

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Inspirational figures in Business School

Oprah Winfrey



After being fired early in her career and being called “unfit for television”, Winfrey went on to be a TV host who produces her own talk show, The Oprah Winfrey Show, and become the chairman and CEO of Harpo, Inc. She later launched a magazine, O, and TV network, OWN. Her net worth today is \$2.8 billion, making her the richest Black American.

“The reason I’ve been able to be so financially successful is my focus has never, ever for one minute been money.”

Aliko Dangote is a renowned Nigerian business magnate and philanthropist, best known as the founder and CEO of the Dangote Group, one of Africa’s largest industrial conglomerates. Often regarded as Africa’s richest man, Dangote has played a pivotal role in transforming Nigeria’s economy through his investments in cement, sugar, and other key industries. His business acumen and dedication to economic development have made him a symbol of entrepreneurial success across the continent. Beyond business, Dangote is also committed to philanthropy, focusing on health, education, and economic empowerment initiatives through the Dangote Foundation.

Aliko Dangote



“Nothing is going to be given to you on a silver platter. If you want something, you have to go for it. Success is a result of hard work, resilience, and the courage to take risks.”

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is a globally renowned Nigerian economist and international development expert. She made history as the first woman and first African to serve as the Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO). With over 25 years at the World Bank, including two terms as Nigeria’s Finance Minister, she has been a trailblazer in shaping economic policies that promote growth and reduce poverty. Known for her bold reforms, especially in fighting corruption and implementing fiscal discipline, Okonjo-Iweala is celebrated for her resilience and leadership on the global stage.

“You must always be courageous and continue to fight for what you believe in. Even if you have doubts, just continue to push forward. We can’t give up. We have to keep going, we have to keep our head high and keep believing that we can make a change.”