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**TiE Detroit announces Dr. Deshpande as Keynote Speaker for**  
**TiECon Midwest 2010**

**Farmington Hills, MI, August 31, 2009** —The Detroit chapter of TiE (Talent, Ideas, Enterprise) today announced that Gururaj "Desh" Deshpande will deliver a keynote speech at TiECon Midwest 2010, Michigan's Largest Conference on entrepreneurship to be held October 28 and 29, 2010 at The Henry, Dearborn. TiECon Midwest 2010 brings together world-class entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, top industry executives and thought leaders in two action-packed days. The theme of the conference, "Business Karma 3.0- Create. Connect. Collaborate.", focuses on holistically integrating all business levels to help entrepreneurs at all stages, from those in the planning phase to startups and emerging companies.

"Dr. Deshpande is an influential technology entrepreneur and visionary whose companies and ideas often reshape entire industries. Desh has not only made his mark by being listed among the Forbes 500 Richest Americans, but also embodies the true spirit of a TiE Charter member as an active philanthropist. Deshpande's keynote will be extremely relevant, timely and powerful as he would speak toward bringing the forces of innovation, technology and entrepreneurship together at TiECon, right here in Detroit", said Ganesan.

Gururaj "Desh" Deshpande is the Chairman of Sparta Group LLC, A123 Systems (AONE), Sycamore Networks (SCMR), Tejas Networks, Sandstone Capital and HiveFire. Prior to co-founding Sycamore Networks, Dr. Deshpande was founder and chairman of Cascade Communications Corp. Dr. Deshpande is also widely respected for his contributions to education and the greater community. Numerous business and industry publications in both the US and his native India have recognized Dr. Deshpande with awards.

"As the Chairman of A123 Systems, the largest lithium-ion automotive battery manufacturing plant on the continent, Desh has already made it a reality right here in Michigan opening up manufacturing plant and

creating jobs in the middle of recession. This is not simply about opening up a new manufacturing plant but marks the birth of a new industry and rebirth of our Detroit region with innovation as the driver” said Ganesan.

Dr. Gururaj (Desh) Deshpande – a TiE Global Charter Member, TiE Global Trustee and founding President of TiE Boston. It has been said that Desh has "built an entrepreneurial resume that borders on the spectacular". Desh has been recently appointed as Co-Chairman of the Obama’s administration National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. This is to support President Obama’s innovation strategy by helping to develop policies that foster entrepreneurship, create jobs, and drive economic growth.

Dr. Deshpande serves as a member of the MIT Corporation, and his generous donations have made possible MIT’s Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation. The Deshpande Center was created to serve as a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship by supporting research and collaboration among entrepreneurs, young companies, and MIT students, alumni, and faculty. He is involved in several non-profit initiatives that include support for MIT, IIT, TiE, Akshaya Patra Foundation, Public Health Foundation of India and the Social Entrepreneurship Sandbox in India.

TiECon 2010 Midwest also features various activities throughout the two-action packed days; including Extreme Power Connect; multiple sessions based on a mixture of content areas including Information Technology, Women’s Forum, Global Transactions and Emerging Trends, keynote speakers from numerous organizations, the annual Business Plan Competition and TiE 20 awards which will showcase an elite group of Top 20 of the most promising startup and emerging companies across TiECon Midwest’s four major focus segments - Internet, Software, Mobile and Media.

Online registration and more information are immediately available for **TiECon Midwest 2010** at <http://www.tieconmidwest.org/> and <http://www.detroit.tie.org/> For more information about the conference, please contact Jessica Matthews, Conference Coordinator, TiE Detroit (248) 254-4013 or via e-mail at [jessica@tieconmidwest.org](mailto:jessica@tieconmidwest.org)

### **About TiECon Midwest 2010**

TiECon Midwest 2010 is Michigan's Largest Conference on entrepreneurship. Business Karma 3.0 is all about taking the innovative streak in you to create connect and collaborate your current business life to determine your future stake in success. TiECon Midwest 2010 provides a unique opportunity to exchange ideas, explore new businesses, discuss emerging technologies, share growth strategies and obtain insight from global business leaders, community leaders and worldwide experts. For more information, visit <http://www.tieconmidwest.org/>

## **About TiE**

TiE (The Global Network of Entrepreneurs) is a global, nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering entrepreneurs internationally and is sponsored by top Venture Capital Firms, and Fortune 500 corporations; extending across 12 countries with 53 chapters, 1,800 experienced entrepreneurs and business executives as charter members, 12,000 aspiring entrepreneurs and professionals as members. TiE has grown to become the world's largest nonprofit organization for entrepreneurs. Learn more about the TiE Detroit chapter at <http://www.detroit.tie.org/>

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