The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) has issued a special message encouraging research on broadening participation in entrepreneurship and innovation. In this message, NSF indicates that it seeks to understand how race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, nationality and geography and other factors relate to entrepreneurship. The message encourages investigators to develop comprehensive studies to identify frameworks to investigate interventions and phenomena related to entrepreneurship. Psychological scientists are especially well positioned to provide insights and assist in developing more knowledge on the topic.

NSF will support research in this area through its Science of Science program, which funds work that increases public value of science and scientific activities. The program supports three main areas of focus in basic research, namely how to (1) create optimal conditions for discovery, (2) improve science communication, and (3) expand the societal benefits of scientific activity.

The letter also includes examples of areas of interest, which include but are not limited to the following:

- Empirical implications of diversity on innovation
- Fostering inclusive environments within incubators
• Understanding the impact of rural vs. urban networks on STEM education and entrepreneurship
• Financial and social capital barriers to entrepreneurship
• Bias in venture capital and other sources of investment
• Mechanisms to democratize access to launching scalable businesses (e.g., use of cryptocurrencies, crowdsourcing, etc.)
• Risk tolerance among underrepresented populations
• Influence of academic entrepreneurship on the educational experience.

More information can be viewed in NSF’s “Dear Colleague Letter: Broadening Participation in STEM Entrepreneurship and Innovation (BPINNOVATE),” found here.

Do you conduct research at the intersection of psychological science and entrepreneurship? Consider applying for the Psychological Science and Entrepreneurship Poster Award at the 2021 APS Virtual Convention