

David J. Ollila – Inventor. Innovator. Entrepreneur.

As president and chief innovation officer at Skypoint Ventures in Flint, Mich., David Ollila oversees the revitalization of real estate holdings, Ferris Wheel Innovation Center, new venture development, portfolio growth, daily operations and staff support.

As president of 100K Ideas, a fresh non-profit innovation platform, Ollila cemented funding and worked with a dozen college students to launch the unique program that assists would-be inventors and innovators.

Ollila has 14 patents, many born from necessity. Throughout his life, when Ollila encountered products that did not meet his immediate needs, he developed his own. As a result, he developed niche knowledge on all steps necessary to transform napkin-sketch ideas into viable products and take them to market.

With this diverse skill set, Ollila founded Invent@NMU which brings physical products from concept to market for people who have innovative product ideas, but who lack the experience or resources to execute. Invent@NMU is run by a multi-disciplinary team of creative students who earn real-world experience along with their paychecks. This unique model was recognized in Governor Rick Snyder's 2016 State-of-the-State Address.

Ollila strongly believes that many of our youth and underprivileged are hungry for opportunity, and if given the chance, can contribute valuable, innovative ideas to the commercialization process. Ollila excels at empowering these individuals which leads to solid, confident teams capable of taking on seemingly unsurmountable tasks. At Flint-based Skypoint Ventures, young staff members play key roles in revitalizing the city in which they call home.

Ollila is a frequent panelist and presenter on small manufacturing. Two of Ollila's companies were recognized by former President Barack Obama for innovation in a rural setting and state-side manufacturing, respectively.