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# News

Macomb County Executive  
Mark A. Hackel



## Planning & Economic Development

### *For Immediate Release*

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## **Patent seminar returns to Macomb County**

The successful “Get Out of the Garage: Patent Your Idea!” seminar returns to the Velocity Center for Economic Collaboration in Sterling Heights on Tuesday, Aug. 19.

The U.S. government grants patents to inventors that provide the exclusive right to manufacture, use or sell their ideas. A patent also provides protection against an invention being exploited by others.

Attendees of this seminar will learn:

- which types of ideas are worthy of patents.
- the point in which protective steps should be taken.
- information about the services available to help inventors through the process.

Featured speakers include Faris Almatrahi, supervisory patent examiner at the Elijah J. McCoy Detroit Satellite Office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office; Thomas D. Helmholdt, patent attorney, counselor at law and supervisor at the Wayne State University Patent Procurement Law Clinic; and John Swiatek, president and CEO of Coliant Corporation and inventor of Powerlet.

The seminar will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Velocity (6633 18 Mile Road). It is free and open to the public. Those who plan to attend are asked to register in advance by contacting Joan Carleton at (586) 884-9324 or e-mail [macinc@oakland.edu](mailto:macinc@oakland.edu).

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The Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development supports an environment where businesses prosper and people thrive. Its activities and programs are focused on stimulating the local economy through business retention, expansion and attraction while improving the overall quality of life for residents. The department specializes in providing services to businesses at all stages of development with a concentration on the high-growth industries of aerospace, alternative energy, advanced manufacturing, defense, and homeland security. For more information, call (586) 469-5285 or visit [MacombBusiness.com](http://MacombBusiness.com).