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The Association for Women in Science awarded Prestigious \$420,000 Kauffman Foundation grant

WASHINGTON, DC, Thursday, December 1, 2016 – The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation announced today that the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) will be awarded a \$420,000 Inclusion Challenge grant.

Dr. Bahija Jallal, AWIS President and Executive Vice President, MedImmune, noted, “Women and people of color often experience barriers throughout the entrepreneurial ecosystem. The Inclusion Challenge grant empowers AWIS to continue driving systemic change and create more inclusive STEM environments.”

The AWIS Inclusion Challenge project will provide entrepreneurial awareness, skills, and support to a diversity of STEM women while also empowering key-decision makers and entrepreneurship gatekeepers with the knowledge and tools necessary to address systemic issues that have inhibited access and inclusion.

“Entrepreneurship in America should be available to everyone, yet women and minorities continue to face more obstacles to starting businesses when it comes to accessing funding, education, mentors and markets,” said Victor Hwang, vice president of Entrepreneurship at the Kauffman Foundation. “The Inclusion Challenge grants will enable these outstanding support organizations to expand their services to empower more entrepreneurs and help them succeed. The nation and our economy as a whole will benefit from more entrepreneurs generating income and wealth in traditionally underserved markets.”

AWIS joins eleven other nonprofit organizations in winning this prestigious award and is being recognized at the Kauffman Foundation’s Mayors Conference on entrepreneurship today in St. Petersburg, Fla. Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet of the Small Business Administration will honor the grantees’ commitment to leveling the field for women and minority entrepreneurs. Selected from more than 376 applicants, the Inclusion Challenge grantees serve a range of sectors in 13 states from coast to coast. Grant awards range from \$87,000 to \$420,000 over the next two years per grantee.

About AWIS:

Founded in 1971, the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is the largest multi-discipline organization for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). We are dedicated to driving excellence in STEM by achieving equity and full participation of women in all disciplines and across all employment sectors. AWIS reaches more than 15,000 professionals in STEM with members and chapters nationwide. Membership is open to any individual who supports the vision and mission of AWIS. www.awis.org

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