



Gender Diversity in Innovation

Closing the gap in universities and tech transfer

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Women Inventors SIG (Special Interest Group)

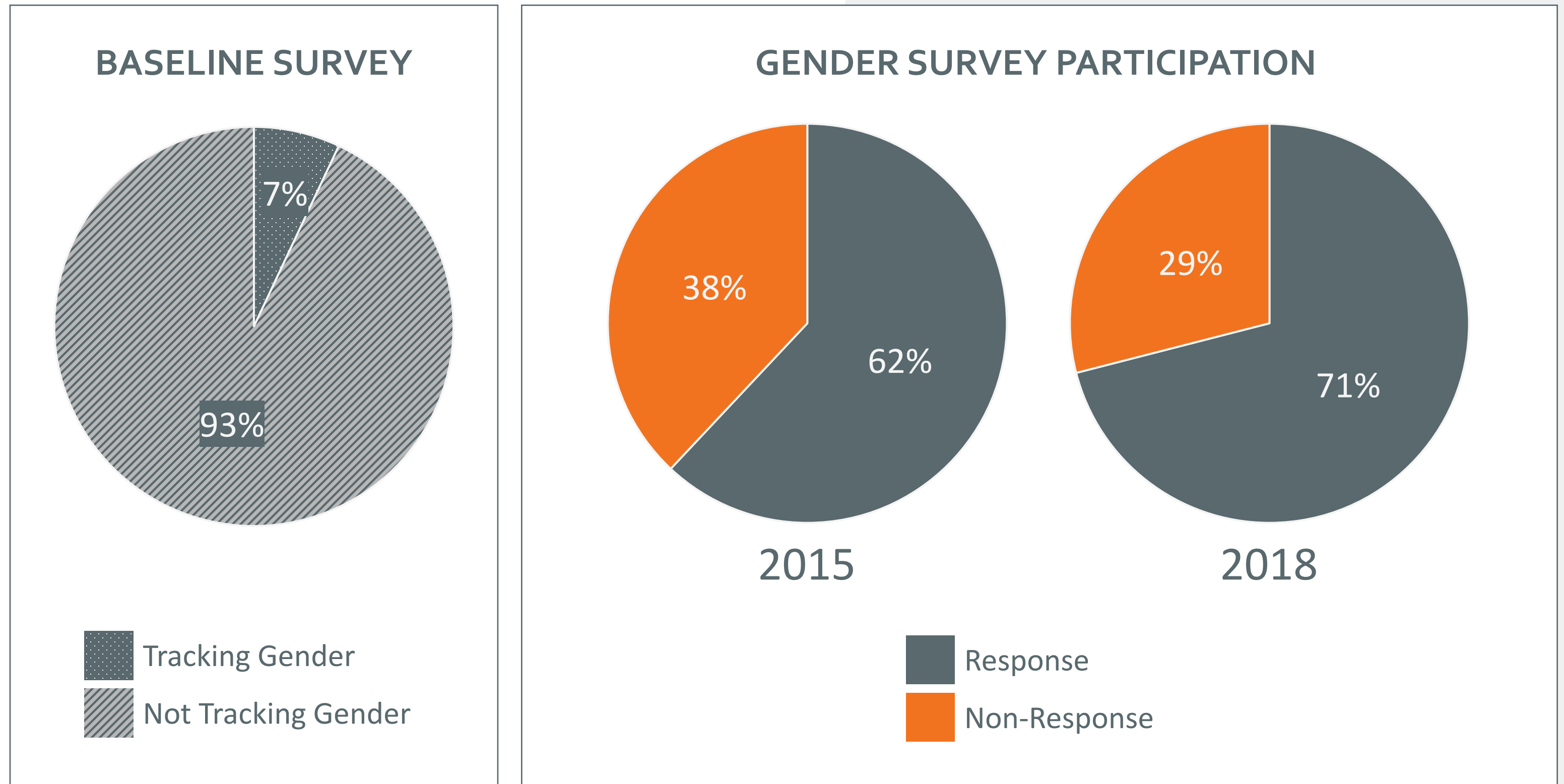
Mission: Serve as a catalyst for positive change in increasing the participation of women in innovation

SIG Membership: A group of passionate volunteers from universities (including tech transfer and women faculty) and non-university organizations (industry professionals, IP and patent attorneys and investors)



Women Inventors SIG

Addressing the Gender Data Gap in U.S. Academic Institutions



Gender Data Gap: Baseline of U.S. Academic Institutions, Technology and Innovation, Vol 19, National Academy of Inventors, 2018



University and Tech Transfer **TOOLKIT**

Mission: Assist and support Tech Transfer Offices (TTOs) in their efforts to develop programs that support academic women scientists and faculty

Purpose: Provide guidance to TTOs on how to initiate and build programs to increase the number of women disclosing inventions and participating in the tech transfer process

Sources: Interviews with representatives from more than ten university programs to share their lessons learned

Unique Challenges for Universities

Primary Mission and Objectives

Academics

Education

Advancement of scientific research

Multiple Innovation Centers

Entrepreneurship Centers

Innovation Hubs/Research Parks

Accelerators/Incubators

Commercialization
Education (I-Corps, SBIR,
Translational Grants)

Faculty-Centric Decision Process

Individuals take initiative to commercialize

Outreach often required to identify and connect with high potential faculty

Academic versus business mindset

Understanding the Values of Women Academic Scientists



“Selling” their science is not a typical frame of reference

Minimal to no exposure to commercial activities

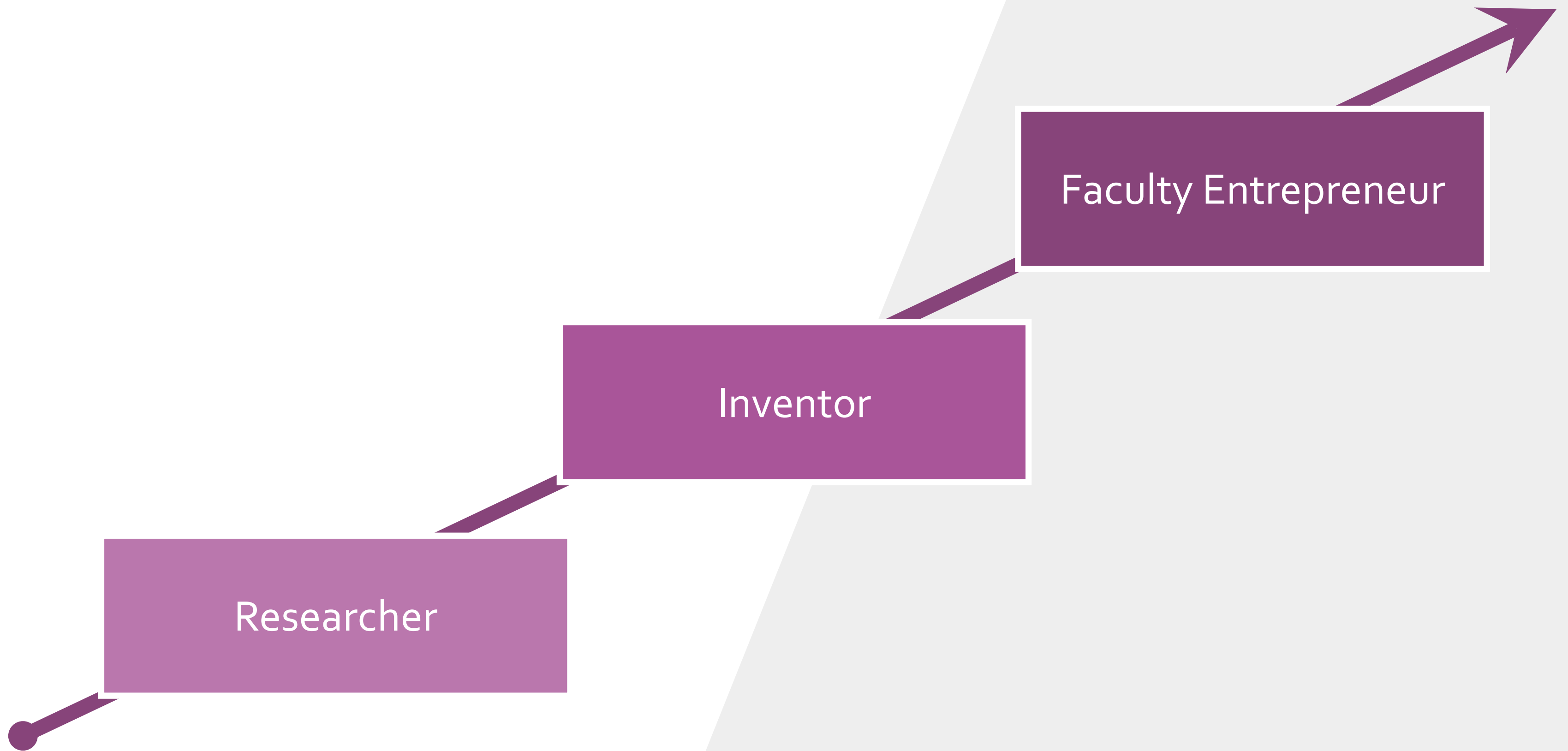
Attitudes about risk based on academics, not business

Invitation to participate increases involvement

Exposure to the benefits of robust networks is limited

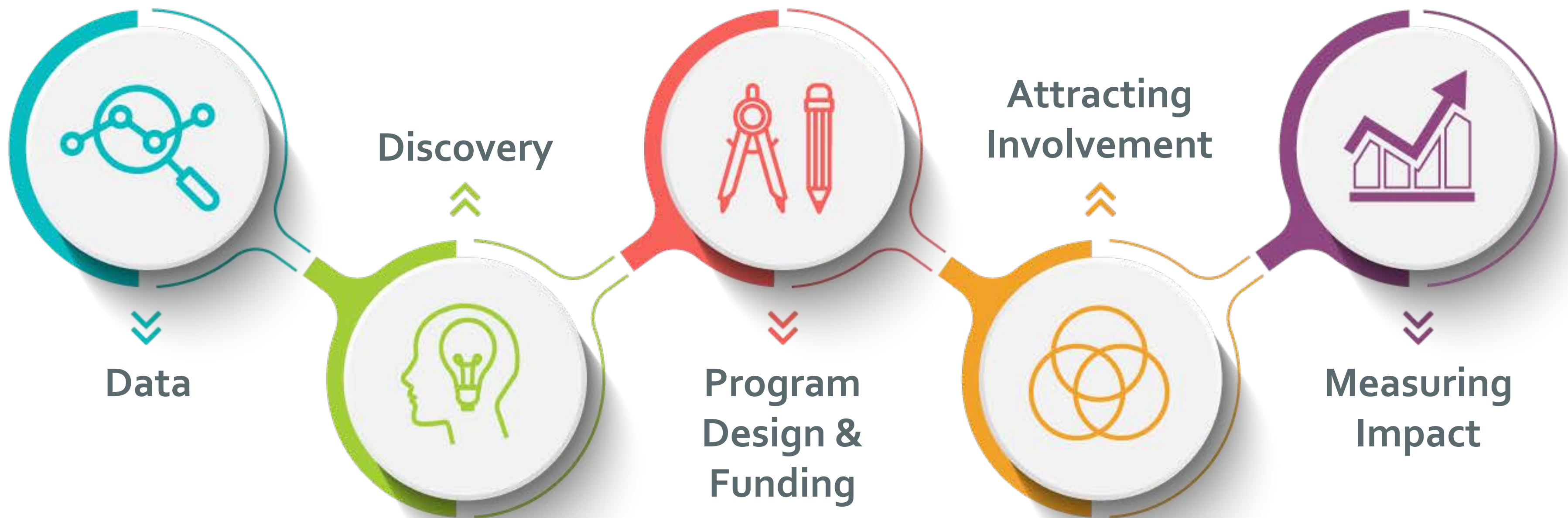
Work and home trade-offs are major concerns

Evolution of Identity for Women Academic Scientists



Roadmap to Impact

Build a program that gets results with the Women Inventor's Toolkit:



Sources of Funding

Representative Examples from Ten Interviewed Universities

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROGRAMS

NSF ADVANCE Grant Programs

University of Cincinnati LEAF Program

University of Southern Mississippi
Gulf Coast Advance Partnership

University of Washington LEAD-It
Yourself

The Ohio State University Project
REACH for Commercialization
Program

NSF AWARE Grant Programs

University of Illinois-
Champaign-Urbana

University of Louisville, Indiana
University, Missouri University
of Science and Technology

Children's Hospital of
Philadelphia

INTERNALLY FUNDED PROGRAMS

University and Sponsorship Funding

University of Florida Empowering
Women in Technology Startups
(EWITS®)

Washington University of St. Louis
Women in Innovation & Technology
(WIT)

Northwestern University
INVOReach

Measuring Impact

Reach for Commercialization™
Ohio State ADVANCE Office of Research

Between FY10 and FY20,

110 WOMEN

at Ohio State have or are participating the REACH program

70 (64%)

PARTICIPANTS

from 12 different colleges/units submitted 317 invention disclosures

They are associated with:

307 Patents filed

96 Patents issued

53 License Agreements

44 Patents published

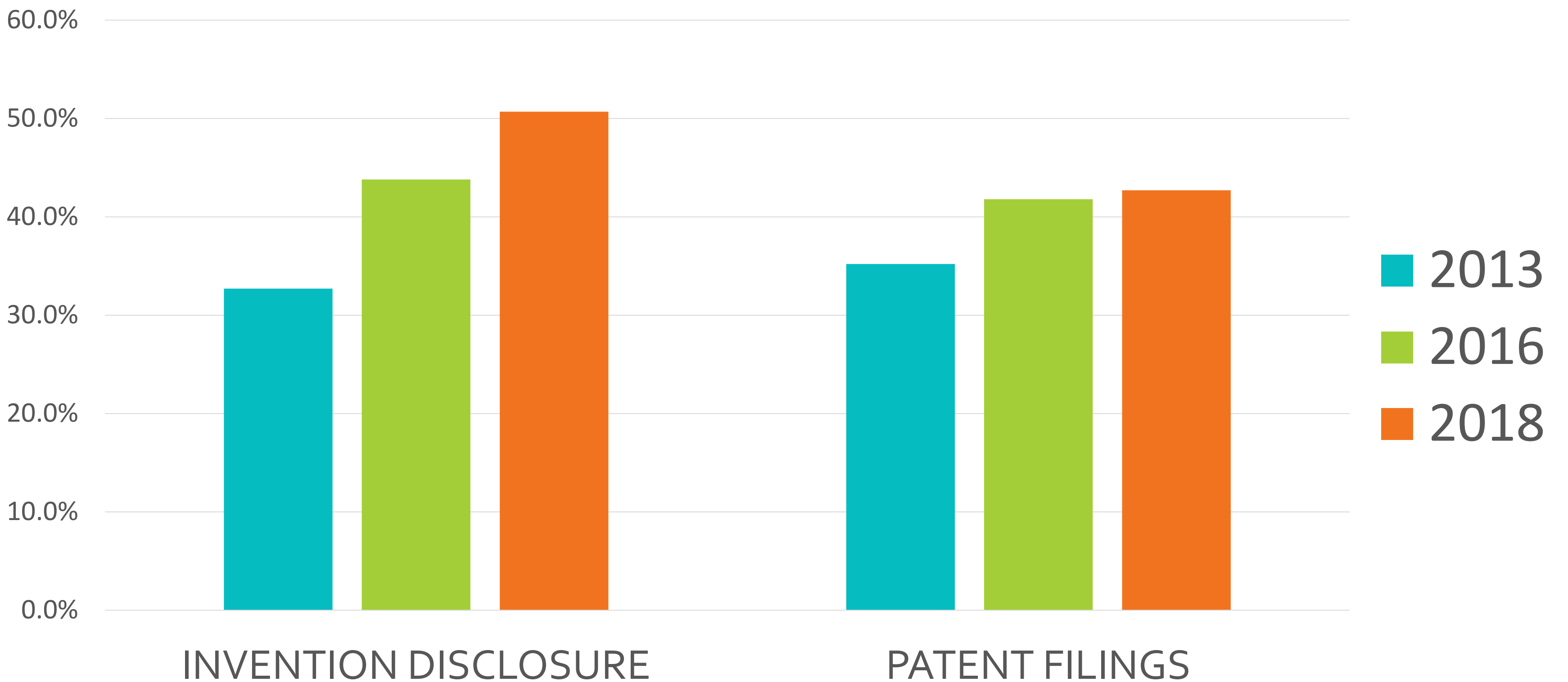
9 Startups

Source: Mary Juhas & Caroline Crisafulli

Measuring Impact

Washington University in St. Louis
Women in Innovation & Technology (WashU WIT)

Increased Female Engagement in Tech Transfer



Source: Nichole Mercier



Thank You!

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