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New Forté Foundation Data Shows Nearly Four Percentage Point Jump in Women's Full-Time MBA Enrollment in the U.S. Over a Five-Year Period

12 U.S. Business Schools Report 40% or More Women Enrolled Full-Time in the Fall of 2015 and 16 Report 35% or More

(Austin, TX, November 9, 2015) – Today Forté Foundation reported women's full-time enrollment in MBA programs at 36 U.S. member schools climbed to 36.2% on average for students enrolled in the fall of 2015. This is up from 32.3% in 2011, a 3.9 percentage point jump over this period.

In another sign of momentum, 12 Forté Foundation U.S. member schools reported 40% or more women enrolled compared to last year's high of five schools reaching this milestone. In addition, 16 U.S. schools have 35% or more female students, compared with just three schools hitting this mark a decade ago in 2005.

"There is some evidence that earning an MBA is a ticket to the top as 41% of Fortune 100 CEOs have an MBA, according to our research. While we're asking women to lean in, we need to also consider the education gender gap at business schools," said Elissa Sangster, Executive Director of the Forté Foundation. "In 2011, less than a third of MBA students were women. Today we're inching closer to 40% in the U.S. and working to close the gap significantly in another 5 years. Every percentage point gain is not only hard earned, but something to celebrate, and should go a long way in building the senior leadership pipeline at companies and on boards."

The following 12 Forté Foundation U.S. member schools have 40% or greater women's enrollment:

- Dartmouth (Tuck School of Business)
- George Washington University School of Business
- Harvard Business School
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Sloan)
- Michigan State University (Broad College of Business)
- Northwestern University (Kellogg School of Management)
- University of California - Berkeley (Haas School of Business)
- University of Chicago (Booth School of Business)
- University of Pennsylvania (The Wharton School)
- University of Rochester (Simon Graduate School of Business)
- Washington University in St. Louis (Olin Business School)
- Yale School of Management

These four U.S. schools have 35% or more women enrolled, in addition to London Business School outside of the U.S.:

- Columbia Business School
- Duke University (Fuqua School of Business)
- Rice University (Jones Graduate School of Business)
- University of Maryland (Robert H. Smith School of Business)

Forté Foundation is a non-profit consortium of leading multinational corporations, top business schools in the U.S. and abroad, and the Graduate Management Admission Council. It was called to action by a landmark research study, *Women and the MBA: Gateway to Opportunity*, looking at why women are underrepresented in top business schools compared with medical or law schools. Forté Foundation was launched in 2001 to address this inequity and its impact on the business landscape, and grew to 25 member schools in 2005 in the U.S. only. Today Forté Foundation includes 46 member schools: 37 in the U.S., three in Canada and six in Europe.

Forté Foundation has introduced a number of initiatives since its launch 14 years ago to close the gender gap in pursuing careers in business and an MBA. Examples include the [Forté MBA Women's Leadership Conference](#), attended by hundreds of women MBAs and top companies annually, and the [Forté College to Business Leadership Conference](#), designed for undergraduate freshmen and sophomore women to introduce them to career opportunities and top companies that offer summer internships and entry-level opportunities for college graduates. Scholarships awarded to [Forté Fellows](#) have also been key to increasing the number of women MBAs, climbing from 33 scholarships in 2003 to over 800 scholarships for the incoming class of 2015. Since 2003, Forté Foundation sponsor schools have awarded over \$85 million in scholarships to Forté Fellows.

In recent years, Forté Foundation has also introduced new initiatives to help build the female MBA and business leadership pipelines. Its "[Rising Star](#)" pilot initiative, launched on 10 U.S. campuses in September 2015, is geared to help undergraduate women become well-informed about their many career options, including in business, and compete for top jobs. Last year, benefitting women specifically interested in exploring financial careers, the [Forté College Fast Track to Finance Conference](#) was launched. Another signature effort is its [MBA Launch](#), a hands-on 10-month program that provides guidance, resources and ongoing feedback on the business school application process, including monthly webinars, peer group meetings and feedback from experienced advisors.

ABOUT FORTÉ FOUNDATION

Forté Foundation is a non-profit consortium of leading multinational corporations, top business schools in the U.S. and abroad, and the Graduate Management Admission Council. Its mission is to launch women into fulfilling, significant careers through access to business education, opportunities and a community of successful women. Forté is the leading organization that provides a national infrastructure for women at all stages of the career continuum to access the information, scholarship support and networking connections they need to succeed in business careers. Additional information about the Forté Foundation is available online at www.fortefoundation.org.

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