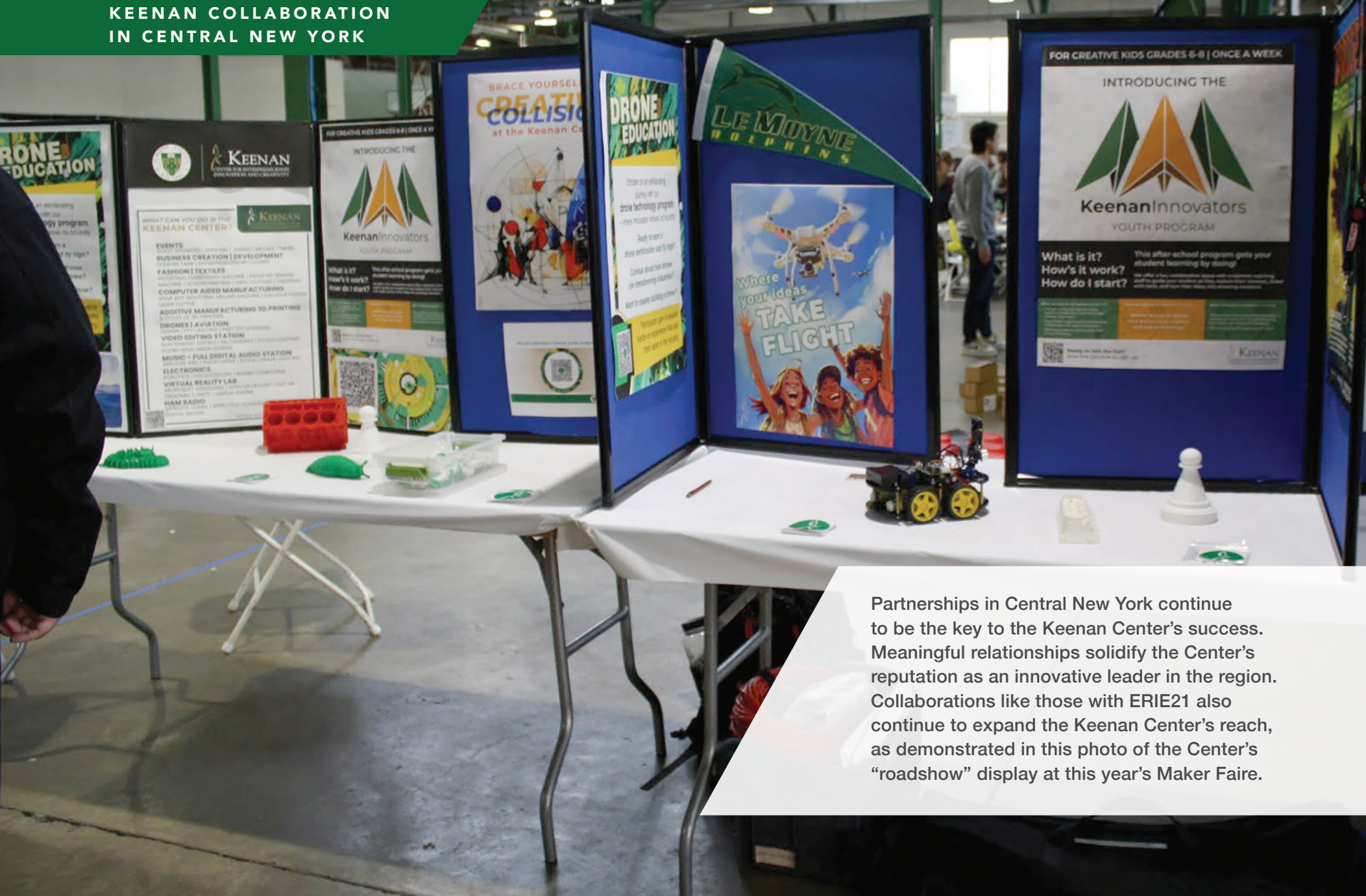
Events like the Dolphin Tank, Keenan said, are the easiest part of a student's journey, but demonstrate well the power of his entrepreneurial centers.

"The pitch is five minutes, and they know the subject. They are really good at one thing—the idea itself. We are trying to teach them how to build the business around that. It can be a lifelong pursuit if their heart is in it," he said. "The journey is when we are getting the proper mentors aligned. We build their network; that's the purpose."



My favorite saying to students is: If you encounter a barrier – which life throws at you all the time – you go over, under, around, or through. You don't stand there and say, 'There's a barrier.' You have to have perseverance. You have to have an inquisitive nature. You have to believe when nobody else does."—Tim Keenan

KEENAN COLLABORATION IN CENTRAL NEW YORK



Partnerships in Central New York continue to be the key to the Keenan Center's success. Meaningful relationships solidify the Center's reputation as an innovative leader in the region. Collaborations like those with ERIE21 also continue to expand the Keenan Center's reach, as demonstrated in this photo of the Center's "roadshow" display at this year's Maker Faire.

2025 Maker Faire Expands with 750 Makers

This past May, Syracuse held its fourth-annual Maker Faire in the Horticulture Building at the New York State Fairgrounds. This year, the event reached the venue's capacity, growing from 600 makers in 2024 to 750 this year.

"Specifically, our booth size grew this year," says Maker Faire co-founder and Le Moyne Systems Librarian Pauline Lynch Shostack '95. "The bigger booths brought along a lot more people to participate."

Maker Faire 2025 By the Numbers

2,743 Total Participants

720+ Makers

123 Booths

It was Lynch Shostack who helped Maker Faire Syracuse find its original space at Onondaga Community College's SRC Arena after pitching the event to the school's president at the time. The first Syracuse Maker Faire was supposed to be in 2020, but because of COVID restrictions, the event debuted in 2022. This year's event was the second Maker Faire held in the Horticulture Building, but Lynch Shostack has even bigger hopes for next year.

"We have reached capacity in the Horticulture Building, so we are hoping to hold the event in the Center of Progress Building next year," she says. "We had to turn some makers away this year because of space restrictions, and we don't want to turn anyone away. We want to attract even more participants."

New this year, Maker Faire attendees were treated to dueling Battle Bots thanks to Andrew Leary of CNY Robotics and Science Foundation and Syracuse Tech Week, and a cosplay show thanks to AnchorCon, a fan-produced convention based in Clayton, New York.

Former Dolphin Tank participant Devin Simmons and his business Raster Digital Marketing Solutions designed the Maker Faire billboard.



CNY Robotics and Science Foundation robots battling at this year's Maker Faire.

KEENAN COLLABORATION IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

Lego robotics teams present at Maker Faire also grew from two to five, and more colleges than ever participated, including RIT for the first time ever. Representing K-12 students, the Wellsville School District came from farthest away, bringing 12 booths and upward of 30 students.

The Ghostbusters' vehicle and the Jurassic Park jeep even made an appearance. "We are always looking to showcase and highlight this wonderful community of creation and making and the ways it changes and evolve as the years go on," says Lynch Shostack. "We love bringing in cool things that people don't see around here."



Keenan partner ARISE's adaptive equipment display at Maker Faire, highlighting inclusive design and innovation.

The 2025 Game Tower: ERIE21 at Maker Faire

This spring, the ERIE21 Maker Group, an after-school team of middle and high school students exploring game design and coding, unveiled their latest creation: the 2025 Game Tower.

Designed, coded, and built entirely by the students under the mentorship of Stephanie and Isaac Budmen, the four-sided arcade machine invited players to grapple with one powerful question: "Are we shaping the code, or is the code shaping us?"

Each side of the tower featured an original video game developed from the ground up. Students created every component, from concept to artwork to gameplay mechanics, exploring how moral and ethical decisions are embedded in AI systems. The games tackled topics like health care bias, algorithmic identity, digital deception, and online reputation.

The Game Tower debuted at this year's Syracuse Maker Faire. Students stood proudly beside their creation, inviting the public to play and sparking thoughtful conversations about technology and ethics. **It was more than a showcase; it was a student-led public engagement.**



This project reflects the Budmens' commitment to ensuring every Keenan Center project-based learning experience connects to something real in the world around us. With the right coaching and tools, young people don't just learn, they take the lead.

Collaborative Spirit in Action: Le Moyne, Keenan, and the Community

Kathleen Keenan graduated from Le Moyne in 1981 with lifelong friends, an English degree, and a business minor.

When Kathleen and Tim found themselves in a position to give back, she wanted to find an opportunity for Tim to get to know the Le Moyne she loved.

“When it came to Le Moyne, I wanted to give back in a way my husband would be brought into the Le Moyne community,” she said when she was in town for this year’s Dolphin Tank. “I knew entrepreneurship would mean a great deal to him.”

The establishment of the Keenan Center at Le Moyne in 2013 began a partnership that continues to impress local business leaders. The growth of the Dolphin Tank event demonstrates how the Le Moyne community is a prime environment for effective business coaching.

“Having the Keenan Center associated with an educational institution is an important aspect of what it’s able to do,” says Mitch Gelman, president and CEO at WCNY. “But more importantly, it’s associated with a very special institution—Le Moyne. There, everyone has the freedom to think constructively about problems and do so in a compassionate way rooted in the pragmatic intellectualism of a Jesuit foundation.”

Events like Dolphin Tank have increased the Keenan Center’s reputation as a significant player in the entrepreneurial and innovative sectors in New York state, in part thanks to its collaboration with Le Moyne.

“Le Moyne exposes students interested in entrepreneurship to successful business founders,” says Jennifer Tegan, managing director, NY Ventures at Empire State Development. “Entrepreneurs are everywhere, but sometimes need the inspiration, encouragement, and access to resources to make that leap of faith.”



Kathleen Keenan '81

“We are seeking community economic development,” says Rick Miller, managing member, Shippan Point Advisors LLC. “Regional colleges have an important role in educating students to innovate with ideas that can spur economic development, but perhaps more importantly, will foster an environment of innovative thinking.”

Tim Keenan notes: “Le Moyne graduates are taught critical thinking. Sometimes at a bigger school, you get a lot of depth, but you don’t know how to see across a problem,” he says. “Solving a problem is multidisciplinary, and Le Moyne students learn how to think that way.”



KEENAN EDUCATION
IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

From the expanding Keenan Innovators programming to creative project-based learning experiences for all ages, the efforts of Stephanie and Isaac Budmen and the broader Keenan team have brought exciting new educational opportunities across Upstate New York. Through continued networking and collaboration, Keenan's educational presence keeps growing.

From Ideas to Impact: Keenan Innovators Update

The Keenan Innovators program continues to grow as a vibrant learning community for middle school students.

Designed for grades six through eight, the program introduces students to project-based learning, empowering them to explore their ideas and build self-directed projects: from automated cat feeders and RC cars with interchangeable body kits to digitally sculpted action figures and even a “dinner generator,” a handheld device that suggests dinner and dessert pairings.

The program runs in seasonal cohorts over 12 weeks and has now expanded to year-round offerings. This year, in response to demand from families, we introduced Winter One-Shots, standalone sessions for returning Innovators eager to keep creating between seasons.

The coaching team will grow to eight this summer, including Belal Aly, a graduating Keenan

work-study student. Our coaches are active entrepreneurs, technologists, and educators from across Central New York, bringing real-world experience into every session.

At the final session of each season, The Learning Showcase, students aren’t asked to simply present what they’ve made. Instead, they reflect on their learning journey. From a sixth grader recognizing time management as a growth edge to another realizing “how we talk to ourselves when we fail really matters,” these reflections continue to show just how powerful authentic learning can be.

This momentum is made possible by the vision and leadership of Stephanie and Isaac Budmen, whose commitment to authentic, project-based learning continues to shape every element of the program. With their guidance, Keenan Innovators is preparing students to navigate a world that needs their ideas, voices, and leadership.



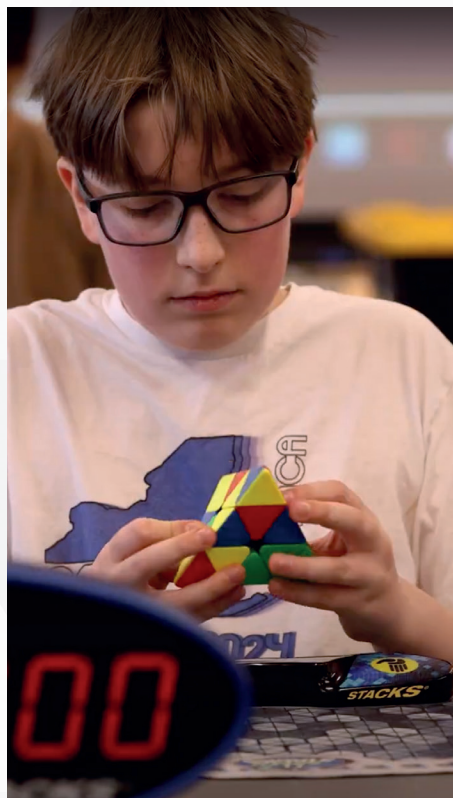
Keenan Innovators hard at work.

Cubing in the 'Cuse: A Middle Schooler's Vision, Realized

This spring, Syracuse hosted its first-ever official speedcubing competition, Cubing in the 'Cuse, and it wasn't led by a school district, a nonprofit, or a college department. It was led by Evan Waters, a middle schooler and Keenan Innovator.

What began as Evan's fall Keenan Innovator's project morphed into a YouTube Channel that explores the creativity and strategy behind speedcubing. That led to a World Cube Association-sanctioned competition. With support from the Keenan Center community and his dad, Evan organized the entire event himself, including coordinating logistics and registration.

This is exactly the kind of real-world impact the Innovators program was built to cultivate: Students identifying their passions, developing the skills to pursue them, and stepping into leadership roles in the community. Under the Budmens' leadership, Keenan Innovators has become a place where agency and authenticity aren't just encouraged, they're expected. That foundation empowers students like Evan to dream boldly and put in the work to turn those dreams into reality.



This year's event hosted over 50 competitors and included three international cubers at Le Moyne.



Scan the QR code
to check out Evan's
YouTube channel.

Repair Café CNY: Fixing More Than Just Things

In May, the Keenan Center hosted the inaugural Repair Café CNY, an event spearheaded by the Budmens in collaboration with Morgan Ingraham from Syracuse University's Institute for Sustainability Engagement.

Community members were encouraged to bring in broken household items, lamps, radios, clothing, electronics, bicycles, and work alongside skilled volunteers to repair rather than replace them.

Designed as a hands-on sustainability initiative, the Café was equal parts tool bench, classroom, and neighborhood meet-up. From troubleshooting small appliances to threading sewing machines, the space buzzed with collaborative problem-solving. A "Take It Apart" table let kids explore old electronics, and Keenan's work-study team anchored the day with energy, expertise, and leadership behind the scenes.

True to the Keenan Center's mission to grow the density of talent in Central New York,



From household lamps to gardening equipment, community members repaired instead of replaced.

the event offered participants a chance to learn real-world skills, engage directly with tools and technologies, and see firsthand the value of repair over disposal.

With a strong turnout, enthusiastic feedback, and a



growing list of future volunteers, another Repair Café is already in the works.

We're proud to have helped launch this powerful community initiative and even prouder to see Syracuse step into the global repair movement.

The Good Life Youth Foundation: Six-Month Impact Summary

The partnership between the Keenan Center and the Good Life Youth Foundation has grown into a dynamic force for youth empowerment, entrepreneurial development, and equitable access to education and innovation.

One of the most notable successes from this collaboration has been the coaching and mentorship provided to Tristan Bey and Troy Green, the young founders of TT Designz (DoubleTDesignz)—a school pride apparel company rooted in the Syracuse City School District. With hands-on pitch training and entrepreneurial support from Keenan Center staff, **Tristan and Troy competed in this year's Dolphin Tank competition and emerged as the highest earners, securing over \$12,000 in capital for their business.** Since then, they have continued to receive ongoing mentorship as they work to scale their brand throughout the district and beyond.

In addition to individual coaching, the Keenan

and Good Life teams have been actively working together to expand access to the Keenan Innovators Program for inner-city youth. Through co-written grants and intentional planning, both organizations are exploring pathways that connect Syracuse youth with the collegiate experience—breaking down barriers and creating new opportunities for early exposure to entrepreneurship, higher education, and STEM-based learning.

Together, we've continued to design programming that removes obstacles to entry into innovation and technology spaces for marginalized populations. From early ideation to execution, equity remains at the heart of the curriculum and engagement strategies being developed.

The Keenan Center also remains a reliable resource for Good Life entrepreneurs who seek guidance as they launch and grow their ventures. Whether through strategic advice, business coaching, or access to networks, Keenan's support continues to enrich the journeys of aspiring young entrepreneurs.

Finally, the partnership has deepened its impact by



Tristan Bey and Troy Green presenting at Dolphin Tank 9.

forming a relationship with Taryn Sparks, a life coach with the Good Life Youth Foundation. Taryn has become a key contributor to the Keenan Innovators Program, offering culturally competent engagement and helping ensure that youth feel seen, heard, and supported as they step into new spaces of learning and creation.

This partnership reflects a shared vision: that entrepreneurship can be a tool for transformation—and that with the right resources and relationships, young people from every background can thrive.

CONCLUSION

Be Part of the Keenan Center Impact

As the Keenan Center continues to grow its impact throughout Le Moyne, Central New York, and beyond, we are always looking for more collaborators and partners. This year's Dolphin Tank demonstrates the impact of businesses and community leaders coming together to support the next generation of innovators, and we know we are just getting started. Please be in touch if you want to explore sponsorship opportunities or innovative collaboration. With the community's support, we will be able to provide students and the region with the tools needed to become a hub for entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity.



Let's Connect

- If your company is interested in sponsoring the Keenan Center's efforts to inspire and coach more of Central New York's budding entrepreneurs through our proven and practical approach or are looking to support the Keenan Center's mission to educate Central New York's youth through hands-on, project-based learning, please contact **Mike D'Eredita** (deredima@lemoyne.edu) for more details or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities.
- If you're interested in getting involved with our community-focused Keenan Innovators Program, extending impactful learning experiences beyond the classroom and into the broader community, contact us at keenanlearning@lemoyne.edu.
- If you're interested in making a meaningful impact at the 2026 Dolphin Tank, reach out to **James Shomar** (shomarja@lemoyne.edu).
- If your company is looking to educate and certify its own team of drone pilots, you would like to become a Part 107 drone pilot, or you would like to explore sponsorship opportunities, contact us at KCdrones@lemoyne.edu.



CONCLUSION

Keenan Community Collaborators

Our regional and community-based partnerships contribute to the Keenan Center's ability to offer impactful and innovative resources to our students. We are always looking to expand our network and connect with new collaborators, and we are fortunate that this list is always growing.

We are grateful for the continued efforts of our 100 Keenan Community Collaborators

Agri-Trak
Aloft
Antigua Chamber of Commerce*
Antigua Tourism Board
Archangel Defense*
ARISE Adaptive Design
Association of Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI)
Bank of America
BlackEagle*
BlueFlite
BNY Mellon
Boy Scouts of America*
Boys & Girls Club of Syracuse
Butt Be Dry*
CADimensions
Campdesign*
Centerstate CEO
Central New York BioTech Accelerator
Clutch Delivery
CNYRobotics*
CNY STEM Hub
Coffeehouse CxO
Collaborative Educators Summit 2024
Constellation Brands
Copenurpose*
Cracked Bean Roastery
Docker Inc.*
DVC Games
East Syracuse Minoa School District
Educating for our Rising Innovation Economy (ERIE21)
Edward Jones
Fayetteville Free Library (FFL)
Fayetteville Manlius School District
Federal Aviation Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Flyhound Corporation

Genius NY
Good Life Youth Foundation
Greenjets
Hub Cub Scouts - Syracuse
Hueber Brewer*
Impel
Indium Corporation
Ithaca Generator
IntelliEQ
Involi SA
Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District
Jubilee Homes
Keenan Center at Ohio State
Kinney Drugs
Lafayette School District
Leadership Greater Syracuse
Le Moyne College Athletics
Le Moyne College Counseling Center
Le Moyne College Liberty Partnership Program*
Le Moyne College Maker Zone student club
Le Moyne College Manresa Program
Le Moyne College Purcell School Occupational Therapy and Physician Assistant programs
Le Moyne College Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging
Le Moyne College STEP Program*
Liverpool Central School District
Liverpool Public Library
M&T Bank
Maker Faire Syracuse
Mariola Media*
Modovolo
More Good Jobs
Musical Theater Incubator (VPA at LMC)

NUAIR
OneGroup*
OneGroup Retirement Advisors*
Onondaga Central School District
Onondaga Community College (OCC)
Onondaga County Public Library (OCPL)
Onondaga Environmental Institute
Onondaga - Cortland - Madison Counties Board of Cooperative Educational Services (OCM BOCES)
Pinnacle*
The Public Broadcasting of CNY (WCNY)
Raster Digital*
Rising CNY
Rosamond Gifford Zoo
Safe Space CNY*
Salient
Shippan Point Advisors*
Spatchcock Funk
Syracuse Surge Accelerator
Syracuse University Makerspace
Switch the Future
Syracuse.com
Syracuse University's Institute for Sustainability Engagement*
The HUSTLE Defense Accelerator Program
The Tech Garden
Teddie Eddies
UpMobility Foundation
Upstate Medical University
Upward Bound at Le Moyne College
Vergil Ventures
VIP Structures
Ward*
Westhill Central School District

*Relationships formed within the past six months

JANUARY - JUNE 2025

Keenan Center Report

