

5-1-2017

## College News: College Hosts Fireside Chat on Diversifying Finance Industry

Follow this and additional works at: <http://via.library.depaul.edu/bx>



Part of the [Business Commons](#)

### Recommended Citation

(2017) "College News: College Hosts Fireside Chat on Diversifying Finance Industry," *Business Exchange*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 6 , Article 5.  
Available at: <http://via.library.depaul.edu/bx/vol1/iss6/5>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Alumni Publications at Via Sapientiae. It has been accepted for inclusion in Business Exchange by an authorized editor of Via Sapientiae. For more information, please contact [mbernal2@depaul.edu](mailto:mbernal2@depaul.edu), [wsulliv6@depaul.edu](mailto:wsulliv6@depaul.edu), [c.mcclure@depaul.edu](mailto:c.mcclure@depaul.edu).

# College Hosts Fireside Chat on Diversifying Finance Industry

## BUSINESS PROFESSORS JOINED FINANCE INDUSTRY LEADERS

in a fireside chat hosted at DePaul to explore ways to increase diversity and inclusion in the financial services field.

The “Diversity at Driehaus” talk was co-sponsored by the Driehaus College of Business and the PhD Project, a nationwide initiative that seeks to diversify business school faculties and attract more students of color to study and enter business. Assistant Professor of Accountancy Stephani Mason, one of a dozen PhD Project alumni on DePaul’s faculty, organized the Nov. 15 program for a second year in conjunction with the project’s annual national conference in Chicago.

This year’s discussion focused on the Financial Service Pipeline Initiative, an effort spearheaded by a coalition of Chicago financial services institutions and the Chicago Community Trust to attract more people of color to careers in finance.

Nationwide, representation of minorities in finance has changed little in the last two decades, according to Jamica Quillin, manager of diversity and inclusion at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, who discussed the Pipeline’s goals. Industry leaders should see the issue as a long-term human capital imperative, she said, centered on recruitment, retention and mentoring of diverse finance professionals. “If we can work together, we can work significantly and with more impact,” she said.

The key to sparking change is to emphasize the positive bottom-line impact of diversity, said panelist Monica L. Walker, CEO of Holland

Capital. Industry leaders need “to value diversity of thought and bring diversity of experiences to the table,” Walker advised, because it leads to better business decisions, including more effective strategies for marketing to diverse consumers.

---

**“I’M PASSIONATE ABOUT GETTING MORE PEOPLE OF COLOR INTO THE BUSINESS.... IF I CAN REDUCE THE HURDLE, I WILL.”**

Malik Murray (BUS '96, MBA '04)

---

The panelists also talked about mentors and other influences that led to their personal success. Alumnus **Malik Murray (BUS '96, MBA '04)**, vice president at Ariel Investments, said money management was seldom discussed in his family and community during his upbringing. He didn’t envision a career in finance until he came to DePaul, where he encountered professors of color, as well as finance alumni who reached out to mentor him. “When you see someone who has been there, done that, it’s very powerful,” he said.

Murray said he now pays it forward by seeking to help other young minority professionals find their footing in finance. “I am passionate about getting more people of color into the business. If people don’t have access to you, sometimes they give up. So, if I can reduce the hurdle, I will.”

