I'm Elissa Sangster, CEO of Forté. And I'm thrilled to share our story with you.

Since 2001 it has been our mission to launch more women into fulfilling, significant careers through access to business education, professional development, and a community of successful women.

When Forté was founded, enrollment at top MBA programs for women was at 28%. Over the last 18 years we've seen those numbers grow to 38%. In fact, USC Marshall reached gender parity last fall with 52% female enrollment.

I’m incredibly proud of Forté’s role in advancing women in business. We’ve created a powerful alliance of talented women, leading companies, top MBA programs in undergraduate institutions, and pioneering donors.

We now serve 100,000 plus inspiring and motivated women who are changing their career trajectories, their earning power, and their lives. This gives them credibility, skills, and confidence that they need to succeed and to change the status quo.

Despite this impressive progress, Forté conducted research in 2018 that shows that women still face formidable challenges in the workplace, even after attaining their MBA.

For instance, women on average earn 10% less than their male counterparts in their first post-MBA job. This gap widens for minority women. Women with MBAs don’t advance to the same level as men, they have fewer direct reports, and they report less job satisfaction. And on average, men receive 2.3 promotions post MBA while women receive only 1.8.

Forté is tackling these issues, and in 2018, we made it our priority to continue to grow these strategic programs, but also to invest in new ones. We are working with college women to show them the possibilities for their future careers. We’re continuing to build out that MBA talent pipeline, and we’re also bringing men into the gender equity conversation.

Thank you for all you’ve done to champion Forté’s efforts. Please keep reading to learn how together we can continue to empower women to claim their share of power, respect, income and impact.

Elissa Sangster
CEO
Forté Foundation
WHY FORTÉ MATTERS
Forté is changing the balance of power in the workplace.

Our community of 100,000+ motivated and inspiring women is transforming leadership in every field business touches. We’re giving women the credibility, skills, network, and confidence to thrive as business leaders and have a voice at the table.

CURRENT LANDSCAPE FOR WOMEN LEADERS

Women are underrepresented in leadership roles across industries and functions.

- <5% of Fortune 500 CEOs are women
- 20%+ the gender pay gap experienced by women—it’s even greater for women of color
- 2.2% of total venture capital funding received by women business founders
- 21.2% of S&P 500 board members are women

“Forté is focusing on the right time period—on undergrads, on women contemplating MBAs—when if you don’t have the information you need readily available, you might not pursue those opportunities in business.”

– LIZ HANIFY, FORTÉ FELLOW ALUM
I’ve gained a huge network, support, and a push to move forward. I know that I have people in my corner.

– ARIEL LEACHMAN
FORTÉ RISING STAR ALUM

Before Forté I didn’t know what I could do.
Forté has given me the power and confidence to have and chase dreams. Forté supports whatever your interests are and helps you get there.

– CLAIRE PAN
FORTÉ RISING STAR

In 2018, Forté expanded its outreach to undergraduate women, empowering them to think beyond their majors to what’s possible for their futures. Through Rising Stars, more undergraduates explored business careers and became career-ready. Forté expanded its college conferences by launching the Women of Color Business Leadership Conference, which addresses the challenges and opportunities unique to women of color and inspires undergraduates of color to pursue business careers.

3,500+ active Rising Stars at 38 partner schools
700 undergrads attended live Career Take-off events at 21 Rising Star campuses
114% growth in Rising Stars Community in 2018
90 women attended first Women of Color Business Leadership Conference
All the things I am proud of at business school came from my involvement with Forté. It had a profound impact on how I thought about gender. I wouldn’t stop talking about it, I was always reading books and articles, and it led to me being elected to lead Graduate Women in Business (GWIB) at the [University of Washington’s] Foster School.

— JESSICA RAASCH, FORTÉ FELLOW ALUM
**intersted**

MORE WOMEN

IN ATTENDING BUSINESS SCHOOL

**attending**

TOP MBA PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT OUR MISSION

- **52%**
  - gender parity achieved by partner USC’s Marshall School with an enrollment of 52% female

- **UP 40%**
  - female enrollment at 9 Forté MBA schools

- **730**
  - accepted into MBALaunch, a 10-month application prep program for MBA aspirants

- **3,749**
  - attended in-person MBA Forums in 12 cities and another 750 participated virtually, opportunities to learn about the value of an MBA

**receiving**

SCHOLARSHIPS TO PURSUE MBAS

- **1,566**
  - Forté Fellows entering MBA schools in the fall of 2018 received $37.5 million in scholarships

- **2,932**
  - Forté Fellows currently pursuing MBAs at our partner schools (a record number)
IMPACT 3

Creating a more inclusive culture and greater gender equity.

The conversation about gender equity has traditionally been borne by women, but research has shown that male participation is essential to more inclusive workplace cultures. Forté’s Men as Allies provides practical tools and a helpful starting point for men to influence and support gender parity in business school and in their post-MBA workplaces.

MEN AS ALLIES IN 2018

16 MBA schools, including 12 Forté MBA school partners, added Men As Allies chapters, bringing the total to 41

Held first Men As Allies Leadership Summit at Dartmouth’s Tuck School of Business

Launched our new Forté Men as Allies Corporate Tool Kit

Men as Allies has taught me to be a better listener. It’s helped me solidify my view of the world, and now I have a toolkit and skills to respond to gender inequality.

– NOAH WEISS
FORTÉ MAA
CHAPTER LEADER
Forté’s pioneering donors, talented women, influential companies, and leading schools all work together to advance women in business and create a more equitable workplace.
What’s unique about Forté is they have the whole ecosystem: corporate sector, colleges, and individual business people. They’re the connector of this ecosystem that’s going to allow women to rise. Thank you, Forté, for developing all these formidable women. Keep on going!

– STACEY HADASH
FORTÉ LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DONOR

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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Karen and William Korn

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* Forté Fellow Alumnae  * Forté Edie Hunt Inspiration Award Winner  * Current Forté Fellow
2017-18 FINANCIALS

**Revenue and Support**
- Membership: 1,798,626
- Programs: 1,824,610
- Contributions: 230,481
- Interest Income: 708
- Miscellaneous Revenue: 45,153
- **Total Revenue and Support**: 3,899,578

**Expenses**
- Program Services: 2,977,310
- General & Administrative Support: 551,550
- Fundraising: 350,779
- **Total Expenses**: 3,879,639

**Change in Net Assets**
- Net Assets Beginning of Year: 484,993
- Net Assets End of Year: 504,932
- **Change in Net Assets**: 19,939

* revenue reported is for an 18-month period
Forté’ will continue strategically growing existing programs while also investing in new, high-demand areas.
**PRIORITY 1**

Expanding Men As Allies

Forté is launching a comprehensive Men as Allies program for companies that are interested in integrating ally behaviors into their diversity and leadership initiatives. Our nine-module curriculum will be bundled with consulting hours and access to our best practices community to create a holistic MAA offering.

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**PRIORITY 2**

Shifting focus to tech and analytics

Our College to Business (C2B) conference will now offer two tracks. C2B for STEM/Liberal Arts majors will include a business simulation and how employers desire these majors’ unique attributes. C2B for business majors will feature a data analytics and data visualization simulation to reflect changing business demands and highly-desired skills.
Forté’s donors are helping change the status quo by funding new and innovative programs; expanding our reach to more diverse audiences; and serving as role models, mentors, and advocates to empower young women to re-imagine their futures.
THANK YOU SPONSORS

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MBA SCHOOL SPONSORS

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL SPONSORS
Your gift to Forté makes a difference.

To learn how you can give through a wide range of options, including donating online, mailing a gift, transferring a gift of stock, giving through a donor-advised fund (DAF), and leveraging an employer matching gift program, please visit fortefoundation.org.

If you have questions or would like assistance, please email ana@fortefoundation.org or call 512.535.5157.