TiE – University

Impact Report - 2025

EY

Shape the future
with confidence

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Foreword

Entrepreneurship is more than building businesses – it is about shaping ideas that create meaningful impact. The TiE University program stands as a beacon for this vision, empowering students with entrepreneurial skills and transforming their aspirations into ventures that drive innovation and societal progress.

This impact report captures the remarkable journey of TiE University in fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among college students. Through mentorship, experiential learning, and access to global networks, the program has enabled students to think boldly, act decisively, and embrace challenges as opportunities. The stories and outcomes highlighted here reflect the resilience, creativity, and determination of the next generation of change-makers.

TiE University is not just a program – it is a movement that nurtures talent, accelerates innovation, and builds a community committed to creating sustainable and inclusive growth. As you explore this report, we invite you to celebrate these achievements and join us in supporting the vision of a world where ideas thrive and young entrepreneurs lead the way to a better future.

Message from TiE Global Leadership

Leading With Purpose, Inspiring a Generation

We are proud to present the TiE University initiative – an embodiment of TiE's long-standing commitment to nurturing entrepreneurship, innovation, and mentorship among young changemakers.

TiE University was created on the belief that young minds, when supported, can turn ideas into impactful ventures. By bridging the gap between academia and the entrepreneurial world, the program provides students with essential mentorship, access to investors, and global networking opportunities.

Student entrepreneurs face unique challenges, balancing academics while pursuing bold ideas. TiE University addresses these gaps through pitch competitions, accelerator programs, and global platforms that give students the exposure and confidence to build real-world solutions.

What began as a support system for student startups has evolved into a global movement, uniting universities and young innovators across continents. Our vision is ambitious yet clear: to enable at least one successful startup from every TiE chapter worldwide.

Moving forward, TiE University aims to strengthen partnerships with investors and policymakers to build a robust funding ecosystem and create a policy framework that supports cross-border collaboration and student entrepreneurship.

With the collective strength of mentors, investors, academic partners, and the TiE community, TiE University is set to become the launchpad for the next generation of responsible, innovative leaders.

Murali Bukkapatnam
Chairman
Global Board of Trustees, TiE

Message from EY Leadership

"The best way to predict the future is to create it.". Peter Drucker

At EY, we see this truth play out every day. Entrepreneurs embody leadership in its purest form — the courage to imagine differently, the conviction to act boldly, and the resilience to build what others only envision. Their ideas don't just disrupt industries; they elevate communities and reshape the future toward one that is inclusive, sustainable, and full of possibility.

Our collaboration with TiE University brings this vision to life. Together, we are building the next generation of changemakers — equipping young founders with mentorship, market insights, and access to networks and capital. The goal is simple yet profound: to transform bright ideas into ventures that create jobs, empower people, and strengthen communities.

TiE University has ignited a movement across campuses — encouraging students to see entrepreneurship not merely as a career option, but as a powerful instrument of change. At EY, we are proud to stand behind this mission. Because when young innovators are guided early, they create solutions that challenge conventions, solve real-world problems, and deliver enduring social value.

And as these students grow into successful entrepreneurs, they return as mentors — giving back to the ecosystem that once nurtured them. This self-reinforcing cycle of innovation and empowerment is what sustains progress.

Together, EY and TiE University are shaping an ecosystem where ideas find purpose, entrepreneurship fuels transformation, and innovation becomes the defining language of progress — one idea, one entrepreneur, and one community at a time.

Mohammad Mustafa
Partner, Ernst & Young

Message from TiE Global Board

TiE University represents the true spirit of TiE – harnessing the wisdom of experienced entrepreneurs to empower the next generation of innovators. It is where mentorship meets aspiration, and ideas find their wings. Over the past decade, TiE Global and its various chapters has mentored over 25,000 startups, teaching us that success is built not just on ideas but on habits, resilience, and collaboration. That insight shapes our vision for TiE U: to equip student entrepreneurs with the mindset, tools, and network to launch, sustain, and scale ventures.

At TiE New York, we follow a global playbook of mentorship, investor access, and peer support so students feel part of something bigger than their campus idea. In the coming years, university entrepreneurship will evolve into interdisciplinary innovation ecosystems tackling climate, education, health, and global challenges. TiE U is uniquely positioned to drive this transformation by bridging academia and the startup world – providing mentorship, investor readiness, and a global stage.

Young founders today have unprecedented access to tools but lack networks, and market experience. TiE U addresses this through structured mentorship, boot camps, investor feedback, and global community access. Our finalists receive tailored coaching and compete globally preparing them for scaling their companies, not just the pitch.

What excites us most is the idealism and capability of today's student entrepreneurs. They think globally and aim for impact beyond profit. TiE U amplifies that ambition through TiE's global network, decades of mentoring experience, and local chapter infrastructure. It's inspiring to help transform vision into impact and ambition into ventures.

TiE Global Board of Trustees

The TiE U program is one of our most impactful programs to connect with the next generation of Entrepreneurs. Universities are the crucibles of ideas and innovation and the TiE U program helps student innovators to take their ideas to market and build world class businesses with mentoring and funding from practicing Entrepreneurs.

Vijay Menon

Executive Director, TiE Global

Strategic Review Committee

Ravinder Paul Singh
TiE Silicon Valley
C0-LEAD (WEST)

Harit Mohan
TiE Chandigarh
CO- LEAD (EAST)

Kunal Jain
TiE Tampa

Dr. Paul Lopez
TiE Atlanta

Subba Raju Pericherla
TiE Hyderabad

Dr. Ravi Brahmbhatt
TiE Houston

Vision for University Entrepreneurship

University Entrepreneurship envisions building a **globally integrated platform** that transforms campus-born ideas into scalable ventures, fostering inclusive innovation and entrepreneurial leadership across academic ecosystems worldwide. This initiative seeks to bridge the gap between ideation and commercialization, ensuring that student entrepreneurs have access to mentorship, funding, and global exposure.

Strategic Objectives:

Incubate 10,000 Student-Led Ventures

Through structured programs, incubation support, and cross-border collaboration, we aim to nurture high- potential startups.

Mobilize 100 million USD in Cumulative Funding

By leveraging investor networks, angel groups etc providing student ventures with capital.

Strategic Objectives

Build a Global Alumni Network of 25,000 Entrepreneurs

Creating a lifelong community of innovators who collaborate, mentor and scale impact globally.

Ensuring Diversity and Inclusion

At least 35% participation from women entrepreneurs, promoting gender equity and inclusive growth

Impact Alignment

This vision contributes directly to **TiE's Global Mission 1×10×100**, positioning TiE University as a catalyst for entrepreneurial transformation and inclusive innovation worldwide.

At its core, this mission is simple but powerful:
- 1 million entrepreneurs
- 10 million jobs
- $100 billion in global GDP impact

Closure Statement

By 2030, TiE University will stand as the world's leading academic entrepreneurship platform, empowering students to innovate, scale, and lead, while shaping a future where ideas born on campus drive global economic and social impact.

VISION & MISSION

VISION

To create a global platform where young entrepreneurs from colleges and universities can transform their ideas into scalable, impactful ventures. TiE U aims to inspire, support, and nurture the next generation of innovators through mentoring, education, and opportunities that bridge academia and the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

MISSION

TiE U fosters entrepreneurship by empowering university students with access to mentors, resources, and a global network of entrepreneurs, investors, and institutions. Through practical learning, boot camps, workshops, and pitch competitions, TiE-U equips student startups to successfully launch and grow their businesses, creating a dynamic ecosystem that transforms campus ideas into viable enterprises.

TiE U-Program Overview

The TiE-University Program was launched in 2019 by TiE Global to extend TiE's mentorship-driven entrepreneurship ecosystem to university students. Emerging from successful chapter-level initiatives like *TYE University* in Atlanta and *TiE Grad* in Hyderabad.

TiE U is a 6-month accelerator program tailored for collegiate entrepreneurs during which participating teams receive intensive mentoring from experienced entrepreneurs and industry experts within the TiE global network. Through a structured process, student startups progress from ideation to pitch-ready ventures. Key features include:

Program Components

- **Mentorship:** Each participating team is paired with dedicated mentors from the TiE global network—seasoned entrepreneurs, industry professionals, and investors – who provide ongoing guidance tailored to the startup's needs, helping refine business models, customer validation, and go-to-market strategies.
- **Competitions:** TiE U conducts local and regional pitch competitions where teams present their business ideas, receive critical feedback, and compete for advancement. Regional winners earn the right to participate in the global pitch contest held at the TiE Global Summit, garnering unmatched visibility and investment opportunities.
- **Workshops and Bootcamps:** The program offers a series of workshops and bootcamps, both in-person and virtual, led by subject-matter experts. These sessions cover essential entrepreneurial skills such as business planning, financial modeling, marketing, product development, and fundraising.
- **Global Hackathons:** To stimulate innovation and problem-solving, TiE U organizes hackathons that engage students in collaborative ideation and solution-building challenges focused on real-world issues.
- **Digital Learning:** Online self-paced courses complement live sessions to ensure students acquire 21st-century digital and entrepreneurial skills accessible anytime, anywhere.
- **Experiential Learning:** Winning teams are afforded opportunities to visit global innovation hubs such as Silicon Valley and India. These trips include corporate tours, networking events, and exposure to successful entrepreneurial ecosystems designed to expand minds and possibilities.
- **Networking**: TiE U creates strong connections among student entrepreneurs, alumni, mentors, and investors worldwide, fostering a vibrant community that supports collaboration and knowledge sharing beyond the program duration

TiE University thus serves as a critical conduit to foster the next generation of entrepreneurs.

TIMELINE OF MILESTONES

2018

PILOT LAUNCH

TiE University was introduced as a campus entrepreneurship initiative, connecting students with mentors and resources to transform ideas into ventures

2019

FIRST GLOBAL PITCH COPETITION

The inaugural TiE University Global Pitch Competition brought together student innovators from multiple chapters, setting the foundation for global exposure

2020

GLOBAL VIRTUAL TRANSFORMATION

TiE transitioned to a fully virtual program, engaging participants from 13 chapters across 5 countries (with Israel replacing Pakistan in 2019). The program featured workshops, startup bootcamps, TiE Global Summit, and college startup initiatives

2021

GLOBAL SUMMIT TRANSFORMATION

TiE UNICON became a flagship event at the TiE Global Summit, enabling students to network with global entrepreneurs, investors, and industry leaders

2022

SCALE AND IMPACT

Expanded to 13 chapters, engaged 1,500+ students, and awarded $25K+ in prize money, reflecting rapid growth and tangible impact

2025

RECORD PARTICIPATION

Applications opened on 10 Feb, closing on 30 June with record submissions. June–August featured intensive chapter mentoring, followed by regional pitch competitions in August–September

The Evolution of TiE University

Building on this legacy, TiE University's origins trace back to 2017–18, when TiE Hyderabad introduced a business plan competition aimed at empowering university students and fostering entrepreneurial thinking. Recognizing the need to move beyond traditional formats, a unique model where charter members presented real-world business challenges and student teams developed innovative solutions.

This approach not only enhanced experiential learning but also created a scalable framework for engagement. Over time, the program expanded from a local initiative to a global platform, enabling thousands of students to transform ideas into ventures and driving TiE University's mission of inclusive innovation. Over the years, multiple evolutions have occurred including global hackathons, workshops and masterclasses, and visits by regional winners to Silicon Valley, MOUs with leading colleges worldwide celebrating college entrepreneurship, and a Global Pitchfest Competition culminating at TiE Global Summit in Asia.

TiE – U Journey

Key Metrics

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2025
Total Students Engaged	1000	2500	1455	2000	1423	1450
Countries Involved	4	6	12	24	8	12
Chapters Involved	18	13	32	30	32	38
Total Prize Money	$20,000	$25,000	$76,000	$100,000	$120,000	$35,000

TiE-U Global Footprint

INDIA

Ahmedabad
Bangalore
Bhubaneshwar
Chandigarh
Chennai
Coimbatore
Dehradun
Delhi- NCR
Hubli
Hyderabad
Indore
Kerala
Kolkata
Lucknow
Mangalore
Mumbai
Mysuru
Nagpur
Nizamabad
Patna
Pune
Rajasthan
Surat
Udaipur
UP (Kanpur)
Vadodara
Vizag
Siliguri

AMERICA

Atlanta
Austin
Boston
Carolinas
Colorado
Dallas
Dana Point
DC
Houston
New Jersey
New York
Oregon
Philadelphia
Phoenix
Pittsburgh
Seattle
Silicon Valley
SoCal
South Coast - SAN
DIEGO
Tampa
Ottawa
Toronto
Vancouver

EUROPE

Amsterdam (Netherlands)
Frankfurt
UK North

MENA & SOUTH ASIA

Colombo (Sri Lanka)
Dubai
Islamabad
Japan
Singapore
Indonesia

AFRICA
Nairobi

AUSTRALIA
Melbourne

Chapter Expansion and Regional Highlights

- **North America:** TiE Silicon Valley and TiE Texas pilot-launched the first U.S. seasons in 2019, each supporting 200+ student teams. By 2023, North American chapters (including Toronto and Boston) collectively run a robust multi-city competition, feeding finalists into a continental showcase at the TiECON summit.

- **India Subcontinent:** India leads TiE U activity with chapters in Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Mumbai. By 2024, regional confederations coordinated events across dozens of colleges, engaging 2,000+ students in fintech, edtech, and clean-tech ventures.

- **Middle East & Africa:** TiE chapters in UAE, Egypt, Lebanon and Nigeria added TiE U to their portfolios by 2021. These chapters introduced Arabic- and English-language cohorts, bringing entrepreneurship education to non-traditional geographies. For instance, TiE Nigeria's TiE U 2022 cohort launched several edtech startups addressing local skill gaps. Across Africa and the Middle East, TiE U alumni have started ventures in renewable energy, healthcare and e-commerce.

- **Europe & UK:** TiE London and TiE Munich launched pilot cohorts in 2023 focused on deep tech and social entrepreneurship. At the TiE Global Summit 2024 in London, a TiE U start-up pavilion showcased teams from 10 countries.

- **Latin America:** TiE Brazil and TiE Brazil Nordeste joined TiE U in 2024, enrolling 500+ students across Sao Paulo and Recife. A Brazilian Agri-tech venture reached the global pitch finals that year.

testimonials...

Valeria Brenner
Founder - Thryft Ship

★★★★★

TiE U has been such a tremendous help for me and my business! Being connected to a network of experienced entrepreneurs has been amazing. I feel like no problem is too hard to tackle.
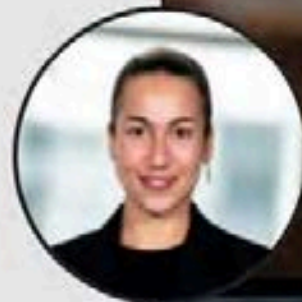
Logan Heagerty
Founder - Life Lite

★★★★★

TiE U program equipped me with resources, networking, connections & constructive deadlines allowing my team to hone in on some key components. We were able to extrapolate our core competencies, build better business plan, & reach right people.

Uros Kuzmanovic
Founder - Biosense8

★★★★★

TiE U and TiE Scaleup directly helped me focus in on value our products are providing and how to sell that story. Bootcamp held by Kent Summers, Nikhil Bhojwani & Vinit Nijhawan as mentors, and the fantastic TiE leaders, all made it possible.

testimonials...

April Wright
Founder & CEO - The Growing Rock

★★★★★

TiE University has been a pleasure to participate in. From learning critical financials to best practice pitching to a room full of investors, you have your work ahead of you. There is so much to learn to be successful.

Ethan Natawidjaja
Founder & CEO - Tokoro

★★★★★

Dear TiE University, thank you for providing me the opportunity to pitch. I got ready by practicing my pitch heavily 2 days before and resting the day before the mock pitch. My coach at TiE U made sure my slides looked the best they could be.

Cooper Bowen
Founder - Smart Snack Solutions

★★★★★

This has been very fast rolling process for us. We thought our concept up less than 2 months ago. TiE U has been incredible resource with the best mentoring we could ask for. Coming out of these sessions, we will set up for success and which direction to head towards in order to make our business become reality.

testimonials...

Milan Tahlianai
Founder - OpenLake (TrueHorizon AI)

★★★★★

TiE U global pitch competition last year was a life-altering experience for me. I gained invaluable experience, mentorship, connections, inspiration and courage. The experience showed me the exact kind of life I want to live, people I need to surround myself with, and what it is that I'm truly building for.

Matthew Tesvich
Founder - Skunk Skinn

★★★★★

TiE U put the resources and ecosystem in place to give us the best shot to succeed in a career path where there are a lot of unknowns & the journey is quite lonely.

Harry Herzberg
Founder - Transcribbit

★★★★★

TiE U was more than just a competition for me—it was a launchpad. Program gave me the confidence, practical skills, and community support I needed to transform Transcribbit from an idea into an investor-ready venture. Winning validated my efforts and reinforced that entrepreneurship was within reach

Impact at Glance" Dashboard

The TiE University program continued its strong trajectory in 2025, delivering measurable impact across global chapters and academic institutions. This year, 38 chapters participated at the highest level, with 10 chapters launching the program for the first time, signalling robust expansion. Our reach extended to 19 countries and 450+ colleges, fostering entrepreneurial aspirations among students worldwide.

Engagement surged with 1,402 applications received, supported by 20+ self-learning resources and 450+ attendees in orientation sessions. Chapters collectively hosted 155 masterclasses, enriching the learning experience for participants. Mentorship remained a cornerstone of the program, with 5,549+ hours logged toward an ambitious 15,000-hour goal, and 255 mentors onboarded against a target of 500.

These achievements underscore TiE University's commitment to building a global ecosystem that nurtures innovation, empowers talent, and accelerates entrepreneurial success.

10 — *Chapters Running Program for the first time*

450+ — *Colleges Reached*

85 — *Strategic Partners Aligned*

489 — *Teams Selected*
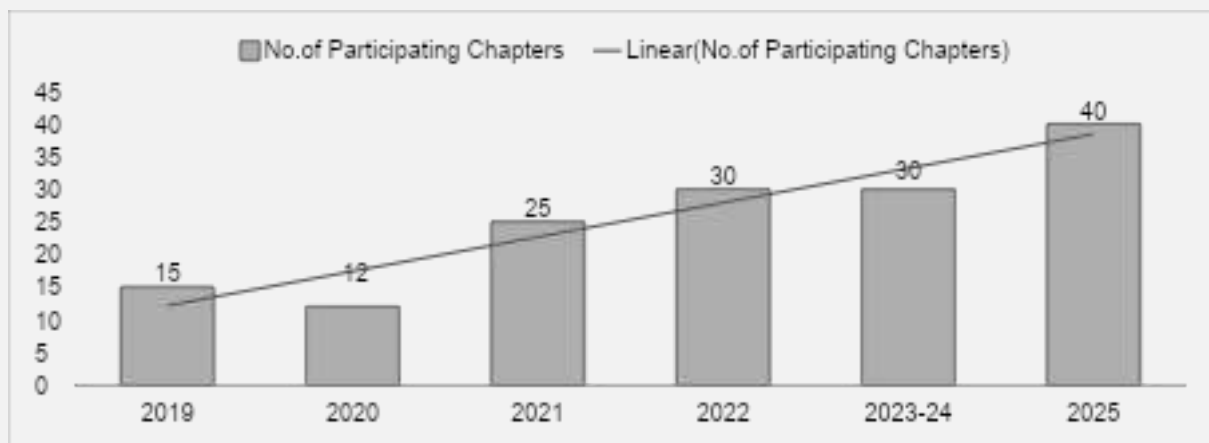
Inspiring Success Stories

Transcribbit
Harry Herzberg

Problem Identified

Students with ADHD and other learning challenges often miss critical lecture content, leading to gaps in understanding and academic performance

Solution Offered

venting sessions, psychometric tests, yoga, meditation, crisis intervention for

Transcribbit provides **real-time lecture transcription, notifications for key points, translation, and accessible Q&A**, ensuring students never miss important information

Unique Value Proposition/ MVP Description

A SaaS-based platform integrating AI for personalized mental health

Machine-learning powered app that transcribes lectures, highlights key points, and integrates translation for ESL students—available on all devices including Chromebooks

Awards/ Recognition

Inno Under 25 Entrepreneur Award by Portland Inno
Selected for Code Launch Accelerator
Piloted in K-12 schools and special education programs

Standway

Altmas Hussain, Vaishali Dhingra, Satyam Dixit, Mohd Ashraf

Problem Identified

Urban India faces severe parking shortages, traffic congestion, and lack of EV charging infrastructure. Commuters waste time searching for parking, leading to accidents and inefficiency

Solution Offered

It developed **India's first digital parking platform** offering online slot booking, QR-based e-slips, EV charging locators, smart parking maps. Converting underutilized spaces into legal parking spots

Unique Value Proposition/ MVP Description

Integrates **real-time parking availability**, **digital receipts**, and **EV charging locators** into a single app, ensuring hassle-free, paperless, and secure parking

Awards/ Recognition

TiE University Global Pitch Competition (Lucknow Chapter)

Featured in UP Startup Policy Showcase, Selected for Innovation & Incubation Cell at Jaipuria Institute of Management

Lidquidium

Skunk Skin

Matthew Tesvich

Problem Identified

Bitcoin lacked native lending solutions for emerging assets like Ordinals and

1 in 6 people suffer from severely stinky feet.

Solution Offered

A decentralized crypto pool lending protocol on Bitcoin enabling access to

A sock that fully neutralizes foot odour.

Unique Value Proposition/ MVP Description

✔ Our socks do not smell. They are all natural and last at least 150% longer than a traditional sock.

Transparent transactions

Awards/ Recognition

✔ Amazon Prime's Buy It Now winner - USA Today
✔ Forbes, ABC, CBS, MSN, FOX, Amazon Prime
✔ + >15 Pitch Competition Win

Competition
✔ *TiE U Global Pitch Competition finalist*

✔ Aug 2025 after 100+ interviews; now deployed in 15+ rehab centers across the U.S. and Canada.

Awards/ Recognition

University Ecosystem Strengthening

Transformation of Academic Institutions

TiE U successfully bridged the gap between classroom learning and market realities, positioning universities as innovation hubs and enhancing the skills and empowering students to lead in a competitive global economy.

Entrepreneurial Education:
The program embedded entrepreneurial education in universities, encouraging practical learning and innovation among students.

Industry Collaboration:
Universities fostered partnerships with industry, enhancing real-world exposure and practical application of knowledge.
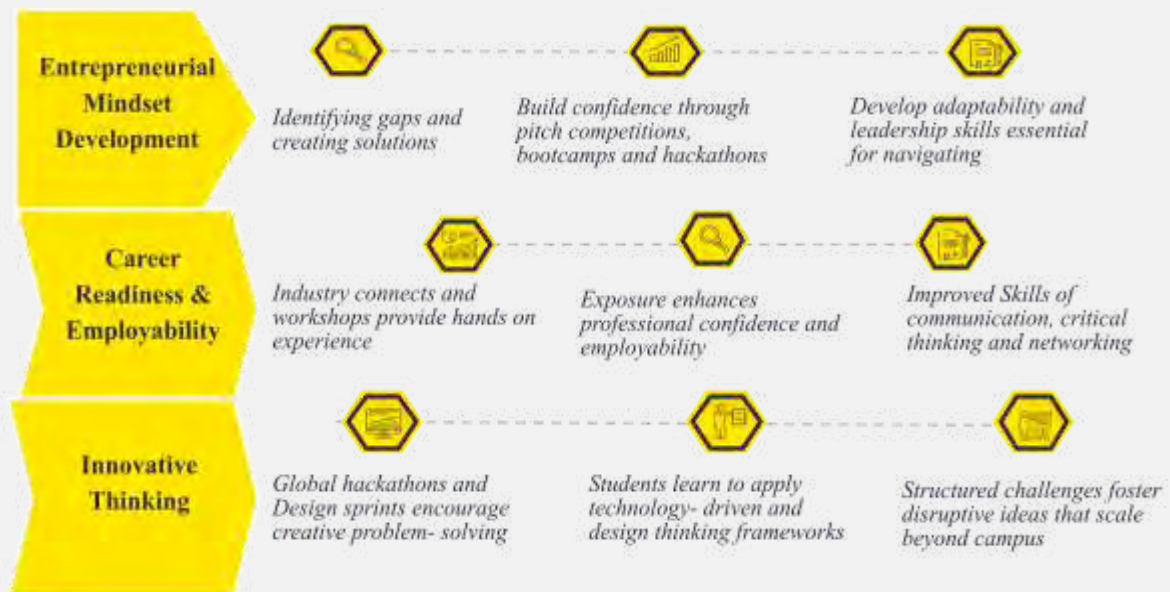
Leadership and Global Exposure:
Students developed leadership capabilities and gained global exposure through international programs and networking opportunities.

Innovation and Growth
Academic institutions became innovation hubs, bridging theory and practice to drive growth and entrepreneurship.

Transforming Students:

Entrepreneurial Mindset Development	Identifying gaps and creating solutions	Build confidence through pitch competitions, bootcamps and hackathons	Develop adaptability and leadership skills essential for navigating
Career Readiness & Employability	Industry connects and workshops provide hands on experience	Exposure enhances professional confidence and employability	Improved Skills of communication, critical thinking and networking
Innovative Thinking	Global hackathons and Design sprints encourage creative problem-solving	Students learn to apply technology-driven and design thinking frameworks	Structured challenges foster disruptive ideas that scale beyond campus

Industry Exposure Activities

Workshops, bootcamps, and mentorship sessions provided students with hands-on industry experience.

Skill Development

Practical skills like networking, communication, and problem-solving were developed to boost employability.

Career and Entrepreneurship Readiness

Graduates gained confidence for global careers and entrepreneurial ventures, enhancing the university's reputation.

The program made a difference and is attracting more Universities to join and collaborate to include the program in their curriculum for the benefit of the students.

Building The Innovation Ecosystem

Chapter Members' Contributions & Reflections

The TiE U has been a vibrant platform for fostering entrepreneurial spirit among university students and young innovators. Over the past 7 years, the Chapter members have actively contributed to building a strong ecosystem of learning, collaboration, and growth in their respective geographical areas.

Key Contributions:

- **Mentorship and Guidance**: Most of the chapter members come with many years of industrial and entrepreneurial experience and domain expertise who dedicated time to mentoring aspiring entrepreneurs, offering insights on prototype development, business models, marketing and fundraising strategies and leadership skills. This experiential mentoring has hugely impacted the student learning.
- **Workshops and Knowledge Sessions**: Each of the chapters organized multiple workshops on topics such as idea generation, design thinking, startup finance, and pitching techniques, equipping students with practical tools to navigate the entrepreneurial journey. Some of the chapters have successfully conducted Faculty training programs, bridging the gap between theoretical and practical approach in nurturing student entrepreneurs.
- **Networking and Collaboration:** Through curated networking events, the members connected with student innovators, founders, investors, and ecosystem enablers, creating opportunities for partnerships and internships.
  The chapters have also signed MoUs with various universities in their jurisdiction to provide continued support to the students through their entrepreneurial journey.
- **Startup Showcases and Competitions:** TiE U members actively organized local pitch competitions and demo days, evaluated the ideas and provided constructive feedback for improvement.
- **Community Building Beyond events**: The chapter members contributed to creating a supportive community where ideas are shared openly, and collaborations are encouraged. The chapters encouraged cross collaborations across the chapters.

Reflections:

- **Empowerment Through Knowledge**: Members reflected on how exposure to real-world challenges and expert advice boosted the students' confidence and developed entrepreneurial mindset.
- **Learning from Failures**: The mentoring from the chapter members made the students realize their potential and encouraged them to start their entrepreneurial journey with confidence. Several participants of the program shared that early setbacks taught them resilience and adaptability—key traits for any successful entrepreneur.
- **Value of Networking**: Building meaningful connections emerged as a recurring theme, with members acknowledging that relationships often open doors to unexpected opportunities and TiE Global summit participation provided them with a platform to explore global innovations and learn from their peers.
- **Commitment to Impact:** The program flared up a desire in the student community to create ventures that not only generate profits but also deliver social and environmental impact, aligning with global sustainability goals.

Looking Ahead:

The TiE U Chapters remain committed to expanding their reach and impact by introducing advanced acceleration programs, fostering cross-border collaborations, and nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs by collaborating with more universities. With continued support from mentors, partners, and the global TiE network, the chapters aim to scale up student innovations and create more success stories and few unicorns in the coming years.

Beyond The Campus

Social, Financial & Environmental Impact

Beyond these achievements, TiE chapters worldwide have guided startups to remarkable milestones, including multi-million-dollar valuations, successive investment rounds, accelerated revenue growth, expansive customer bases, and prestigious awards. These accomplishments span across 15+ industries showcasing TiE's global impact on entrepreneurship.

Social Impact

TiE has been associated with numerous initiatives that have created profound social impact by fostering inclusion, accessibility, and community empowerment. This includes startups driving mental health awareness, digital accessibility, and skill development for underserved populations, as well as ventures promoting education and gender equality.

SaralX	Erotology	Strangify
Digital accessibility platform making websites and apps inclusive for persons with disabilities. Impact: Enabled inclusive digital experiences for millions; secured 35+ enterprise clients including Yatra and MakeMyTrip.	Digital platform for sexual wellness education and community engagement. Impact: Breaking taboos and improving health education across Africa.	AI-driven mental wellness platform offering anonymous counselling and wellness programs. Impact: Reduced stigma around mental health; partnered with corporates for employee wellness.

$ Financial Impact

TiE has enabled significant financial growth for startups across diverse sectors, helping them secure millions in funding, scale operations, and achieve global market penetration. This includes ventures that have raised Series A and B rounds, expanded into international markets, and generated substantial revenue through innovative business models.

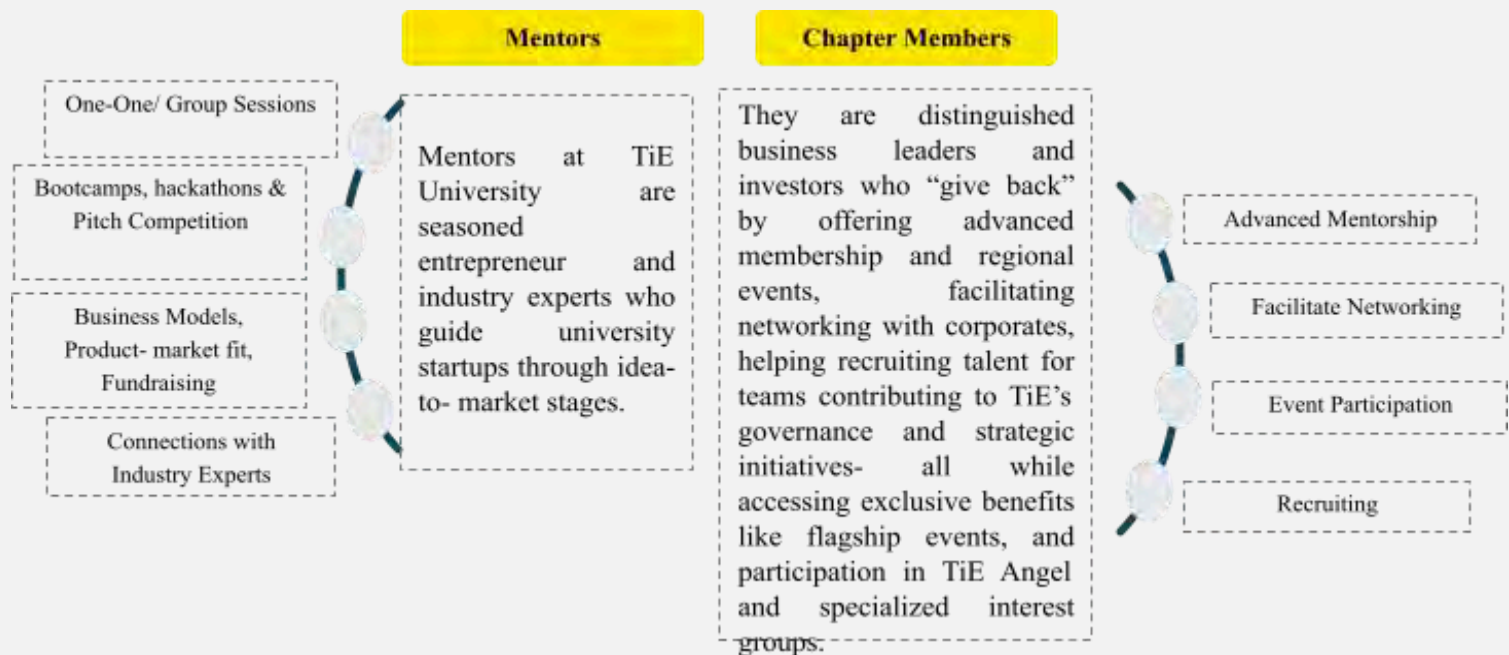| Protein Pints	Standway	Liquidium
High-protein ice cream brand disrupting the $14B frozen dessert market. Impact: Secured $1.99M funding; expanded to 8,000+ retail stores nationwide.	India's first digital parking platform integrating EV charging locators. Impact: Winner of TiE Global Pitch; incubated at Jaipuria Institute; targeting India's $50B urban mobility market.	Bitcoin-native lending protocol. Impact: Raised $4M across seed and ICO rounds; positioned as a leading Bitcoin DeFi protocol.

🌱 Environmental Impact

TiE has supported ventures that champion sustainability and environmental stewardship, introducing solutions that reduce carbon footprints, conserve water, and promote eco-friendly practices. This includes startups innovating in clean technology, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture, contributing to a greener and more resilient future.

EF Polymer	Osseocraft	Navmarg
Biodegradable hydrogel polymer for water retention in agriculture. Impact: Reduced water usage; raised $4M Series A; featured in Forbes Asia "100 to Watch.	Sustainable craft and lifestyle products reviving traditional artisan techniques. Impact: Improved artisan income; promoted eco-friendly consumerism globally.	Magnetic arsenic removal technology for safe drinking water. Impact: Purified 300,000+ liters of water; plans to scale to 100 villages.

Building the Innovation Ecosystem

Role of Mentors & Charter Members:

Mentors

- One-One/ Group Sessions
- Bootcamps, hackathons & Pitch Competition
- Business Models, Product- market fit, Fundraising
- Connections with Industry Experts

Mentors at TiE University are seasoned entrepreneur and industry experts who guide university startups through idea-to- market stages.

Chapter Members

They are distinguished business leaders and investors who "give back" by offering advanced membership and regional events, facilitating networking with corporates, helping recruiting talent for teams contributing to TiE's governance and strategic initiatives- all while accessing exclusive benefits like flagship events, and participation in TiE Angel and specialized interest groups.

- Advanced Mentorship
- Facilitate Networking
- Event Participation
- Recruiting

Institutional Partnerships:

Collaboration with universities, industry and government is crucial. TiE U teams up with:

- **Universities and Colleges:** Over 50+ cities and 300+ Colleges now host TiE U programs. Campus leaders provide classroom space, student recruitment and sometimes course credit. In turn, TiE brings practical entrepreneurship expertise to supplement university curricula.

- **Corporations and Investors:** Strategic partners (such as local tech firms or venture funds) co-sponsor pitch events, offer internship opportunities to participants, and sometimes fund prizes.

- **Competitions & Accelerators:** TiE U often feeds into larger startup challenges. Winning teams from chapter events qualify for national contests (e.g. the Rice Business Plan Competition in the US) and TiE's own global contests. Additionally, we collaborate with university incubators (e.g. taking top teams into multi-year incubator programs), creating a pipeline for sustained venture acceleration.

These partnerships make TiE U part of a larger entrepreneurial ecosystem rather than a siloed program. A World Bank study on innovation notes that *"universities can create an ecosystem where innovation and entrepreneurship converge"*; TiE U embodies this by knitting together diverse stakeholders.

Digital Engagement & Outreach:
TiE University has adopted a dynamic, hybrid engagement model to attract and support student entrepreneurs globally. Application calls are announced through official portals like tie-u.org, complemented by chapter websites and social media campaigns across LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook to maximize reach. Dedicated landing pages provide centralized access to program details, deadlines, FAQs, and submission guidelines, while virtual admission events – such as live Q&A sessions and webinars—enable real-time interaction with mentors and program coordinators.

Platforms and Modes of Engagement:

- ***Online Mode:*** TiE University leverages its ecosystem hub and the TiE Engage mobile app for networking, mentor-student matching, and event participation. Digital content includes explainer videos, pitch preparation guides, and success stories, creating an immersive experience for applicants. Interactive formats like virtual bootcamps, hackathons, and pitch competitions foster engagement and skill-building before the global finals

- ***Offline Mode:*** Local TiE chapters organize in-person workshops, info sessions, and networking events, ensuring inclusivity for students and faculty who prefer physical touchpoints.

Faculty and Student Connection:

TiE University strengthened the engagement through chapter-level initiatives, structured mentorship programs, and volunteer opportunities for faculty. Dedicated online communities and discussion groups allow students to interact with mentors and peers, while user-generated content—such as start-up stories and event highlights—amplifies authenticity. Rapid response systems and CRM-driven analytics ensure timely query resolution and optimize outreach strategies. By blending digital innovation with offline collaboration, TiE University creates a holistic ecosystem that empowers students and faculty to co-create entrepreneurial success.

Why Support TiE-U

Call- to- action for Investors & Policymakers

For Corporates, Investors and Foundations

As emphasized by the Chair, leading corporations such as NTT Data have shown how strategic support can help unravel groundbreaking startup ideas through grants and mentorship.

We invite global technology leaders like Google, Microsoft, Nvidia, Amazon and similar organizations, Industries and Investor communities to actively collaborate with us to mentor, fund and support promising student-led startups, enabling them to transform innovative ideas into scalable ventures. By investing in these initiatives, corporates not only fuel innovation but also contribute to building a resilient young entrepreneurial ecosystem that drives economic growth and societal impact.

For Policymakers

The Chair highlighted the critical role of policy in fostering resilience among student entrepreneurs. Policymakers must ensure that failure is treated as a learning milestone, not a final verdict.

Entrepreneurship is a powerful choice for high-achieving individuals, as it drives innovation, creates employment, addresses poverty at its roots, and contributes meaningfully to economic growth and long-term success. Academic frameworks should include Entrepreneurship as one of the subjects to inculcate innovation in their thought process so that they achieve success in whichever path they choose. Policies should reward hard work, determination, and entrepreneurial intent, creating an environment where students feel empowered to take risks and innovate without fear of academic penalties.

Why This Matters

Student entrepreneurship is not just about creating businesses—it is about building future-ready innovators who can solve global challenges. According to global startup ecosystem reports, early-stage ventures contribute significantly to job creation and technological advancement yet lack funding and rigid academic structures remain major barriers. By enabling corporates to provide financial and mentorship support and encouraging policymakers to adopt resilience-driven academic policies, we create a pipeline of innovators who can drive inclusive growth, generate employment, and position our economy as a hub for world-class startups. Supporting these initiatives today ensures that ideas born on campus can become tomorrow's unicorns, delivering transformative impact across industries and communities.
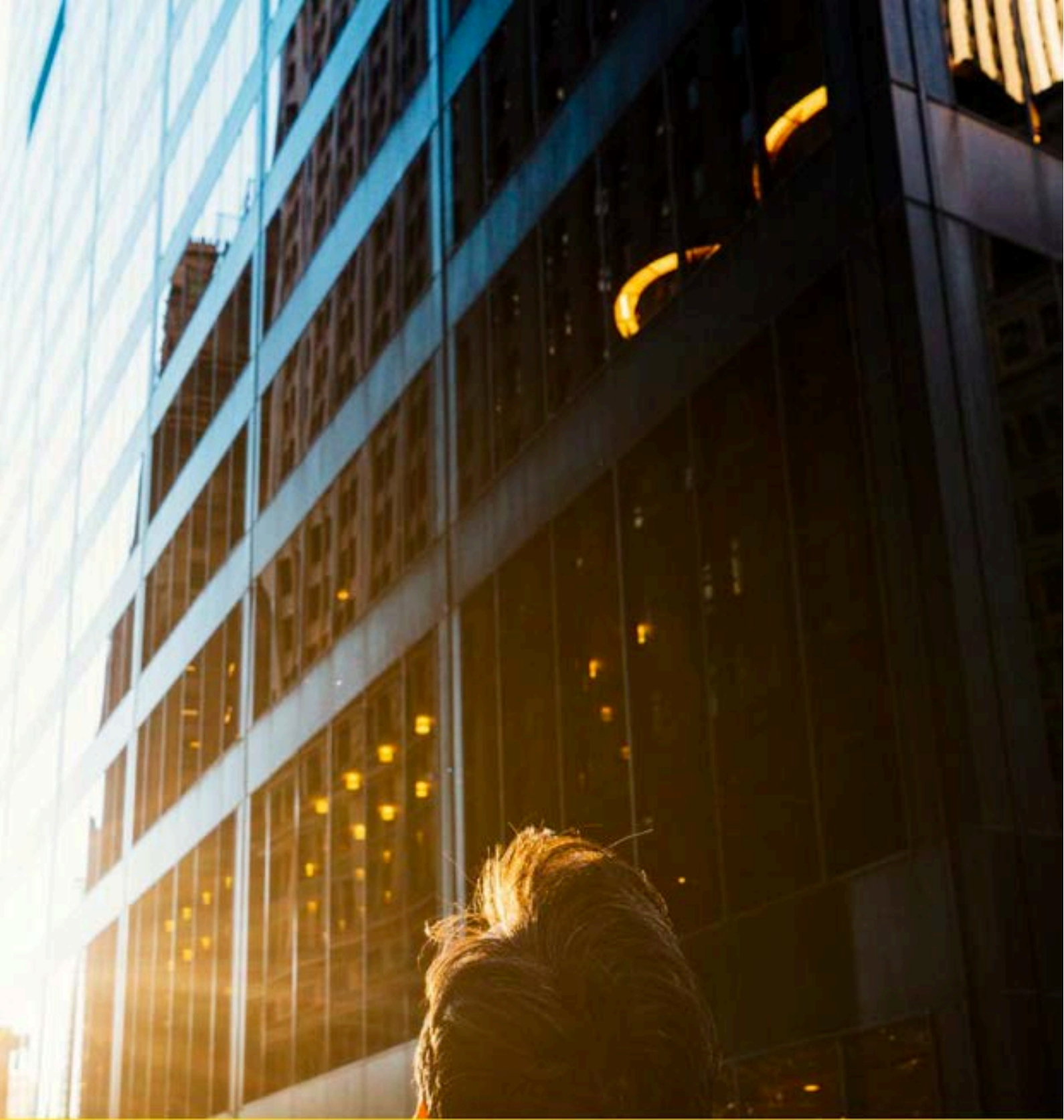
The Road Ahead

Challenges & Roadblocks

- **Awareness Gap**: Despite TiE University's global reach and strong mentorship network, awareness among students remains low. Many universities fail to integrate TiE-U into their entrepreneurship curriculum, resulting in limited visibility and participation. This lack of outreach significantly reduces the program's impact on fostering entrepreneurial talent.

- **Timetable Clashes with Academic Calendar**: The TiE-U program spans approximately six months, including mentoring sessions, regional rounds, and global finals. These stages often overlap with semester examinations, placement drives, and project submission deadlines. Students prioritize academic performance and job security over entrepreneurial pursuits, leading to high dropout rates and reduced engagement.

- **Placement Anxiety and Stress**: Final-year students experience heightened stress during placement season, which coincides with TiE-U activities. This anxiety discourages participation in extracurricular programs, as students focus on securing employment rather than investing time in startup ventures.

- **Resource and Time Constraints**: Preparing for TiE-U competitions requires significant effort in business model development, pitch practice, and mentorship sessions. Students juggling internships, academic projects, and exams find it challenging to commit fully to the program.

- **Limited Institutional Support**: Many universities lack dedicated entrepreneurship cells or faculty champions to promote TiE-U. Without strong institutional backing, students face logistical hurdles such as travel for regional rounds and funding for prototypes.

Recommendations for Scaling

To truly empower students and maximize the impact of TiE University, a holistic approach is needed—one that not only addresses logistical challenges but also nurtures entrepreneurial resilience and institutional support. **First**, awareness campaigns should go beyond simple promotion and focus on envisioning ideas – helping students see how their concepts can evolve into impactful ventures. This can be achieved through social media engagement and integration into entrepreneurship curriculum. Universities should actively educate educators, embedding the philosophy that failure is not a setback but a steppingstone. Faculty should encourage students to iterate on their ideas even after one or two failures, fostering a culture where persistence and zeal are celebrated as essential traits of outstanding entrepreneurs.

Second, flexible scheduling is critical to reduce conflicts with exams and placement drives. Offering modular participation options and asynchronous mentoring sessions will allow students to learn at their own pace without compromising academic priorities. This flexibility ensures that students can fully leverage TiE-U's unique value propositions such as scholarships to attend TiEcon Silicon Valley, the world's largest entrepreneurship conference—bootcamps led by world-class entrepreneurs, and networking opportunities with investors and venture capitalists. These experiences not only provide global exposure but also equip students with practical insights and connections that can accelerate their entrepreneurial journey.

Third, institutional support must be strengthened. Universities should establish dedicated entrepreneurship cells and faculty champions who actively promote TiE-U and provide logistical assistance, mentorship, and even seed funding for prototypes. Educators should integrate entrepreneurial thinking into the curriculum, emphasizing that innovation thrives in environments where risk-taking is normalized and supported. Additionally, stress management initiatives such as counselling and career guidance can help students balance placement anxiety with entrepreneurial aspirations.

Finally, leveraging technology for virtual mentoring and asynchronous learning will minimize time constraints and make the program more accessible to students juggling multiple commitments. These measures will enable students to take full advantage of TiE-U's ultimate value proposition – participating in the TiE University Global Final Competition for a chance to win $100,000 in cash and in-kind awards, positioning them for global recognition and success. By combining visionary support, educational empowerment, and strategic promotion, TiE University can create an ecosystem where entrepreneurial ideas flourish and students are inspired to transform failures into groundbreaking ventures.

Annexes

Methodology Overview

Acknowledgements

We thank all TiE-U chapters members, student teams and university partners who contributed data and stories. This report draws on insights from TiE-U Chapters heads, Alumnus of the Program and Trustees.

Contact Information

For more information about TiE U, sponsorship opportunities or partnerships, please contact tieu@tie.org or your local chapter. We welcome your questions and collaboration proposals to help scale TiE U's mission.