

Columbia Business School’s Family Business Program Rebrands as Global Family Enterprise Program

New name reflects the growing importance of family enterprises in the global economy and the expansion of the Program’s initiatives

Columbia Business School today announced that its Family Business Program, the pre-eminent global center preparing MBA students to be future leaders in family enterprises and offices, has been expanded and rebranded as the [Global Family Enterprise Program](#). The Program will continue to serve students at the Business School and across the University’s other graduate schools, delivering world-class education and research on topics related to family enterprises – a substantial yet often overlooked segment of the global business community. The majority of all businesses – both nationally and globally – are family-owned, and one-third of S&P 500 companies are founder- and family-controlled. Family enterprises drive tremendous impact and innovation, and are major sources of capital for startups, philanthropy and social enterprises.

“Family enterprises are a pivotal driver of the global economy, and Columbia Business School’s Global Family Enterprise Program is an invaluable resource to provide students and professionals with unique insight into how family enterprises can thrive in the modern, digital economy,” said Costis Maglaras, Dean of Columbia Business School.

“The Program’s new name more effectively captures the extraordinary work it conducts to educate future leaders, introduce new ideas and research, and provide lifelong education for the School’s global alumni.”

Columbia Business School’s Global Family Enterprise Program seeks to deliver the world’s most comprehensive range of offerings within this vital area. The Program offers courses on a range of topics and integrates family enterprise-related issues across disciplines. The Program supports both a worldwide alumni network and a Family Enterprise Club of more than 150 active student members through private and public initiatives and events year-round. Past speakers at Program events have included Corinne Mentzopoloulos, owner of the prestigious Bordeaux wine estate Château Margaux; Güler Sabancı, a third-generation female member of the Sabancı family, and the chairperson of the family-controlled Sabancı Holding, the second-largest industrial and financial conglomerate in Turkey; Kevin Kwan, the author of the Crazy Rich Asians trilogy; Valerie Mars, a fourth-generation member of the Mars family who is also a senior vice president and head of corporate development for Mars, Inc.; and Shirley and Walter Wang, owners of JM Eagle, the world’s largest manufacturer of plastic and PVC pipe. The Program also draws upon Columbia’s world-class faculty to teach families who own businesses, family offices and foundations through its Enterprising Families Executive Education Program.

“Our program isn’t just for MBA students who are from family firms – it’s for all students who hope to manage, advise or meaningfully work with the family-led organizations that are at the heart of the world’s economy and society,” said Patricia Angus, professor, managing director of the Columbia Global Family Enterprise Program and faculty director of the Enterprising Families Executive Education Program. “This is extremely important and rewarding work with tremendous impact.”

Founded in 2016, Columbia Business School's Global Family Enterprise Program has grown to be a global leader in family enterprise education and research, fostering insights and collaboration on topics related to family businesses, family offices, family sustainability and family philanthropy. The Global Family Enterprise Program provides a global community of students, alumni, executives and owners with essential knowledge and critical skills to be effective leaders, successful managers, knowledgeable advisors, and informed beneficiaries of family-controlled enterprises.

The Program's [Advisory Board](#) comprises 24 global family enterprise leaders and principals from around the world who provide strategic direction and support.

“The Global Family Enterprise Program is both global in scope and comprehensive in its coverage of all aspects of family enterprise, and this new name reflects that,” said Andrew Gundlach, chair of the Columbia Global Family Enterprise Program Advisory Board. “The Advisory Board is proud of the Program's accomplishments and looks forward to continued growth and success.”

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About Columbia Business School

Columbia Business School is the only world-class, Ivy League business school that delivers a learning experience where academic excellence meets with real-time exposure to the pulse of global business. The thought leadership of the School's faculty and staff members, combined with the accomplishments of its distinguished alumni and position in the center of global business, means that the School's efforts have an immediate, measurable impact on the forces shaping business every day. To learn more about Columbia Business School's position at the very center of business, please visit www.gsb.columbia.edu.