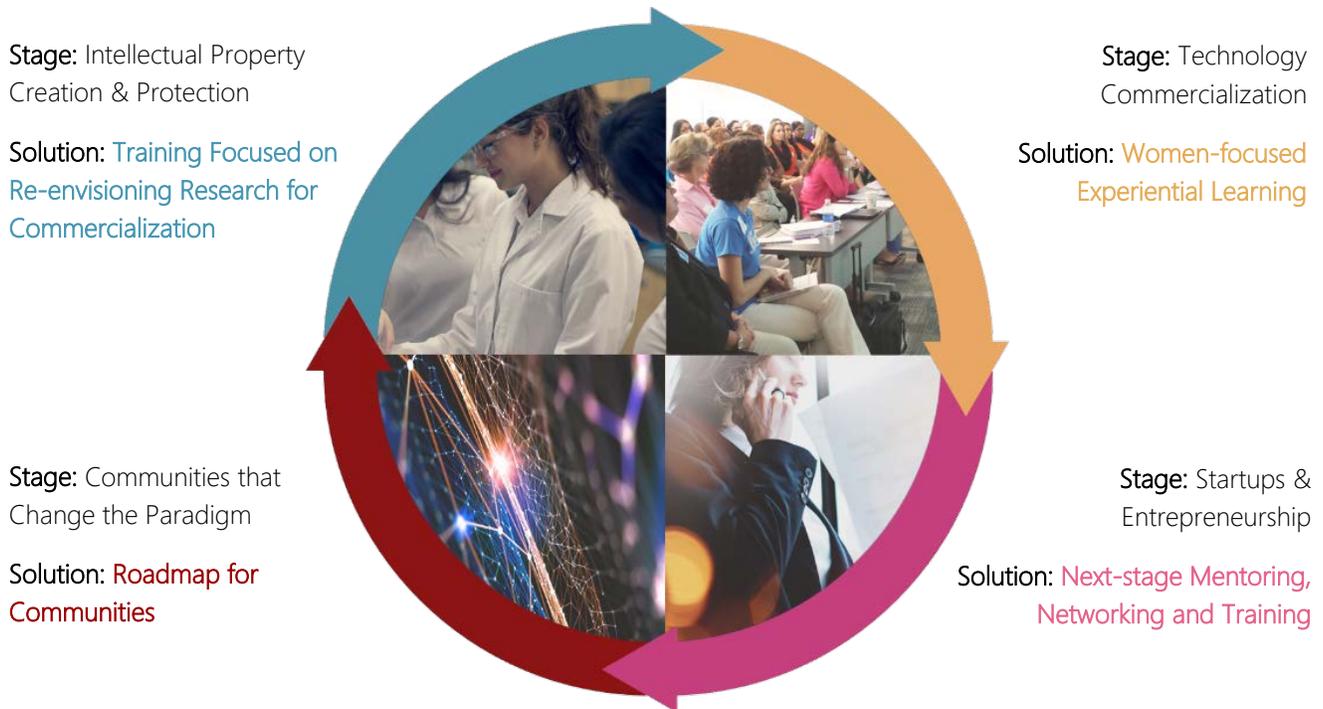


# THE COLLABORATORY FOR WOMEN INNOVATORS

The Collaboratory for Women Innovators seeks to inspire, educate, and empower women to attain leadership in all phases of the innovation lifecycle. Opening in Spring of 2018, the Collaboratory will utilize the extensive knowledge gained from the vast amounts of research already conducted about the barriers to entry for women in the Innovation Lifecycle and develop a holistic, concrete, replicable plan for overcoming these barriers and changing the paradigm.

## THE INNOVATION LIFECYCLE & THE PATH TO EQUAL PARTICIPATION



## CLOSING THE GENDER GAP IS AN ECONOMIC IMPERATIVE

- The Institute for Women's Policy Research: using current trends the U.S. will not achieve gender parity in patenting until 2092.
- 2012 U.S. Census: only 35% of business were women-owned.
- OECD: closing the gender gap could increase GDP by up to 10% by 2030
- MIT economists: shifting from an all-male or all-female office to a more gender diverse group could increase revenue by 41%.
- Dow Jones: a company's odds for success increases with more female executives at the VP and director levels
- Illuminate Ventures: the average venture-backed company run by a woman had achieved comparable early-year revenues using on average one-third less committed capital
- OECD: more gender-diverse companies performed 53% better than lesser ones
- Kauffman Foundation: women entrepreneurs bring in 20% more revenue with 50% less money invested

# THE COLLABORATORY FOR WOMEN INNOVATORS

## HOLISTIC, STAGED, & REPLICABLE APPROACH

**Issue #1:** Research shows that women have historically been less prolific in pursuing intellectual property protections.

**Our solution:** The Collaboratory for Women Innovators will **provide entrepreneurial training to female faculty and post-doctoral fellows, focusing on re-envisioning their research for commercialization.** Programming will encourage and empower female faculty to take their discoveries through the patent process and to get their ideas to the marketplace.

- **REACH for Commercialization:** a four-part curriculum that helps female faculty and post-doctoral fellows understand the patenting process and learn the technology commercialization landscape.
- **SBIR Workshop:** teaches participants how to garner proof-of-concept funding to enable them to further develop their technologies into marketable products.

**Issue #2:** According to a study done by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, women lack short-term entrepreneurial training. Even though I-Corps and other entrepreneurial training programs exist, women do not generally self-associate as entrepreneurs and thus do not participate at the same levels as men.

**Our solution:** We will continue to offer the powerful, experiential learning program we developed in conjunction with our prior UFUC grant called Empowering Women in Technology Startups (Ewits®); **a woman-focused, hands-on experiential program teaching technology commercialization and empowerment.** Participants work as part of a team and gain valuable insights in researching and understanding a real technology, writing a real business plan, and going through a simulated exercise of creating a company. For more information, visit: [www.ewits.org](http://www.ewits.org).

**Issue #3:** Research shows that a lack of role models, mentors, and networking opportunities are barriers to entry for women pursuing entrepreneurial endeavors.

**Our solution:** Our experience in implementing the Ewits program demonstrated that while women receive mentoring and networking opportunities during the Ewits program, the time they need it the most is when they are ready to utilize their new-found knowledge and skills and apply it to their own startup pursuit. This was the genesis for the Collaboratory and its goal of providing critical, **next-stage training** through the internationally recognized Wendy Kennedy Curriculum augmented **with mentoring and networking** for maximum impact.

**Issue #4:** Communities that have a desire to change the paradigm and ensure greater inclusion in the Innovation Lifecycle lack a playbook or roadmap for doing so.

**Our solution:** We researched and **compiled best practices** from over 30 women entrepreneur centers around the U.S. Our goal for the next two years will be to use what we learned from that research to establish a successful Collaboratory for Women Innovators to serve as a **guide for other communities looking to implement greater inclusion.** We know that change starts at the local level and must be intentional. Providing communities with the framework will make it far more likely that they will come together to make change happen.

**Change requires deliberate action. Help us make change happen.**

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