

Biography of Dino Miele

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Living in the iconic surroundings of Niagara Falls, in Ontario Canada, Dino Miele is an eminent personality in the innovation ecosystem. He is passionate about empowering inspired founders, connecting potential investors, and encourages technologies that accelerate startup growth. In his hometown Niagara On The Lake, he serves as the Chief Technology Innovation Officer. He is also a sports enthusiast with a special love for soccer, hockey, football, and cycling. As a dynamic 'give first' leader, Dino's philosophies integrate a spirit of perseverance and professionalism in his actions and decisions, propelling his individual as well as organizational objectives.

The Story of An Innovation Builder

Dino Miele is the proud founder and Special Advisor of the Spark Innovation Educational Centre Inc.(a not-for-profit incubator) and Spark Enterprises Inc.(a for-profit accelerator). Both of these **community based center's** support startups and founders to explore innovative ideas, launch products, and grow their businesses. His dedication has contributed to building this dynamic and collaborative ecosystem focused on digital transformation technologies.

Dino has the honor of being the co-founder of the Niagara Falls Ryerson Innovation Hub, a collaborative effort with Toronto Metropolitan University's DMZ (Formerly Ryerson University) and the City of Niagara Falls. He works with dedication to bridge the experience of established entrepreneurs with the drive of young founders. His current endeavor is a Cross Generational startup **accelerator** that facilitates synergies between experienced entrepreneurs and ambitious young minds.

A Rich Career of Serving Society Through Technology

Dino's stewardship as the Chief Information Officer for the District School Board of Niagara spanned **38** years. During this tenure, he facilitated the ICT ecosystem in support of student achievement, reinforcing his dedication to education and learning opportunities with digital technologies. This highlights his profound commitment and professionalism to transform the lives of young minds.

He is deeply committed to transforming education through innovation and technology, and he firmly believes in the potential of EdTech and STEAM education as catalysts to empower the next generation of learners and entrepreneurs. Through his work, he aims to inspire educators and students to embrace new possibilities, foster creativity, and develop a lifelong love for learning.

His mission is to have communities and businesses join him on this exciting journey as he reimagines education and shapes a brighter future for our students and communities.

As a passionate edtech instructor and innovator with a Masters of Education degree, his expertise lies in creating cutting-edge educational technology (EdTech) innovations and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) programs and soft skill microcredentials for educators, students.

Part of his legacy encompasses initiatives like Girls-Learning-Code, Technovation, Women in Tech, Black Youth and Cyber-Senior programs. His endeavors also include STEAM (STEM) learning programs, integrating science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics to foster problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration among students and educators. In addition he helps the "Youth 2 Action program" introduces newcomer youth (14-24 years old) to various volunteer and civic engagement opportunities through event planning, project coordination and skills training workshops.

Dino is a good standing member of notable organizations like the CIO Association of Canada (CIOCAN) which represents CIOs, CISOs and IT Executives in Canada. He is also a member of the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT), which is a not-for-profit, self-governing organization in Ontario, Canada. It is a professional association that promotes the interests of engineering and applied science technicians and technologists to industry, educational institutions, government and with the public, Forbes Business Council, Global Entrepreneurship Network, and 'Beyond Startup Niagara'. To date he remains a source of inspiration through his exceptional dedication and professional expertise in Canada.

As the co-founder of several community based innovation centers he has been instrumental in spearheading initiatives that empower educators and students alike in computer programming and skilled trades. Especially through his present program "Beyond Startup Niagara" he and his

team have produced micro-credentials courses that are dedicated to bridging the gap in technology, innovation, intrapreneurship, entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning.

One notable contribution was the creation of the Ultimate Gaming Challenge, a unique platform that combines game-based learning, critical thinking skills, design thinking, problem-solving, coding, and gamification challenges. This immersive environment enables students to engage in hands-on learning while developing essential 21st-century skills. By harnessing the power of gaming, we strive to make education more engaging, interactive, and impactful.

Combining Sustainability with Passion: Indoor Farming

His hobbies echo his values of sustainable living. Dino practices indoor farming with aeroponics and microgreens, combining his love for the environment with the thrill of cultivating fresh, nutrient-dense greens. This intriguing hobby aligns with the principles of zero-mile agriculture, echoing his zeal to minimize environmental impact while contributing to global efforts in reducing hunger. His sustainable and space-conscious cultivation endeavors stand testament to his innovative approach towards societal concerns, as does his professional life.

Integral Role in Social Upliftment

Dino extends his contributions towards society through volunteering for various causes. He has been actively involved with charities like 'Socks and Snacks' and the 'United Way' that aim at providing food and clothing to the homeless. He also volunteers with renewing computer tech, helping under-represented individuals (i.e. single mothers, black youth etc...) and economically disadvantaged youth with STEAM workshops, refurbished computers and laptops.

Future endeavors align with his commitment towards social upliftment. He plans to launch an experiential education through STEAM programs aiming to provide elementary school students from lower economic backgrounds with opportunities for critical thinking and design learning. Another noteworthy project is the launching of the community's first Impact Hub to provide skilled trade apprenticeship students with soft skills to augment their employability and entrepreneurial abilities.

Dino A. Miele C.E.T., Bsoc, M.Ed.

Dino has a demonstrated history of working in the I.T. business and innovation management sector, health, and business industries, experiential education as well as regional innovation startup centers. Skilled in Corporate Strategy, Business Alignment, Operational Management, Cloud and Network Services, Cyber Security, Educational Technology, Design Thinking, IT Service Management, Team Building, Coaching, and Business efficiencies. Strong business and IT alignment. High-performing organizational leadership style. Leadership strategy. Removing obstacles and barriers to improving business and people performance.