Inclusive innovation updates at the USPTO

Valencia Martin Wallace
Deputy Commissioner for Patents
August 9, 2022
Patent Public Advisory Committee public meeting
Council for Inclusive Innovation (CI²)
From left: USPTO staff worked with second graders on their science and engineering projects at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science, and Technology in Alexandria, VA on April 26, 2022; Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and USPTO Director Kathi Vidal met with Urban Alliance interns at the USPTO on July 11, 2022; Legal Experience and Advancement Program proceedings at the USPTO; inventor Lonnie Johnson at a ceremony at the National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF) on May 4, 2022. (Photos by the USPTO and courtesy of the National Inventors Hall of Fame)
Innovation internship program

• Target the gap and inequalities associated with students from under resourced communities.

• Establish paid internships to provide real world experience to community college and university students.

• Emphasis on underrepresented and under resourced individuals to pursue careers in the IP/Innovation fields.
First-time filer expedited examination petition pilot

• Intended for first-time filers with micro-entity status.
• Noncontinuing, nonprovisional utility applications are eligible for pilot.
• Applicants must complete a patent basic training program.
Expansion of free legal services

• Expanding access to free or pro bono legal services
  – The USPTO’s Law School Clinic Certification Program includes over 60 participating law school clinics.
  – The USPTO also supports 21 pro bono regions across the country as part of the USPTO’s Patent Pro Bono Program.
Community outreach campaign

• USPTO employees delivering community based awareness and educational programs
  – The IP system
  – Importance of IP and innovation
Patent Public Advisory Committee public meeting
August 2022
Innovation events and resources at the USPTO
USPTO innovation & DEI resources

- **Inventor and entrepreneur resources**
  - Learn about IP protection
  - Find resources and expert help
  - Learn how to apply for a patent or trademark
  - Learn how to avoid scams and protect your IP

- **Inclusive Innovation webpage**

"We need to expand innovation inclusively, reaching people where they are with the resources to participate in our innovation ecosystem. It is the key to unleashing the potential of every American, to creating jobs, and to economic prosperity."

—KATHY VIDAL
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Today: Youth Day for student innovators, creators, and aspiring entrepreneurs

- **Inspiring students to code**
  - Learn about Congressional App Challenge
- **Participate in an interactive workshop**
  - Playtest EquiP HQ
  - Inventor trading card IQ test
- **Young inventor roundtable with Deputy Director Derrick Brent**
  - August 9, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Invention-Con 2022

- August 10 - August 12
- Inspiring and redefining the innovative mindset
- Over 1,700 registered
- Over 80 diverse speakers and moderators
- 24 panels and break-out sessions to educate innovators and storytelling to demonstrate how IP protection can be a key to success
- 23 virtual resource booths to connect attendees with services and programs that can assist innovators

To register and view the full agenda visit uspto.gov/inventioncon

Questions? inventioncon@uspto.gov
USPTO Symposium

- August 26, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET
- The symposium will:
  - Provide an overview of current approaches from leading scholars in the field
  - Build knowledge
  - Identify a community of practitioners
  - Facilitate the application of common approaches

To register and learn more, visit the events page of the USPTO website.
Closing the Gender Gap in Patenting: Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial

• Women are underrepresented as inventors on patents (see Progress and Potential 2019, 2020 reports).
  – The percentage of inventors that are women was less than 5% in 1976, rising to 13% in 2020.

• New women inventors are entering the patent system differently than men.
  – By 2019, nearly 50% of all new women inventors are filing as independent inventors or small entities.
  – This is 5% greater than for new men inventors.
Gender gap study (cont.)

- The new study analyzes the first randomized control trial at the USPTO that looked at Pro Se applicants (those without legal representatives).
  - These applicants do not have the same legal support and expertise

- In 2014 and 2015, the Pro Se pilot program set up a new examination Art Unit to provide more assistance and information about patent examination processes.

- The study finds that both men and women inventor-applicants benefited from the program, but women much more.
  - The chances of successfully receiving a patent increased by 5-6% for everyone
  - Women had an additional 11 percentage points increase relative to men

- Suggests the gender gap is partly related to access to institutional support in patent prosecution.
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Thank you!

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