“Focusing on research about how women and girls learn to lead seems as crucial as any other research subject supported in higher education,” says Maria Cristina Santana, the Director of Women’s and Gender Studies as well as the Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures.

Women are huge contributors to science, Santana said. Her grant-funded work looks into leadership and girls, which she hopes will help encourage girls to pursue academia and industry and take on leadership roles. She also collaborates with several organizations that advocate for women’s rights, something especially important today.