

New Stand Up for Science Foundation Analysis: National Science Foundation is Closing the Door on Opportunity in Science

Politicization of funding and threats to scientific integrity are real but the restrictions on who gets to participate in science also deserve a conversation.

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, August 25, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Stand Up for Science Foundation has published a new [policy analysis blog post on its website](#), "How the National Science Foundation is Closing the Door on Opportunity in Science."



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While much of the conversation surrounding the Trump administration's changes to the scientific infrastructure focuses on losses of funding and talent, Author Irene Ngun writes that there are some far-reaching policy changes that are happening more quietly. In particular, policy changes at the National Science Foundation signal a significant regression in the decades-long progress of bringing more diversity and equity to the scientific enterprise.

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Irene Ngun, Assistant Director of Policy and Advocacy, SUFS Foundation

Ngun's blog lays out the recent policy changes that roll back protections under Title VI of the Civil Rights of 1964, removal of civil rights compliance requirements under NSF grant guidance, and specific examples of disruptions to the STEM talent pipeline.

“When we look at the NSF's policy updates to rescind civil rights protections and its dismantling of programs intended to level the playing field for women and

minorities — who have always been underrepresented as NSF grant recipients and in the scientific workforce as a whole — it becomes clear that this is a coordinated, intentional effort to narrow who can participate in science,” said Irene Ngun, Assistant Director of Policy and

Advocacy at the Stand Up for Science Foundation.

"Access to science and the ability to participate fully in its ecosystem was never equally available to people of color and minoritized communities. That is precisely why Title VI exists. Without the enforcement tools that once gave the statute practical force, we do not create a true meritocracy. We simply abandon the mechanisms that made broader participation and equal opportunity possible," [writes Ngun in the blog](#).

Ngun is available for comment.

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Stand Up for Science is a grassroots, Washington, D.C. based, non-profit organization mobilizing the fight for science and democracy. Stand Up for Science was formed in February 2025 in response to actions affecting federal science agencies and funding of the American scientific ecosystem. On March 7th, Stand Up For Science mobilized over 50,000 people at 170+ events across the world on its first National Day of Action. Federal scientists across multiple agencies (NIH, EPA, NASA, FEMA) have chosen Stand Up for Science as the platform to publish their open letters of concern. Donations to Stand Up for Science Foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable under the law. Our Federal Tax ID number is 39-3280458.

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