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## **Forté Foundation Launches “Rising Star” Pilot Initiative to Help Undergraduate Women Compete for Top Jobs**

(Austin, TX, September 16, 2015) – Today Forté Foundation launched the “Rising Star” pilot initiative on 10 U.S. campuses to help encourage, support and prepare undergraduate women to graduate well-informed about their many career options, including in business, and to compete for top jobs.

The following schools are participating in the pilot: Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University, The George Washington University, Indiana University, New York University, The Ohio State University, University of Michigan, The University of Texas at Austin, William & Mary, and Yale University. For more information, visit this [link](#).

“When young women start exploring their career options in detail early on, it helps them to pick the right major or courses, get the right internships, and take other important steps to smooth their professional path,” said Elissa Sangster, Executive Director, Forté Foundation. “We want to give young women the skills and tools they need to succeed broadly, while specifically informing them about business options before graduation. This helps companies that seek to enhance diversity—and makes women stronger candidates for the best jobs.”

The “Rising Star” initiative consists of a curriculum for undergraduate women of *all* majors including unique networking opportunities and advice, resume building and job search support, career guidance, MBA exploration and networking, event participation, and more. Participation is free and flexible. Students will need at least two full semesters to complete all 20 activities in the program for a total of 500 points.

Students earn rewards each time they collect 100 points, or five rewards total, including the grand prize. Rewards include an introduction to three Forté corporate sponsors and one business school sponsor of the student’s choice, entry into the Forté full-time jobs or internships resume book, an invitation to a special networking session, and application waivers for [Forté’s C2B \(College to Business\) Leadership Conference](#) or its [College Fast Track to Finance Conference](#). Undergraduate women who participate in the program and earn 500 points will be recognized as a “Forté Rising Star,” a professional development, networking and mentorship designation that will help them stand out to potential employers and in the MBA application process. They will also receive a three-month career prep mentor or lunch with a career influencer.

Called to action by a landmark research study, *Women and the MBA: Gateway to Opportunity*, looking at why women are underrepresented in leading 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. Forté enables its corporate and school sponsors to effectively reach, recruit and retain top female talent. Forté's agenda to reach college-aged women, MBA candidates and MBA alumnae builds on its founding commitment to increase the number of women in the early business pipeline, and creates partnerships with academic and advocacy groups, as well as its own sponsors, to attract and retain women in business careers.

## **ABOUT FORTÉ FOUNDATION**

Forté Foundation is a non-profit consortium of leading multinational corporations, top business schools in the US 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](http://www.fortefoundation.org).

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