Why So Few? Fixing the Dearth of Women ir Science

## Percent degrees to Women 1991-2010



Percent degrees to Women 1991-2010


## Percent degrees to Women 1991-2010



## Percent degrees to Women 1991-2010



Percent Bachelor's degrees to URM Women 1991-2010


Percent STEM degrees to URM Women 1991-2010


## Attrition between B.S. and Ph.D. degrees

Bachelor's Degrees, 1966-2004

## 56\% $\rightarrow$ 45\% All fields



Figure 7. Percent of PhDs earned by women in selected fields


National Science Foundation. Compiled by AIP Statistical I

## Attrition between B.S. and Ph.D. degrees

Bachelor's Degrees, 1966-2004

$$
47 \% \rightarrow 28 \% \text { Math }
$$



Figure 7. Percent of PhDs earned by women in selected fields


National Science Foundation. Compiled by AIP Statistical

## Attrition between B.S. and Ph.D. degrees

Bachelor's Degrees, 1966-2004

$$
43 \% \rightarrow 33 \% \text { Chemistry }
$$



Figure 7. Percent of PhDs earned by women in selected fields


National Science Foundation. Compiled by AIP Statistical

## Attrition between B.S. and Ph.D. degrees

Bachelor's Degrees, 1966-2004
19\% $\rightarrow$ 15\% Physics


Figure 7. Percent of PhDs earned by women in selected fields


## Differential Attrition



Percent


AIP Statistical Research Center

## Differential Attrition




AIP Statistical Research Center

## Why Diversity?

- Excellence of science
- Fairness/justice
- It's a great life!
- Taxpayers support science, so should benefit equally
- Health of science profession
- More scientifically literate (broad) public
- $\Rightarrow$ more public support of science
- Workforce needs

Why do Women and Under-represented Minorities lag behind parity?

- Statistical career disparities
- Long 2001, Sonnert \& Holton 1996, Egan \& Bendick 1994, Tesch et al. 1995, MIT Report+
- Not ability, interest, effort
- Seymour \& Hewitt 1990s, Xie \& Shauman 2003, NRC's 2006 "Beyond Bias and Barriers" study
- Not family issues
- Not conscious discrimination, overt prejudice

Why do Women and Under-represented Minorities lag behind parity?

- "Gender schemas" Virginia Valian, Why so slow? The Advancement of Women
- Lower expectations for women
- Uneven evaluation ("unconscious bias") Wenneras \& Wold 1997, Paludi \& Bauer 1983, Budden+ 2008
- Accumulation of disadvantage
$\rightarrow$ Tilted playing field


## The Objectivity of Science ...



Biernat, Manis \& Nelson 1991 - height Porter \& Geis 1981 - leaders at table Butler \& Geis 1990, Geis+ - speaker/leader evaluation Dovidio et al. 1988 - eye gaze

## Uneven Evaluation

- Heilman et al. 2004 - rating asst. VPs Women can be friendly or competent, not both
- Norton, Vandello \& Darley 2004 - rating resumes for construction job
- Uhlman \& Cohen 2005 - shifting criteria and (non)objectivity
- Heilman 1980 - critical mass is $\sim 30 \%$

Valian annotated bibliography: http:// www.hunter.cuny.edu/genderequity/repository/ files/equity-materials/annobib.pdf

Moss-Raucusin, Handelsman, et al. 2012 PNAS

- 63 male, 64 female science faculty - physics, chemistry, biology
- 6 research universities: 3 private, 3 public
- CV of graduating senior looking for job as lab manager - "John" or "Jennifer"
- Both men and women:
- See the male candidate as more competent
- Were more likely to hire and mentor him
- Starting salaries ~ \$30k for him, \$26k for her


## Are you objective?

Mahzarin Banaji: implicit.harvard.edu

## Sanbonmatsu, Akimoto \& Gibson 1994 (Evaluation of failing students)



XKCD wisdom at xkcd.com

## Women lack math ability ...

- Stereotype threat: performing below ability because of expectations
- Example: "hard" math test
- Men: 25/100
- Women: 10/100
- Gender gap in math?
- "This test has been designed to be gender neutral"
- Women: 20/100
- Men: 20/100
- Important for minority students


## 11 Steps to Success for Young Women

1. Work hard (at something you love)
2. Do interesting, high impact work
3. (If) uneven playing field - don't be discouraged
4. Reject "lower standards"
5. Mentor up, down, and sideways
6. Network w WiS: find allies, take turns leading
7. Use your first \& last names
8. Prepare an "elevator speech"
9. Practice confidence after brushing
10. Give great talks
11. Own your ambition

# Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics at Yale (CUWPY) 



## 5 Steps for Leaders

1. Learn about bias www.hunter.cuny.edu/genderequity/ equityMaterials/Feb2008/annobib.pdf implicit.harvard.edu

## Beyond Bias and Barriers (NRC Study)

2. Do job searches UW hiring kit
3. Validate women speakers, job candidates, colleagues Introductions, appointments
4. Mentor
5. Equate diversity with excellence

## Back-up slides

## Reasons for Disparities?

- Not family "Do Babies Matter?"Mason \& Goulden 2002 - Women w/o children not more successful
- Many women in other demanding fields
- Countries w strong support systems (e.g., Scandinavia) have few women in physics
- Academic careers flexible: become a professor, have a family!
- In Praise of Daycare, 2009 January STATUS newsletter

2006 NAS Study: Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering

1. Statistics (U.S.)
2. Learning and performance
$\rightarrow$ No intrinsic difference could possibly lead to observed gender gap
3. Persistence and Attrition
4. Evaluation of success implicit bias
5. Strategies that work

Undergraduate Carnegie Mellon
Hiring faculty U. Washington toolkit
Training women faculty CoaCH
ADVANCE CRLT players
6. Institutional structures, career paths
7. Recommendations

## Letters of Recommendation

- Trix \& Penska 2003 - letters for a prestigious medical fellowship
- Length
- Specificity
- Superlatives v. "grindstone" adjectives
- Doubt
- Explicit mention of gender, personality, family
- (Tenure letters: women re women)


## Coaching (Mentoring)



Tony DeCicco, U.S. women's soccer coach Boston Globe, June 18, 1999

# When job searches are gender-blind ... 

...works for

## blind audition...

orchestras, writers, abstracts, resumes ...

See story of Munich Philharmonic trombonist (Abby Conant)

## There aren't any good women to hire?

- Jane Doe
- John Doe
- Keisha Doe
- Jamal Doe
(Research shows name strongly affects success of resume, even among psychologists who are well aware of gender schemas.)


## More women are earning science and engineering PhDs



## Career Disparities

- Long 2001
- Sonnert \& Holton 1996
- Synthetic cohorts, e.g., NSF fellows - career advancement of women slower
- Egan \& Bendick 1994, Tesch et al. 1995, MIT Report, 1999
- Salary and resource disparities


## Reasons for Disparities?

- Xie \& Shauman 2003 - interest not correlated with ability in science
- Seymour \& Hewitt studies 1990s persistence in science not correlated with ability


Women in Astronomy I
Space Telescope Science Institute
1992


Baltimore Charter for Women in Astronomy

