



Evidence of Success in Supporting STEM Entrepreneurs Based on evaluative feedback from the AWIS National Summit Series

Description

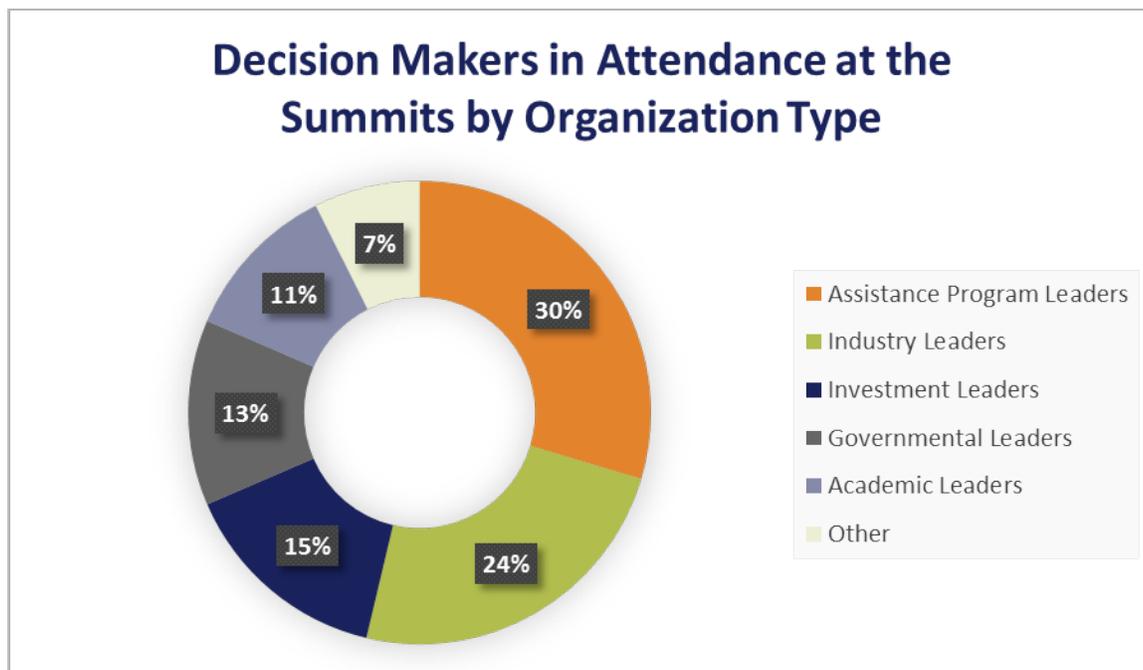
The summits are designed to establish AWIS as a thought leader in bringing together a network of influential stakeholders in constructing a well-informed roadmap toward inclusion on contemporary issues such as entrepreneurship, advanced manufacturing, and technology transfer.

To date, AWIS has held three events:

- April 2015: The Newseum, Washington, DC.
- September 2015: Oakland Marriott City Center Hotel, Oakland, CA.
- March 2016: Gleacher Center, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

Attendance

The figure below shows the decision makers who engaged in conversations about inclusion at our summits:



Impact

- Discussion of apply past research towards solutions around the topics of unconscious bias, organization leadership and workplace culture have provided participants with valuable information.
- Barriers to advancement, engagement in/incentives toward entrepreneurial activities and the value of increased diversity underscores the importance of the work that AWIS is doing related to systemic transformation.

- Our work at the Summits both as a primary and secondary effect have given AWIS the clout to develop new connections with federal funding agencies plus ongoing conversations with leadership there about data needs and how we can work with them to create more equitable grant funding decisions.
- A number of supports have been provided in ways that have helped AWIS build upon the pillar of advocacy for positive system change.
- The summits have served to showcase role models at senior levels of leadership across companies and institutions.
- Opportunities for AWIS members to expand their networking connections have been identified as positive outcomes, and sponsors have obtained business from taking advantage of these opportunities.

Qualitative Feedback from Participants

“Thank you again for extending an invitation to attend the AWIS event. It was executed so well and curated with great speakers covering relevant topics with valuable insights and information.” Potential STEM Entrepreneur

“Thank you for the great event. Some excellent insights into various aspects of the financial markets. Especially enjoyed the last panel of the day on VC.” Organizational leader from investment company

"This was a unique opportunity for us to continue our relationship with AWIS that we started last year, and for our LLNL women to network and learn about the state of entrepreneurship and innovation as it pertains to our region.” Organizational leader from national lab

“I am hoping to have a discussion with attendees about how we can take the information from the Summit on Entrepreneurship and Inclusion on September 22 in Oakland, CA and apply it to our organization. Thank you again for putting together the event.” Potential STEM Entrepreneur from national lab

“I had a great time attending the AWIS Summit -- it was so exciting and invigorating! Thanks for inviting me to attend.” Potential STEM Entrepreneur from academia

“Congratulations on a job well done—we wish you the best of luck with future AWIS summits!” Organizational leader from academia

“I really enjoyed the Summit as well. Please continue to keep me in the loop and I also hope to work again with you soon.” Governmental leader

“Thank you for including me in the event. It was a great program.” Entrepreneurship assistance program leader

“Many thanks to you and the rest of AWIS for an important and stimulating meeting. It has been great getting to know everyone and I look forward to more dialogue!” Inclusion researcher from academia

“Thank you for bringing us all together. Tremendous group and we look forward to finding ways we can work together.” Entrepreneurship assistance program leader