

# **IPO Webinar:** **Gender diversity in innovation**

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UNITED STATES  
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# USPTO Expanding Innovation

## Expanding Innovation



"To maintain our technological leadership, the United States must seek to broaden our intellectual property ecosystem demographically, geographically, and economically." — USPTO Director Andrei Iancu



Demystifying the  
patent system



Mentoring  
programs



Community  
groups

# USPTO Expanding Innovation

## Demystifying the patent system



### Why is it important to understand how the patent system works?

Innovation in the United States is highly concentrated—based on demographic characteristics, geography, and economic conditions—and underrepresented groups are not fully participating. For example, a recent study from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) found that in 2016 only 12% of inventors named on U.S. patents are women.

In October 2019, the USPTO published [a report to Congress on the Study of Underrepresented Classes Chasing Engineering and Science Success \(SUCCESS\) Act](#). The report highlights the need for accessible resources explaining the patent process. The USPTO offers a variety of resources, including this new toolkit, to demystify the patent process, thereby alleviating some obstacles and encouraging more participation.

### Individual inventor toolkit

A resource for people who want to protect their own inventions.

[Download the individual inventor toolkit](#)

### Independent inventor resources