



Booth Students Win Scholarship to Attend TiEcon 2010, the World's Largest Conference for Entrepreneurs

On behalf of TiE Midwest and its Board of Directors, we are pleased to recognize the recipients of the TiEcon 2010 scholarship, *Michael Cieri* and *Laura Shapland*. Both are students at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and aspiring entrepreneurs, who will leave a footprint on the entrepreneurial community one day.

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TiEcon is the premier annual event for TiE and the largest convention in the world for entrepreneurs. TiE is the world's largest organization for entrepreneurs and professionals, with membership spread across 54 chapters in 13 countries. Formed in 1998 and located in Chicago, TiE-Midwest (<http://www.tie-midwest.org>) is a not-for-profit gathering of industry leaders joined together by the mission of supporting global entrepreneurship by working locally. TiE's Charter Members are part of an exclusive network of high-profile business leaders that are committed to nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs.

The Scholarship Process and Recipients

TiE Midwest requested applicants submit an essay describing why TiEcon would benefit their entrepreneurial endeavors. TiE received many applications, but Michael and Laura's energy and enthusiasm was the best representation of the entrepreneurial spirit of TiE.

Laura Shapland is a May 2011 MBA candidate with concentrations in Entrepreneurship and Finance. Laura is currently working with a team of peers to launch her first company, whose business plan was presented at the Booth New Venture Challenge in May. Laura took advantage of the breakout sessions at TiEcon and the many networking opportunities.

Michael Cieri is a June 2010 MBA candidate with concentrations in Entrepreneurship, Marketing, and Finance. Michael started his entrepreneurial career with an online, non-profit donations site and was awarded the ITA's "50 For The Future" honor for promising technology leaders. In June, Michael will be relocating to San Francisco where he has accepted a position with local start-up, Digg, the leader in web content-sharing tools and technology. At TiEcon, Michael was most interested in learning from cutting-edge technology start-ups and seasoned entrepreneurs.

TiE Midwest wishes both students the best of luck and thanks the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business for its dedication to entrepreneurship.

"Thank you so much for selecting me to attend TiEcon. I had an amazing time and made some new contacts not only for my business but also for businesses that other Booth students are in the process of starting. I not only learned ways to build a better business but also met people who can help me do it." –Laura Shapland

"TiEcon provided an exhilarating opportunity to be emerged in the entrepreneurship and technology culture that is driving the country's innovation. The high caliber keynote speakers, panelists, and conference attendees created a rich environment for learning and networking. I walked away with a number of new contacts, new ideas, and excitement about the entrepreneurial spirit." –Michael Cieri