

## Special Interest Articles:

- UNL uses ADVANCE-Nebraska to attract more women to STEM fields
- Grant Writing Seminar March 16
- Women Role Models Produce Educational Gains for Young Girls

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## UNL uses ADVANCE-Nebraska to attract more women to STEM fields

January 30, 2012, *Daily Nebraskan*, By [Jacy Marmaduke](#)

Mary Anne Holmes can summarize the necessity for women in the STEM fields in a sentence: Diversity equals excellence. But the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has yet to achieve diversity in the

science, technology, engineering and math fields, according to Holmes, a professor of practice in Earth and Atmospheric Science. Women make up about 25 to 30 percent of the mathematics and bioscience department faculties, but the numbers only decrease from there. Departments like

biochemistry and geosciences have less than 25 percent female staff. And some departments, like construction management, have no female faculty members at all. That's where ADVANCE-Nebraska comes in. [Read the full article.](#)

## Grant Writing Seminar March 16

The UNL Office of Research and Economic Development will offer a grant writing seminar, "Write Winning Grants," March 16, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., in the Nebraska Union auditorium. The seminar comprehensively addresses both practical and conceptual aspects important to the proposal

writing process and emphasizes idea development, identification of appropriate granting agencies, and tips and strategies of proven value in presenting an applicant's case to reviewers. David Morrison, co-founder of Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops LLC will lead the session.

This free seminar is primarily for UNL faculty. Other UNL staff, postdoctoral research fellows and graduate students are welcome to attend without charge as space allows.

Advance registration is required and available [online.](#)

## Study finds Women Role Models Produce Educational Gains for Young Girls

WIA Report, January 24, 2012  
A study published in the January 12 issue of the journal *Science* finds that the use of gender quotas for public offices can have a positive impact on the educational aspirations and achievements of young girls who live in the

communities where they have women role models. The study examined 500 villages in India, a third of which were required by law of have a woman on the village council. The study found that in the villages with a female leader, the gender gap in educational aspirations

was significantly reduced for parents and young women. [Read the full article.](#)






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## Join Us: Take the pledge for the Female role model Campaign

The **Female Role Model Campaign** empowers women and girls in every school in the country to see themselves as engineers, electricians, surgeons and welders, and to inspire them to pursue careers that they may never have even dreamed of. In 2012, we pledge to take the first step by bringing examples of female role models to 2,012 schools throughout the country.

### ***What's at stake***

For women to be in a position to support their families they need to have the freedom to choose career paths that provide them with unlimited potential. Many believe that women bring a different perspective to technology and science, and that their perspective would help solve problems and make the United States more competitive. [Pledge here.](#)

## US Labor Dept and National Equal Pay Task Force Launch equal pay application development challenge

**WASHINGTON** — Seeking novel ways to eliminate the gender gap in pay, the U.S. Department of Labor and its federal agency partners on the National Equal Pay Task Force today announced a contest for creating software applications that use the department's data to promote equal pay for men and women.

The Equal Pay App Challenge calls on developers to use publicly available data and resources to create innovative, easy-to-use apps that educate users about the pay gap and provide tools to combat it. The apps should improve the accessibility of pay data broken down by gender, race and ethnicity, and provide coaching on early career pay, pay negotiation or career mentorship. More information, including a complete list of the contest's rules and requirements, is available at <http://www.challenge.gov/labor>.

## America needs more Geeks: How to make Science Cool

*TIME Ideas, December 24, 2011 by Annie MurphyPaul*

A white lab coat. An unsmiling expression. Thick glasses and unkempt hair. In one hand, a device replete with dials and gauges; in the other, a beaker bubbling over with a toxic-looking liquid.

This image, which owes more to the movies than to the laboratory, is nevertheless what many students think of when they hear the word "scientist." It shows up with striking regularity, for example, in the [drawings](#) made by a class of seventh graders from Illinois who were asked their impressions of the scientific profession. The captions underneath their pictures tell the same story: "When I think of a scientist I think of brainy and very weird people," wrote a boy named James. "I think of lots of bottles with chemicals . . . I think of little gadgets that are used for things that I do not know what they are." There's a lot that students don't know about scientists, an information gap that must be filled if they're to imagine a future in science for themselves. Addressing the country's shortfall of students in the STEM disciplines (science, engineering, technology and mathematics) begins with persuading students that scientists are people, too. [Read more.](#)

## Issues for Women in STEM

There will be a brown bag lunch on Tuesday, February 21 from Noon – 1:00pm in 114 Othmer Hall to discuss issues affecting women in STEM. All faculty are invited to attend.

