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# FROM THE DEAN



**I**ESE's commitment to serving companies, entrepreneurs and senior managers worldwide can be seen in our deep and diverse range of programs, which build on more than half a century of experience. Their growth is more than an opportunity to access new markets; by embracing the fresh perspectives that other business cultures offer, we expand our own understanding of the challenges presented by globalization and share it with students and alumni. At the same time, it presents us with an opportunity to share the core values of IESE around the world, and to deepen our legacy of leadership built on excellence, integrity and service to the communities in which we live.

A significant step in IESE's global development this year has been the opening of our new campus in Munich. I was honored to join more than 300 IESE alumni and business leaders on June 29 for the official opening ceremony, which featured a keynote presentation by Franz M. Haniel, chairman of the Haniel Group, one of Europe's largest family-owned companies. The modern, permanent headquarters in Germany marks the beginning of a new chapter in the school's 10-year history of activity there. It will allow us to meet better the needs of companies and executives in Germany and Central Europe, including our more than 1,100 German, Austrian and Swiss alumni.

The international reach of another of our campuses, New York, was demonstrated by a landmark in the IESE Global Executive MBA. The graduating Class of 2015 was the first to include a cohort that started the program in New York in February 2014.

In Asia, we prepared the launch of the pioneering World Executive MBA program, in partnership with CEIBS. The first cohort of senior executives will start in January 2016, embarking on a learning experience that covers five continents reinforcing our global reach.

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IESE has a longstanding involvement with the African business community. Besides helping develop associated business schools in Nigeria, Kenya, and Côte d'Ivoire, we have maintained strong bilateral learning relationships with companies and institutions across the continent since 1992. The MBA Module developed in Kenya in 2012 is attracting more students and companies.

**A**s we build the future, we must also consider the solid foundations we inherit from the past. In these pages, you will read about the activities held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the IESE MBA program. The program has had an impact on the lives of more than 8,600 graduates since 1964, the year it was launched as Europe's first two-year MBA with the help of Harvard Business School. St. Josemaría Escrivá, founder of the University of Navarra, encouraged Dean Antonio Valero and IESE faculty to develop this program for young professionals. Many alumni have honored us by sharing their stories and their wisdom, and by underlining the importance of the program in shaping their careers. The international anniversary events also provided participants with a vantage point from which to look forward, with distinguished guest speakers imparting insights into the trends and issues shaping tomorrow's business environment.

**W**hat we do as business leaders has an effect on society. The impact of IESE's humanistic approach can be seen directly in the emphasis on a human and ethical view of management and companies, or our commitment to job creation and the more than 4,000 jobs created through the assistance of our venture capital fund Finaves and the business angel network. We have also striven to promote women's role as corporate leaders, through initiatives including the Women on Boards Program, and to help women integrate their

personal and professional lives through many programs, with the support of the school's International Center for Work and Family. Companies can and should play a leading role in building a more positive vision of management; our initiatives around sustainability and corporate responsibility. To that end, programs such as the Value Creation Through Effective Boards Focused Program, delivered with Harvard Business School, have emphasized responsible corporate governance.

Our own industry, management education, is undergoing a period of rapid change as advances in digital technology drive innovation. IESE is at the forefront of integrating online and face-to-face methodologies to enhance the experience of program participants. This year, we introduced a range of initiatives. These include an online knowledge management portal, course redesigns, the implementation of a virtual campus, and the development of new teaching tools. Collectively, these innovations help us to deliver global programs that align with the requirements of today's executives.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our alumni, corporate partners, and clients. They have helped to create and consolidate the strong foundations upon which we now build the future. Through their contributions to our global growth, their participation in our activities and their embodiment of our values, they continue to play an essential role in the fulfillment of our mission: to develop business leaders with a spirit of service, integrity and professional excellence who have a deep, positive and lasting impact on people, firms, and society.

Jordi Canals  
Dean, IESE Business School

