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Association for Women in Science innovation research and programming highlighted in new entrepreneurship study

WASHINGTON, DC, July 24, 2018 – A new report issued today by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR) highlighted the Association for Women in Science’s (AWIS) STEM to Market (S2M) program as a model in addressing the gender gap in patenting, innovation and commercialization. AWIS is the leading organization that advocates for women in STEM.

Unveiled on Capitol Hill at an event today with Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC), Member of the House Small Business Committee, the IWPR report examines STEM to Market as one of seven promising programs in the business, academia, and government sectors encouraging and empowering women, especially women of color, to participate in the innovation pipeline.

The findings from the AWIS report, [Revolutionizing the STEM Entrepreneurship Ecosystem](#), based on research conducted through its S2M program, were included in the IWPR report. AWIS research shows that, because of systemic barriers, women are less likely than men to enter and advance in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and less likely to patent and commercialize their inventions when they do. As of 2010, only 18.8 percent of all patents granted had at least one woman inventor listed.

“The future of this country as the innovation capital of the world is in the hands of investors,” said Janet Bandows Koster, AWIS Executive Director and CEO. “The IWPR report helps chart interventions that level the playing field for overlooked perspectives that would propel the nation to the forefront of diversity and entrepreneurship.”

With cohorts in Washington, DC; Chicago, Illinois; and the San Francisco Bay Area, California, AWIS S2M is a two-part program that provides entrepreneurial training and support to women working in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields and works with key decision makers, investors, and funders to increase innovation and entrepreneurship among diverse groups of women through systems change. The program addresses the top two challenges affecting the participation in innovation, patenting, and commercialization in university settings of women, especially women of color: investor bias and inclusion barriers among typical accelerator, incubator, or boot camp programs.

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The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is a global network with 80 grassroots chapters and affiliates connecting more than 100,000 professionals in STEM with members, allies and supporters worldwide. Founded in 1971, AWIS has been the leading advocate for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to achieve business growth, social change, and innovation. We are dedicated to driving excellence in STEM by achieving equity and full participation of women in all disciplines and across all employment sectors. To learn more, visit www.awis.org and @awisnational.