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the School's 50th anniversary of admitting women to its two-year MBA program. As part of that celebration, HBS hosted its first Gender & Work Symposium, an annual gathering ...

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As part of a broader effort to further the advancement of women leaders worldwide, Harvard Business School (HBS) has launched its new [Gender Initiative](#) to support research, teaching, and knowledge dissemination that promotes gender equity in

business and society. The new Initiative will be headed by [Robin Ely](#), the School's

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Initiative is to ground discussions about gender in rigorous research so that people can make better-informed decisions for themselves, their families, their companies, and their communities," Ely said. "So much of what people think they know about gender is simply not substantiated by empirical evidence but instead is based on gender stereotypes. We want to develop the Initiative so that Harvard Business School becomes the 'go-to place' on gender issues, where both researchers and practitioners can come together to find ways to advance gender equity in the workplace and help both women and men lead whole, fulfilled, and sustainable lives."

To achieve its mission, the HBS Gender Initiative will:

- Serve as a catalyst to advance knowledge about gender and work through cutting-edge research, case writing, course development, and conferences.
- Recognize that gender intersects with other axes of inequality, such as race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, religion, age, and nationality.
- Help expand women's opportunities and competencies to lead and make a difference in the world as well as challenge discrimination, stereotypes, implicit biases, and power disparities that limit both men's and women's ability to thrive.
- Facilitate cross-fertilization of ideas and support research collaborations among HBS faculty and in the broader field of gender-interested scholars and practitioners through research groups, seminars, and conferences.
- Seek to inspire, educate, and support leaders who make a difference in the world by cultivating a learning community of business leaders committed to advancing women and promoting gender equity.
- Disseminate knowledge to advance understanding of the relationships among gender, leadership and careers and to suggest practical ways to promote inclusion and equity.

“From marketing and organizational behavior to strategy, social enterprise, and

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