Houston entrepreneur, Sam Stolbun contacted his former law school classmate, Gary Bledsoe, Acting Dean of Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) with a proposal: creating entrepreneurial development opportunities in Third Ward. From these two law buddies, the TSU Institute for Entrepreneurship & Economic Revitalization, Inc. was established. The TIEER collaborative includes TMSL, The Jesse Jones School of Business, The School of Public affairs and the urrc.

**OUR VISION:**
TIEER’s vision is to create a replicable program that assists small business men and women in creating and expanding businesses and providing jobs in their community. Using various tools, TIEER will work closely with entrepreneurs to help enhance their probability of success.

**OUR MISSION:**
I. To train and provide seed capital to individuals in the urban community to enable them to start new businesses.

II. To assist existing small urban business entrepreneurs to grow and expand their existing businesses and increase their employment of others in the urban community.

III. To provide financial literacy training to community business and residents.

Contact Us
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Phone: 713.313.4858
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**TRAINING**

- Training: In order to enhance the probability of success, TIEER works with the Houston Area Urban League and the Emancipation Economic Development Council to provide business development and operations skills training to entrepreneurs, to help ensure their knowledge of business practices. Training includes:
  - Developing Business Plans
  - Franchising
  - Buying vs. Building a Business
  - Understanding Financial Statements
  - Conducting Market Analysis
  - The Fundamentals of Marketing

- Mentorships: Volunteers who have operated their own successful businesses will work with TIEER entrepreneurs to help them navigate business challenges. Mentors will be paired with TIEER entrepreneurs who are in the same or substantially similar business allowing the mentor’s guidance to be tailored to the specific needs of the blossoming entrepreneur.

**FUNDING**

- Funding: Access to funds is one of the greatest barriers small businesses face to starting or growing their business.

  TIEER provides low interest loans with flexible repayment plans to start-up businesses to help them become sustainable, grow, and build community wealth. Loans are serviced through its partner Houston Business Development Inc. (HBDI).

- Staged Funding: Applicants who are approved for loans will be advanced funds in stages and based upon the needs of the individuals as the business progresses.

  The purpose of staged funding is to provide a strategic way to put funds in the hands of the entrepreneur as needed and to expose the entrepreneur to tools for successful financial management.

**APPLYING**

- Applicants: Applicants may apply online at urrc.tsu.edu or in person at the TIEER office located on the campus of Texas Southern University:
  - 3100 Cleburne
  - School of Public Affairs
  - Suite 205
  - Houston, Texas 77004

- Applicants should carefully read the qualifications needed to participate in the TIEER program. The list of qualifications are available online at: urrc.tsu.edu or are available at the TIEER office.

- You may call 713-313-7529 for additional information