



Tampa Bay

2023 Annual Report

TIE Tampa Bay

Established 2012

Welcome to our Annual Report



Dear Members, Friends, and Partners,

As we bid farewell to an extraordinary year, we at TIE Tampa are excited to embrace the new horizons that lie ahead. Reflecting on the past year, a quote by Swami Vivekananda “Comfort is no test of truth. Truth is often far from being comfortable.” perfectly encapsulates our chapter’s journey and aspirations. This sentiment echoes the dynamic nature of our field and the endless possibilities that await.

As we reflect on this year’s journey, it’s clear that our chapter has not just survived but flourished, showcasing extraordinary resilience and a remarkable capacity to adapt. We’ve honed in on the essence of our membership, broadened the scope of our programs, and intensified our ties with the community. This year’s highlights included captivating events at USF Research Park, The Tampa Bay History Center, Soaring City, Top Golf, American Social, and our central hub, the Embarc Collective. Our TYE program fostered local talent, propelling HighKey to a prestigious top 8 finish in the global competition in San Diego. We also proudly inaugurated our TIE Women’s program in Tampa, catapulting LunaJoy to the global stage with a first runner-up victory in Singapore at the TIE Global Summit. These are not just accomplishments; they reflect the dynamic involvement and passion of our chapter in the sphere of entrepreneurship.

As we step into 2024, our chapter's commitment to growth and innovation remains unwavering. We are poised to continue our journey with the invaluable support of our sponsors, such as The Patel Family Foundation, S.S. White, Tampa Indo Chamber of Commerce, and the dedication of our Charter Members. It is with a sense of pride and accomplishment that I hand over the presidential reins to Ramesh Saligame, who is already actively engaged with his 90-day plan. Ramesh brings a vision of continued excellence and engagement, as evident in his planned monthly 'Show and Tell' events, among many other initiatives set to unfold in the coming year. I am confident that under Ramesh's capable leadership, we will not only maintain but also exceed the high standards we have set. United in our mission, we look forward to a year of catalyzing growth, fostering innovation, and reinforcing our leadership in the entrepreneurial landscape.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to each of you, as you have been integral to this remarkable journey. Together, we step forward into another year of making a meaningful difference.



Travis Jennings
President

TIE Tampa Bay 2023 Sponsors



TIE Tampa Bay

2023 Charter Members



ANDREW ADAMS
SRIDHAR AKULA
NICK ALMAN
SUHAS APTE
SURESH ATTAL
PRIYA BALASUNDARAM
SAXON BAUM
KATHY CHIU
GINO COLLURA
MICHAEL CROSS
GARY FLOWERS
REBECA FORERO
ANOOP GARG
BILL GOODMAN
SARA HAND
KUNAL JAIN
TRAVIS JENNINGS
CHRIS JONES
CHITRA KANAGARAJ
ASHOK KARTHAM

KNICHOLAS KOEN
ADITYA KULKARNI
ZAHIRA LEHRI
VALERIE MCDEVITT
GOVARDHAN MURALIDHAR
HARESH PATEL
SHILEN PATEL
MINESH PATEL
VATSAL PATEL
KIRAN PATEL
DONOVAN PYLE
KOTHAND RAJANGAM
PRASHANTH RAJENDRAN
SATYAM RAMPHAL
RAMESH SALIGAME
SARU SESHADRI
RAHUL SHUKLA
KANNAN SREEDHAR
NAWAL TANEJA
KARTHIK VISWANATHAN

**When you join TIE Tampa Bay, you're
part of a global network and mission to
foster entrepreneurship** 

2023 Staff & Board Members



Tampa Bay

Team



Mona Patel
Executive Director



Malia Serrette
Marketing & Operations
Coordinator



Zoe Schonmann
TIE Youth
Coordinator



Mehak Arora
Associate

Board of Directors



Dr. Kiran Patel
Chairman Emeritus



Kathy Chiu
Board Member



Ally Gannon
Board Member



Sara Hand
TIECON Chair



Michael Cross
Board Member



Rich Haruska
Immediate Past President



Travis Jennings
President



Vatsal Patel
Board Member



Donovan Pyle
Board Member



Ramesh Saligame
President-Elect



Saru Seshadri
Board Member



Scott Winston
Treasurer

About TIE Tampa Bay

TIE Global is the world's largest nonprofit organization for entrepreneurs, with 57 chapters across 14 countries and 15,000+ members. TIE's global mission is to foster entrepreneurship through mentoring, networking, education, funding and incubation. Tampa Bay has one of the fastest growing chapters of TIE Global, working with our ecosystem partners and global network to advance the practice of entrepreneurship in Tampa Bay and around the world.

Our Chapter

We champion and invest in the next generation of entrepreneurship.

Inspired by the grit and long-term vision of our founders, we are a service organization dedicated to the next generation of entrepreneurship—one that is more multicultural, more female, and more global. It understands that technology is at the center of innovation and evolution. And it means investing in young people and young ideas. Our members strive to educate, develop and inspire the community and each other, and to advance the practice of entrepreneurship in Tampa Bay and around the world.

Our Focus



Access

Every entrepreneur should have the same opportunities, regardless of age, race, gender or background. So we elevate underrepresented entrepreneurs with the education and access to succeed.



Investment

Investing in early stage companies is essential to the health and wealth of the community. So we connect rising entrepreneurs and accredited investors through funding and mentorship programs.



Engagement

An entrepreneur's journey never ends, and their success is limitless. So we provide continued engagement and global connections to celebrate and advance their success.

Our Roots

TIE was founded in 1992 by Silicon Valley entrepreneurs who immigrated from the Indus region of South Asia. TIE's origins as "The Indus Entrepreneur" formed the foundation of a community built on the vision and values of its Indian-American pioneers. Since its founding, TIE has evolved to include people of all backgrounds as a truly diverse, global network and advocate for inclusion.

Our Values



Collectivism

Sharing resources and working for the collective good of the community.



Hospitality

Approaching relationships with a service mindset and committing to helping others.



Education

Continually investing in mentorship and scholarship and celebrating achievement.

**World's Largest Non Profit
For Entrepreneurs**



14

COUNTRIES

62

CHAPTERS

3,000+

CHARTER MEMBERS

12,000+

MEMBERS

TiE YOUTH



In a noteworthy achievement, the local champion known as "High Key" showcased exceptional prowess by traveling to San Diego and securing a place in the Final Eight. The original pool comprised 1200+ teams globally. Additionally, TTB engaged in collaborative efforts, establishing valuable relationships with high school support organizations NGT360 and Junior Achievements 3DE. These partnerships underscore our dedication to fostering positive impact and support within the educational ecosystem, contributing to the overall growth and development of our community.





TiE WOMEN



TiE Women made an indelible mark in Tampa, a testament to the program's initiation and expansion. Guided by the unwavering dedication of five volunteers, led by the dynamic duo of Zahira Lehri and Priya Balasundaram, this committed group convened bi-weekly, their passion fueling the initiative's rise. At the historic Stovall house, a dozen remarkable women gathered for a pivotal meeting that marked the grand inauguration of our TiE Women's program in Tampa. This event was a powerful catalyst, propelling the program to new heights. In a resounding triumph, LunaJoy secured global recognition with a remarkable first runner-up victory at the TiE Global Summit in Singapore. To top it off, LunaJoy was crowned the prestigious Business Woman of the Year 2022 by the Indo-US Chamber of Commerce. These achievements exemplify the caliber of excellence that TiE Women represents. Looking ahead to 2024, the committee is brimming with enthusiasm, ready to seize a year filled with growth and continued success.



The year saw Monic.AI from USF represent TTB at the TiE University Finals in San Jose. Despite a late start in the year, mentoring from TiE CMs allowed CEO Jamshedbek (“Jam”) Mirzakhalov and his team to compete and attend the Global event in person. As the year progressed, Jam and his team appeared in events to fundraise. While the team did not make it to the final round, their experience was enriching. In addition to participating in TiE University, TTB also gave hours to CEO Council and other bodies locally and across the country.

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ENGAGEMENT with Board & CMs

A series of engaging events were hosted to foster camaraderie and collaboration. Notably, we hosted the Winter Social at Top Golf and the Summer Social at American Social, providing platforms for networking and connection for the Board Members. For our esteemed Charter Members, we organized a Spring Social – an enchanting Sunset with Suhas Apte, TIE Godfather, held at the USF Research Park Rooftop. As the seasons transitioned, we continued to curate memorable experiences, including the Fall's Night at the Museum hosted at the Tampa History Museum. Wrapping up the year on a festive note, we celebrated the Holiday Party, providing a joyful conclusion to a year marked by meaningful interactions and community building.





ONBOARDING SYSTEM

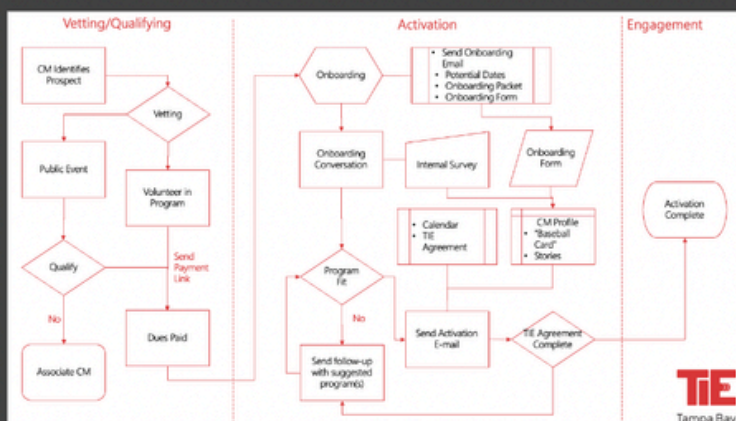
Within our dynamic community, where entrepreneurship is at the forefront of innovation and growth, a significant challenge presented itself. To ensure we were harnessing the full potential of our Charter Members, individuals with diverse stories and exceptional skills, we recognized the need for a more efficient and strategic approach to their engagement. This challenge led our board to embark on a transformative project—the development of a comprehensive onboarding system.

The completion of this initiative marks a milestone for our organization. We extended the same thoughtful onboarding process to our sponsors and board members, creating a unified strategy for community engagement. As we wrap up this project, we are excited to announce a new chapter in our journey. With a clearer understanding of our community members' talents, we are better equipped to apply their time, skills, and resources for the greater good. This strategic shift allows us to amplify our impact and create lasting positive change throughout our community, fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and growth.

■ Build & Install OnBoarding Process for CMs & Sponsors

- Built, tested and moved process to Engagement Committee with Donovan

Tampa Bay



Donovan Pyle
Bringing wealth to communities and helping with financial stability within families and those who do not have the means - ties into the job of his company helping give proper and fair health care.
Bootstrapped and got to profit from 2018 to 2023 with company - can speak on when the right time and investment is necessary - planning runway, getting everything you can out of all you have got - learning to work through the struggle to make it a strength.
Passionate about us as a society we need inspiration and happy to provide to the kids with this story of a drummer and seeing the problem and then attacking it to build a life for himself. He feels we don't do enough to promote creation and motivation in society and would love to feel like he is doing that.
Company Anniversary - October 18, 2018.
Drumming (professional drummer), was in the band Auctioneers, carpentry skills - did renovations on a home himself with his family to build out a chefs kitchen for his wife.
Has a 3 year old and one year old, wife is a professional chef that one two tv food shows, - Personal needs within TIE is to help find the right partner in build a technology platform to automate the manual work of health compass.
TIE Youth, Charter Membership and other Engagement Opportunities.
Being a mentor for the TIE Youth Program.
Attending and Connecting at Networking Events/Ecosystem Events, Being called upon as a speaker, educator, mentor or moderator.
Health Compass Consulting.
Email: [redacted]
Seeing that financial stability is one of the leading social determinants of health -- and health insurance inflation is one of the leading causes of income inequality and social issues.

New Board Member

complex "Bringing wealth to communities and helping with financial stability."

[https://www.tamabay.com/2023/10/18/donovan-pyle-joins-tie-board/](#)

Top 3 Accomplishments

- Vice Chair of the Health Council of East Central Florida
- 1 of 20 in the U.S. certified by the Validation Institute (Healthcare Performance)
- highest consulting designation awarded by the NAHU

Elevating Characteristics

I attend TIE Events to network and generate business

I contribute to TIE Youth to give back



TIE Tampa Bay Ecosystem & Media Partners





Tampa Bay

The next generation of entrepreneurship