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ADVANCE-Nebraska E-News

Advancing Women, Advancing STEM

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Contact Us

Mary Anne Holmes
ADVANCE-Nebraska
Director
21 Canfield Admin
68588-0433
402.472.5211
402.472.6276 (fax)



Bias, Bias Everywhere

by [Sean Carroll](#)

Discover Magazine

Admitting that [scientists demonstrate gender bias](#) shouldn't make us forget that other kinds of bias exist, or that people other than scientists exhibit them. In a couple of papers ([one](#), [two](#)), Katherine Milkman, Modupe Akinola, and Dolly Chugh have investigated [how faculty members responded to email requests from prospective students](#) asking

for a meeting. The names of the students were randomly shuffled, and chosen to give some implication that the students were male or female, and also whether they were Caucasian, Black, Hispanic, Indian, or Chinese. And the inquiries most likely to receive positive responses were the ones that came from ... white males! You should pause a minute to collect yourself after hearing this shocking news. Here are the fractions of students who

didn't even get a response to their emails, and the fractions who were turned down for a meeting. (Biases aside, can you believe that over half of the prospective students who asked for a meeting were turned down?)

[Read the full article.](#)

(Be sure to visit the two peer-reviewed articles this story mentions.)

Today's Faculty: Stressed, Focused on Teaching, and Undeterred by Long Odds

By Dan Berrett

Chronicle of Higher Education

Faculty members are feeling stressed out and strapped for time to teach, according to a national survey being released on Wednesday. At the same time, the survey found, many of the most economically vulnerable members of the professoriate remain

improbably hopeful about their career prospects. *As the economy slowly mends and statehouses adopt austere budgets, colleges, particularly public ones, continue to struggle with the ramifications of tight finances. Professors are reporting that they feel the stress. And, as part-timers who are not on the tenure track make up a growing share*

of the faculty, they express conflicted views about their job prospects. Many recognize that the chances of landing a full-time job are slim, while also seeing their position as a gateway to a career.

[Read the full article.](#)

Why STEM Fields Still Don't Draw More Women

October 29, 2012

Chronicle of Higher Education

There have been many efforts in recent years to draw more women into STEM fields. While women have made gains, they are still far less likely than men to major in such fields, especially engineering and computer science. Why? We asked a group of scholars and experts to respond.

Robin N. Coger, Dean, College of Engineering, and professor of mechanical engineering, North Carolina A&T State University.

The Chronicle's audience is undoubtedly aware of the wealth of data available on this issue. Hence my response gives a perspective based on my cumulative experiences over the last 30 years as a female engineering student, a mechanical-engineering educator, and an engineering

administrator. Our university's College of Engineering awards more bachelor-of-science degrees in engineering to African-Americans than any other university in the United States, and is a leading producer of female African-American engineers, according to 2010-11 data from the American Society for Engineering Education.

[Read the full article.](#)

Post Doc Funding Opportunity



At the Institute for Broadening Participation (supported by NSF and NASA) we are gearing up for our reminder to students and their mentors about post doctoral openings. As you know, IBP is dedicated to helping students successfully pursue careers in the sciences-- particularly underrepresented students. We post openings on http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/Postdocs_portal.asp at www.pathwaystoscience.org, and contact several thousand students from our student directory to remind them to apply for appropriate openings.

To post a new opening that is not yet listed, or any changes to current listings you can fill out our online program form here: <http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/programform.asp>

You can see all the listings we have for your institution here: <http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/Institution.asp?sort=Institution&subsort=UNebraska>

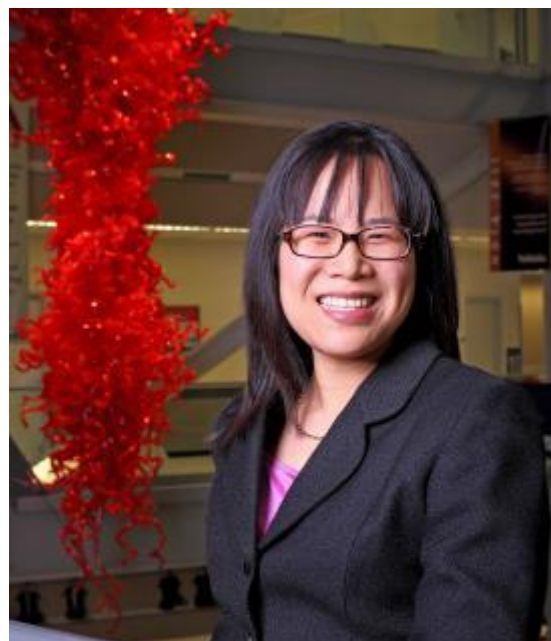
If you're not sure whether your opportunity should be posted, first please read our posting criteria: <http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/whatwepost.asp>

Please feel free to contact us through the update form or by emailing me directly. We try to get the word out in general announcements to faculty, staff and students as well as reminders to students to apply over the next few weeks before the holiday season. Soliciting your updates is the first step in that process.

Thank you for helping us get accurate information out to members of the academy.

Sandra Thomas, Executive Director Emeritus, Senior Administrator
Institute for Broadening Participation www.pathwaystoscience.org;
www.ibparticipation.org email: sthomas@ibparticipation.org;
sthomas@umich.edu Phone: 866-593-9103

500 Fifth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202.334.2872
Fax: 202.207.9464
Email: infofell@nas.edu



Wang helps NASA advance sonic boom research

From Today @UNL

Research by Lily Wang, associate professor of architectural engineering with UNL's Durham School, was featured Oct. 18 on Science Daily. Funded by NASA, Wang's work with graduate student Christopher Ainley explored how noise bursts affect the performance and perceptions of test subjects.

[Continue reading...](#)

Have an article or news item of interest about women in STEM Fields you'd like to share? We'd like to hear about it! Send your article to advance2@unl.edu.

Special thanks this week to Paul Black, Biochemistry, for supplying an article! Thank you, Paul!