Dr. Nimmi Kannankutty is the Deputy Division Director in the Division of Graduate Education (DGE) at the National Science Foundation (NSF). She is also a member of the federal government’s Senior Executive Service. DGE’s mission is to provide funding to support graduate students and the development of novel, innovative programs to prepare tomorrow’s leaders in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. As the deputy, Nimmi provides oversight to over $250 million in annual funding in support of this mission.

Prior to joining DGE, Nimmi was a senior advisor and researcher at the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), a federal statistical agency within NSF. Nimmi is a national expert on the highly-skilled workforce in the U.S. As a researcher in NCSES, Nimmi was responsible for the development and implementation of a series of national surveys of the U.S. science and engineering workforce.

The data from these surveys form the basis for a series of legislatively mandated reports on the state of science and engineering and on the status of women, minorities and persons with disabilities in STEM. Her publications cover science and engineering education, demographic profiles of scientists and engineers, research and development trends, and methodological research on these topics.