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**Forté Foundation announces winner of entrepreneur competition for female MBA students**

**Team at University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business wins international competition for   4Women, a company founded to help reduce the occurrence of cervical cancer**

**(Austin, TX/June 21, 2017)** -- Forté Foundation, a non-profit focused on enhancing gender diversity among MBAs and helping women to start careers in business and finance, today announced the winner of their second annual, international entrepreneur competition for female MBA students.

The [Forté Power Pitch](http://www.fortefoundation.org/site/PageServer?pagename=events_powerup_powerpitch) competition winner is 4Women, a company founded by female MBA students at the University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business, to help reduce the occurrence of cervical cancer. Sue Kim and Arshiya Fazal, two of the founders of 4Women, presented their business idea for a new women’s healthcare product to an audience of over 700 businesswomen and MBA students and four esteemed judges at Forté’s 2017 MBA Women’s Leadership Conference on June 17 in Seattle. Other 4Women team members are Courtney Burrows and Camille Emma, also MBA students at Chicago Booth.

“We competed against very talented teams and ideas, so we're incredibly grateful to have won,” said Sue Kim. “It was a different experience for us to pitch to a room full of women, and because the audience was essentially our target market, it was great validation to hear that our idea resonated with them.” Kim added, “So many audience members came up to us afterward and urged us to make our idea a reality. For our team, this win is empowering and it has invigorated us with new energy to keep moving forward to improve women's health.”

4Women’s product aims to reduce the occurrence of cervical cancer through early detection of the virus that causes it – the human papilloma virus (HPV). The product is an in-home self-collection kit that tests for the presence of HPV before a patient even walks into the doctor's office, allowing her physician to know her HPV status and make a decision on next steps at the point of care. Worldwide, cervical cancer is the fourth most frequent cancer in women, according to the [World Health Organization](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs380/en/). 4Women’s vision is that access to an effective and user-friendly alternative for screening could potentially increase compliance and make the process comfortable and easy for all women.

4Women was one of 48 total entries, and one of three additional finalists that were selected to compete live in the final round of the competition in Seattle. The three other finalists were:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of business** | **Representative(s)** | **Business school** | **Product/service** |
| Brandefy | Meg Greenhalgh | University of Virginia Darden School of Business | Consumer information database |
| HomeSlice | Shapri Generette | MIT Sloan School of Management | Mortgage alternative |
| ParentCollab | Diane Le | UCLA Anderson School of Management | Schedule management app |

4Women won both awards that were offered – a judges’ selection and audience favorite – for which they received $10,000. Winners and finalists also received a Microsoft Surface Book laptop. The 4Women team plans to use their award funds to hire legal help to conduct an in-depth patent search and freedom to operate analysis. They will also use it to begin manufacturing a small batch of their prototype for an initial feasibility test.

Judges evaluated each team based on how convincingly they presented their business concept as if they were potential investors. According to Arrion Rathsack, Director of Forté’s MBA and Professional Programs and the competition’s founder, “The judges determined that 4Women had the best overall presentation of their business concept and were thorough in their description of how their business will work. They also recognized the social impact of the product they were developing.”

Judges for the 2017 Power Pitch competition were:

* [Stephanie Breedlove](https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephanie-breedlove-862537a/)**,** Co-Founder [Care.com Homepay](https://www.care.com/homepay) and Author of [*All In: How Women Entrepreneurs Can Think Bigger, Build Sustainable Business, and Change the World*](https://www.amazon.com/All-Entrepreneurs-Bigger-Sustainable-Businesses/dp/1626343594/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1495561633&sr=8-1&keywords=stephanie+breedlove).
* [Elaine Hagan](https://www.linkedin.com/in/elaine-hagan-47948313/), Executive Director, [Harold and Pauline Price Center for Entrepreneurial Studies](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/centers/price), University of California Los Angeles ([Anderson School of Management](http://www.anderson.ucla.edu/)) (semi-final judge)
* [Nicole Irvin](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nicole-irvin-13a4bb3/), Vice President, [Goldman Sachs](http://www.goldmansachs.com/)
* [Diane Legg](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dianelegg/), Entrepreneurship Faculty, University of Washington, [Michael G. Foster School of Business](http://foster.uw.edu/)
* Jiayi Liang, Senior Product Manager/Entrepreneur-in-Resident, Amazon
* [Lisa Tsou](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lisa-tsou-476622/), Founder, [The Winning Pitch](http://winningpitch.net/) (semi-final judge)

**About the Forté Power Pitch competition:**

The purpose of the Forté Power Pitch competition is to encourage and support aspiring women entrepreneurs by offering a high-profile, real-world challenge at the Forté MBA Women’s Leadership Conference, now in its 10th year.  The spirit of the competition is to focus on ideas that are conceived and/or further developed as part of the business school experience.

Statistics reflect the urgent need for increased focus on women-founded/owned businesses in the U.S. Only [17 percent of companies](https://techcrunch.com/2017/04/19/in-2017-only-17-of-startups-have-a-female-founder/) are founded by women and in 2016 women received just [2.19% of venture capital funding](../../AppData/Local/Microsoft/AppData/Local/Packages/microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps_8wekyb3d8bbwe/LocalState/Files/AppData/Local/Microsoft/AppData/Local/Packages/microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps_8wekyb3d8bbwe/LocalState/Files/S0/AppData/Local/Microsoft/AppData/Local/Packages/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/DN38M5R1/In%202016,%20women%20got%20just%202.19%25%20of%20venture%20capital%20funding). The Forté Power Pitch competition provides an opportunity to grow the ranks of women entrepreneurs by demonstrating to women at top MBA programs – some of whom are aspiring entrepreneurs – how it can be done.

**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](file:///\\nyflp2\users\Purdya\www.fortefoundation.org).

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