PORTLAND Ore., September 4, 2019

TiE Oregon raises $20,000 to support TiE Young Entrepreneurs

*TiE Oregon is pleased to announce that it has raised and placed $20,000 in innovation grants to support student founded businesses in the TiE Young Entrepreneurs (TYE) program.*

In an effort to encourage the [TiE Young Entrepreneurs (TYE)](https://tie.org/) students to take their venture to the next level, student co-directors lead an initiative to raise money for Innovation Grants.

“All throughout the year, TYE students work on building their business. Innovation Grants are important in helping teams move their ideas forward, to the next level, solving real life problems in their communities. We are grateful for the dedication from our TiE community in supporting TYE” said Nicole Marris, TYE Program and Development Manager.

Thanks to the generous support from TiE Charter members and Angels, grants have been awarded to three highly qualified recipients:

**Team Hex Labs**: Hex Labs use electronic, physical, and quantum properties of nanostructured polymers to find solutions to the world’s most pressing problems. Their technologies aim to improve lives in the first world and developing nations alike. Funding will be used to build quantum servers, to view multiple data, so they can continue to work on their prototype.

**Team Melaknow**: Melaknow is a machine learning driven smartphone app that helps primary care doctors assess moles providing up to 50% more accuracy in detection of melanoma. In 2018, Melaknow competed in and won the TYE Global Competition in Washington DC. Melaknow has gone on to receive additional accolades such as the Concept Stage Winner at Pitch Oregon - a state-wide pitch competition where the student competed among adults. The funding will support efficacy testing as they proceed to file a patent.

**Team StepHire**: StepHire is a matchmaking service to help small businesses and nonprofits find high school talent, while allowing high school students to apply to multiple high-quality opportunities such as internships and apprenticeships through one application. They will use the funding to hire a product developer to create functional platforms with an algorithm to match students to employers and continue to market their platform.

“StepHire has only been possible with the incredible community of TYE staff, students, and mentors. The TYE community has provided remarkable support every step of the way.” Ashley Lin, CEO at StepHire

“We are very proud to support this effort and this next level of support to students which include teams from diverse backgrounds. Over the last several years, TiE Charter Members and Angels have contributed over $100,000 in funding to the TYE programs in addition to nearly $1,000,000 in membership fees that supports the TiE Oregon organization at large and its programming targeting diverse entrepreneurs” said Nitin Rai, President of TiE Oregon.
TYE is an initiative that aims to inspire, challenge and empower students to become the next generation of entrepreneurs, business and community leaders, and encourage them to consider higher education and a career in STEAM fields. The program is run in 23 cities around the world. Seasoned entrepreneurs and mentors, teach high school students a project-based curriculum that has a strong emphasis on design thinking and customer validation. Since its start in Oregon, five years ago, TYE has reached over 500 students, formed 100 companies, 10 are still operating, and received over 1000 hours of mentoring with entrepreneurs and industry experts.

Our goal is to try and reach as many students as possible and provide them with opportunities and resources to turn them into leaders of tomorrow.

The TiE Young Entrepreneurs program is supported by The Lemelson Foundation, Oregon Youth Development Council, and the generous donations from several TiE Oregon Charter Members.

About TiE Oregon -

Formed in 2007, TiE Oregon invests in and inspires entrepreneurs through mentoring, education, funding, and its global network. It is a local chapter of a global organization (TiE Global) with over 60 Chapters worldwide. Oregon’s signature programs include the TiE Young Entrepreneurs Program (TYE) for high schoolers and the TiE XL Entrepreneur Boot Camp for adults – both programs are a series of workshops that teach the basics and philosophical notion of entrepreneurship and problem solving through invention and design thinking. Additionally, its investment program, TiE Oregon Angels, has invested nearly $15 Million in over 50 Oregon startups led by diverse founders. For more information visit www.oregon.tie.org @tieoregon

Press Contact:
Nicole Marris
Nicole.Marris@oregon.tie.org
(315) 751-5336