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We did our very best to stay quiet during the campus-wide quiet period, but you know we can't stay quiet for long in ENTP. We have too much to share and now you ask us to close our mouths and be silent. We decided to ride this wave and talk about our experiences as Black women entrepreneurs, our struggles and triumphs, our stories of resilience and survival.

We started this conversation in our ENTP 340: Inclusive Innovation class with black women founders telling their true stories.

In the ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION series, we explore the experiences of Black women entrepreneurs, their journeys, challenges and triumphs. We delve into how these women have navigated the challenges of race and gender in the business world, and how they have found success despite the odds.

We started this conversation in our ENTP 340: Inclusive Innovation class with black women founders telling their true stories.

In this class, we also invited Nichole Wilson, a tech entrepreneur and CEO of a startup that aims to increase the number of females interested in STEAM-related careers. She shares her experiences and insights on breaking into the tech industry as a Black woman.

Karen Jones, the founder of the Chocolate Chips Association, whose mission is to instill a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in young girls, tells us about her experiences in empowering moms as they take steps to set and achieve personal goals while raising their daughters. She shares insights on how to support and encourage girls in STEM.

Jemia Cunningham-Elder '09, the founder of the fashion brand By Cece Symone, a brand that celebrates all fashion forward women, shares her experiences of breaking into the fashion industry as a Black woman. She talks about the challenges she faced and the lessons she learned along the way.

Chamilla Banks, an entrepreneur and philanthropist, shares her experiences of starting her own business and the lessons she learned. She talks about the importance of networking and building relationships in the business world.

Our esteemed panelists included:

- Nichole Wilson, CEO of TechGirlz, a non-profit organization that aims to increase the number of females interested in STEAM-related careers
- Karen Jones, Founder of Chocolate Chips Association, a non-profit organization that aims to instill a passion for STEM in young girls
- Jemia Cunningham-Elder '09, Founder of By Cece Symone, a fashion brand that celebrates all fashion forward women
- Chamilla Banks, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist

We hope you enjoyed the conversation and are inspired by the stories of resilience and success shared by our panelists. Keep your eyes open for more panels and events where we will continue to share the experiences of Black women entrepreneurs.

If you're interested in the opportunity to win over $75,000 in cash prizes, check out e-Fest, a student venture design competition at Lake Forest College. It's a chance for mature audiences only. Learn more at e-Fest.com.

In this class, we started a conversation with black women founders telling their true stories. It is only by sharing real stories about launching and leading in Chicago. It is only by sharing real stories about launching and leading in Chicago.

We also discussed the importance of networking and building relationships in the business world. We shared insights on how to support and encourage girls in STEM, and how to break into the fashion industry as a Black woman.

The importance of networking and building relationships in the business world cannot be overstated. It is crucial for success. We shared insights on how to support and encourage girls in STEM, and how to break into the fashion industry as a Black woman.

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