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## AWIS Calls on VCs, Investors to Expand Funding Opportunities to Women in STEM

**Washington, DC, September 18, 2018** – The leading organization advocating for women in STEM, the Association for Women in Science (AWIS), finds that women in STEM are still left out of the equation when it comes to investing and funding opportunities. Women’s businesses, despite being smaller on average and financed at a lower rate, achieve returns and revenue growth up to 3x higher than those created and led solely by men.

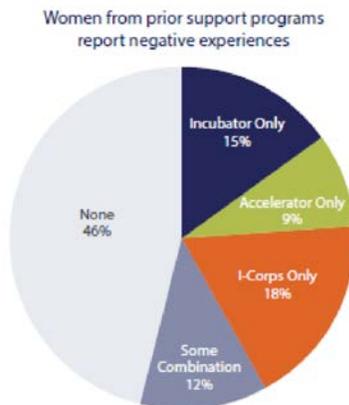
“Entrepreneurs who are marginalized represent missed opportunities to bring promising new technologies to the market,” said AWIS National President Susan Windham-Bannister. “We strongly encourage investors and funders to broaden their scope of interest and expand their investment portfolios to include highly capable entrepreneurs who are women, racially and ethnically diverse and often overlooked and excluded from access to capital.”

Through its [STEM to Market](#) (S2M) program funded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, recent AWIS research identifies best practices for how [entrepreneurship support organizations can incorporate inclusion into their outreach efforts](#) and how [investors can help fix the funding gap](#) to help women in STEM achieve their full potential.

“It is the responsibility of every venture capitalist and investor to reach out to a wider network of entrepreneurs beyond the one they already have convenient access to. Our inherent trap of reaching out to networks one degree away can cause us to exclude opportunities that have a broader impact on society,” said Vas Bailey, Partner at ARTIS Ventures and AWIS STEM to Market (S2M) Advisory Board.



AWIS research illustrates the abundance of investment-worthy innovation created by marginalized entrepreneurs.



AWIS research shows more than half of women report negative experiences from traditional boot camps.

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](http://www.awis.org) and @awisnational.