



Press Kit



Texas's Largest K-12 Networking Nonprofit

About **TLEEM**

We're Texas's largest K-12 networking nonprofit aiming to solve the networking gap. Founded in October 2023, we've grown to 4,000+ members in 11 countries.

Howdy! I'm Arjun Sharda, the fourteen-year old Executive Director of TLEEM (Arabic: **تعليم**), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization helping K-12 and young adults network through school and community clubs. I want to walk you through a bit of TLEEM's history, as well as a few of our highlights.

Here in Austin - the silicon hills of America, networking events are pricey, age-restricted, or inconvenient. As a low-income student, I couldn't afford \$2.2k for a single ticket to SXSW, and tools like LinkedIn are gated (16+). That's why I founded TLEEM. In 2025, despite significant technological advancements, the world still has an age and socioeconomic barrier to networking.

My parents immigrated to this country because they sought opportunity. But is the American dream truly alive today? I'm grateful to live in a city like Austin, Texas - but what about those who live in the rural United States? What about those who don't have the privileges I have - or live abroad?

You need networks to change the world, run for office, or launch startups. Steve Jobs and Wozniak met in high school. *Jobs got his first internship at 12 at Hewlett-Packard in the 1970s.* Yet today in 2025, our education system systematically fails to empower and support us outside of school - leaving *75% of high school grads unsure about their futures* (per YouScience). We're trying to fix that gap at TLEEM, especially for low-income and underrepresented students like me who are the most impacted. Compared to organizations such as FBLA or DECA, our clubs aren't just another classroom. Through our chapters program, our clubs are interactive and hands-on, creating environments where networking is needed to thrive without a set curricula. We provide our clubs with support and guidance, but club leaders develop and exhibit leadership and critical thinking skills. Our clubs are also 100% free, too.

We started our first club at Running Brushy Middle School (Leander, TX) in September 2023. Since then, TLEEM has:

- Deployed **37 clubs** across **11 countries**. Our clubs have cumulatively raised in the low five figures \$\$\$

- Grown to claiming the title of *Texas's largest K-12 networking nonprofit*, with a membership of over **4,000+** in **11 countries**
- Won the Texas Education Agency's Student Hero Award (one of only 15 statewide)
- Awarded the Mayor's Excellence Award by Mayor Craig Morgan for TLEEM, the highest award bestowed by the City of Round Rock to residents.
- Featured in: The 74, Yahoo News, Austin-American Statesman
- Received financial support from **Walmart** to launch Allagi Capital - micro grants for projects made by **underrepresented/low-income K-12 students in Austin**

A large amount of our club members have reported increased confidence and communication skills throughout the program, which have indirectly led to more opportunities. For example, a club member of ours realized through TLEEM that she truly wanted to pursue design, not computer science - and redirected her entire college path. Our clubs have had wonderful events too - from having the CIO of Boeing as a guest speaker to fundraising \$10k CAD for a hackathon, our clubs have done remarkable things.

We're seeking coverage about our work and the unique problem we're tackling, so that we can inform and reach stakeholders and people about our fight to close the networking gap.

When we got coverage last year on KXAN, we surpassed our annual goals by 3x. Have any questions or would just like to chat? We're a link away. Please feel free to [book a call with me](#). If a time on that calendar doesn't work - please feel free to send me an email at arjun.sharda@tleem.org. In the worst case - we'll connect you with someone just as knowledgeable and able to answer any of your questions.

Once again, we would like to express a personal appreciation of gratitude. Whether or not you decide to cover us, we are aware that you, as a journalist, are bombarded with pitches daily, and understand that our work may not be a priority for you to cover. Regardless, we'd love to stay in touch and perhaps help you with any future coverage in the areas we work with - we won't spam you whatsoever.

Thank you and please take care!

Yours truly,

Arjun Sharda

Executive Director





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Testimonials/Quotes

“As a child, you have a potential to explore your passion, and that’s one of the best times to network,” Arjun said. “Getting to know about other people and their experiences, getting to learn your passion, what you truly want to do, is something really powerful and a major headstart in one’s career.” - **Arjun Sharda**, Executive Director @ TLEEM

“The main thing about our College and Career Club is to help students progress in high school, and what I personally believe really helps is getting those connections,” Pavan said. “I think networking is the most valuable asset any student can have — if you have the right network in high school, elementary, even middle school, that is going to propel your experience in whatever grade you are.” - **Pavan Kumar** (President, TLEEM College & Career Club)

“When students wait until they’re upperclassmen to start networking, they often miss out on internships, mentorships or leadership roles that require prior experience or connections,” Ariv said. “Networking through Tleem gave me direct access to professionals in tech, business and nonprofit leadership — people I would’ve never met otherwise.” - **Ariv Sahoo** (President, Dougherty Valley Mobile Application Development Club)

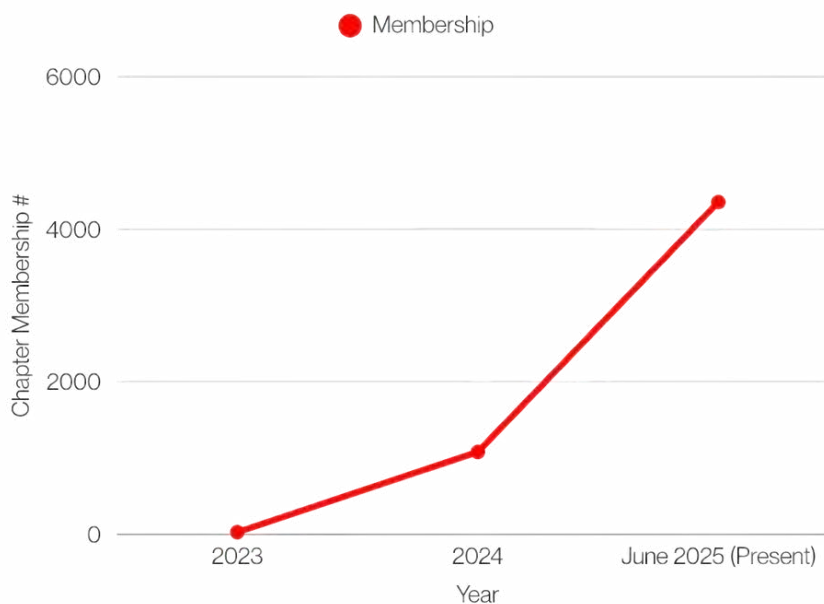


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Get Involved

Individuals interested in supporting TLEEM may support TLEEM by [starting a chapter](#), or [donating](#), or simply spreading the word. Any support is appreciated - no matter how big or small.

At TLEEM, we aim to be a household name. Our current priorities revolve around our flagship chapters program - where we aim to expand our membership to over 10,000 by January 2026. We're also performing a trial run for our newly established program - Allagi Capital - and monitoring the outcomes and impact of it on Austin students and innovation.



Source: TLEEM Chapter Census (April '25)



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Photos



Caption: Pranav Nimmagadda and Mohit Kolli debug coding issues with their project as part of the Mobile App Development Club, a TLEEM member club, at Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon, California. (Dougherty Valley High School Photography Club)



Caption: Aarush Roy and Aditya Bhaskara, both 17, work on a project as part of the Mobile App Development Club, a TLEEM member club, at Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon, California. (Dougherty Valley High School Photography Club)

See more: [Google Drive Folder](#)