



NOTRE DAME, IE BUSINESS SCHOOL, AND MICHIGAN STATE JOIN FORTÉ FOUNDATION BOOSTING WOMEN INTO BUSINESS LEADERSHIP ROLES

Joins Consortium of Leading Corporations and Top Business Schools Increasing Women's Access to Business Education and Careers

(Austin, TX, July 11, 2011) – Notre Dame, IE Business School, and Michigan State have joined Forté Foundation, a consortium of leading multinational corporations, top business schools in the U.S. and abroad, and the Graduate Management Admission Council® (GMAC®).

“Forté Foundation welcomes these leading MBA programs, who, through a competitive process, have demonstrated their proven leadership in educating women in business,” said Elissa Sangster, Executive Director of Forté Foundation. “We’re looking forward to a fruitful partnership as we make an even greater impact over the next decade by expanding our outreach and aligning with their global and diverse networks and alumnae connections.”

The Forté Foundation is the leading organization that provides a national infrastructure for college students, business school women, and working professionals to access the “real world” information, scholarship opportunities and essential networking connections they need to succeed in business careers.

Called to action by a landmark research study, *Women and the MBA: Gateway to Opportunity*, looking at why women are under-represented in leading business schools compared with medical or law schools, the Forté Foundation was founded in 2001 to address this inequity and its impact on the business landscape.

Forté Foundation enables its corporate and business school sponsors to effectively reach, recruit and retain top female talent. Forté’s agenda to reach college-aged women, MBA candidates, and MBA alumnae will build on its founding commitment to increase the number of women in the early business pipeline, and will create partnerships with academic and advocacy groups, as well as its own sponsors, to attract and retain women in business careers.

When Forté Foundation was founded in 2001 it set out to direct women through educational gateways and into business leadership positions. 10 years later, Forté has built an online community of over 60,000 women, reached thousands of MBA prospects through its Forté Forums educating women on the value of an MBA, supported over 750 MBA candidates with nearly \$30 million in scholarships through the Forté Fellows program, driven the corporate recruiting dialogue through Corporate Best Practices Summit and Network of Women’s Networks events, and provided hundreds of MBA women at Forté sponsor schools with professional development workshops through its annual MBA Women’s Conference and Company Expo.

ABOUT FORTÉ FOUNDATION

Forté Foundation is a consortium of leading multinational corporations, top business schools in the U.S. and abroad, and the Graduate Management Admission Council® (GMAC®). Forté has become a powerful change agent directing women towards leadership roles in business and enabling corporations to more effectively reach and retain top female talent. It 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.

To learn more about Forté Foundation visit www.fortefoundation.org

FORTE SPONSORS

Forté Sponsor Companies: AIG, Bain, Bank of America, Barclays Capital, BlackRock, The Capital Group Companies, Capital One, Chevron, Citi, Citizens Financial Group, Credit Suisse, Deloitte, Deutsche Bank, Eli Lilly and Company, Ernst & Young, ExxonMobil, Fidelity Investments, Goldman, Sachs & Co., The Hartford, IBM, Intel, Liberty Mutual, New York Life, Pfizer, PIMCO, The PNC Financial Services Group, UBS

Forté Sponsor Business Schools: Babson Graduate School of Business, Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota, Chicago Booth, Columbia Business School, Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University, Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at Virginia, Eli Broad School of Business at Michigan State, The Fuqua School of Business at Duke, Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, Goizueta Business School at Emory, Harvard Business School, HEC-Paris, IE Business School, INSEAD, The Johnson School of Management at Cornell, Kelley School of Business at Indiana, The Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern, London Business School, McCombs School of Business at Texas, Mendoza College of Business at Notre Dame, Mills College, Lorrey I. Lokey Graduate School of Business, MIT Sloan School of Management, Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis, Queen's School of Business, Ross School of Business at Michigan, SDA Bocconi School of Management, Simmons School of Management, Stern School of Business at NYU, Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, UC Berkeley Haas School of Business, UCLA Anderson School of Management, College of Business, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School, University of Rochester, Simon Graduate School of Business, USC Marshall School of Business, Wake Forest (Babcock), The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Yale School of Management

Non-Profits: The Graduate Management Admission Council® (GMAC®)