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Advancing Women, Advancing STEM

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Scholarly Publishing's Gender Gap
Robin Wilson
Chronicle of Higher Education

...Scholarly publishing, more than anything else, is the measuring stick of professors’ research productivity. In the humanities, it’s usually the monograph. But in the hard sciences and in many social sciences, it’s journal articles. To be hired on the tenure track in those fields by a top research university, young scholars increasingly must have publications on their CV's by the time they finish their doctoral degrees. And once they are hired, more publications in leading journals typically are required to be promoted at every step along the way to full professor. "When I went to get my first job, I had a sole-authored paper in a very good journal,” says Shelley J. Correll, who started her academic career as an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 2001. "I think that article is what undoubtedly got me that first job. And it's even more common now for students to have that."

Read the full article.

Women And STEM Careers: How Microsoft Is Building A Bridge To Future Innovation -- One Girl At A Time
Lisa Quast
Forbes

An unusual job paradox has occurred in the United States. The U.S. continues to face high unemployment rates (7.8% as of September 2012) yet American companies cannot find enough workers to fill all the available STEM positions. According to the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy research organization based in Washington DC, “American companies urgently need professionals trained in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, but there are not enough workers with the necessary skills and too few Americans earn post-secondary STEM credentials.”

Companies are beginning to target women for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) because women are currently tremendously under-represented in these areas.

Read the full article.

Male-Female Pay Gap Persists and Starts Early
Robin Wilson
Chronicle of Higher Education

Nearly 50 years after the Equal Pay Act of 1963 was enacted, women continue to earn less than men do throughout their careers, and the gap is seen as soon as one year out of college, a new study has found.

In the study, researchers with the American Association of University

Women looked at the earnings of female and male college graduates who were working full time in 2009 (the most recent year for which data were available), one year after they graduated. According to a report describing the study, "Graduating to a Pay Gap," the researchers found that, after controlling for factors such as college major, occupation, and number of hours worked, women's pay was 82 percent of their male counterparts' pay one year after graduation.
Christianne M. Corbett, a senior researcher at the AAUW and a co-author of the report, said her organization had been tracking the pay gap for decades, but it was hard to compare women and men in the work force because of different choices they might make in their careers.

Read the full article.
"From the delightful Dear Professor Einstein: Albert Einstein’s Letters to and from Children comes the following exchange between Einstein and a bright, witty South African girl named Tyfanny, who reminded Einstein of his own granddaughter and with whom he exchanged several letters despite being at the height of his career and cultural prominence.

In a letter dated September 19, 1946, Tyfanny writes:

I forgot to tell you, in my last letter, that I was a girl. I mean I am a girl. I have always regretted this a great deal, but by now I have become more or less resigned to the fact. Anyway, I hate dresses and dances and all the kind of rot girls usually like. I much prefer horses and riding. Long ago, before I wanted to become a scientist, I wanted to be a jockey and ride horses in races. But that was ages ago, now. I hope you will not think any the less of me for being a girl!

Sometime between September and October 1946 — a snappy response time by the day’s standards — Einstein replies:

I do not mind that you are a girl, but the main thing is that you yourself do not mind. There is no reason for it."


COACH wants to hear your voice!

"COACH: Assisting in the success and impact of women scientists and engineers" is conducting a childcare and family survey. Their website is: http://coach.uoregon.edu/coach/index.php

COACH is a great organization - a few of you might have taken one of their workshops for women at an American Chemical Society or some other meetings. Here's the info:

We need your voice! Right now is a critical time for Childcare and Family Issues for Women Scientists. The number of working families has increased and the need for childcare has become a national conversation.

Let your voice be heard by taking the COACH Childcare and Family Survey: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/childcareCOACh

Help us to learn more about how academic institutions and departments are handling childcare/parent care and what you feel is important to you!

http://coach.uoregon.edu/coach/index.php?id=97

As of September 4, 2012 applications are accepted for the 2013 Ford Diversity Fellowships Program for Achieving Excellence in College and University Teaching. Full eligibility information and online applications are available on our website at: http://nationalacademies.org/ford

Eligibility Requirements:
- U.S. Citizen or National
- Planning a career in teaching and research at the college or university level in a research-based field of Science, social science or humanities

Stipends and Allowances:
- Predoctoral -- $20,000 to the fellow, institutional allowance of $2,000 for three years
- Dissertation -- $21,000 for one year
- Postdoctoral -- $40,000 for one year, $1,500 employing institution allowance, to be matched by employing institution

Awardees have expenses paid to attend one Conference of Ford Fellows.

Approximately 60 predoctoral, 35 dissertation, and 20 postdoctoral fellowships sponsored by the Ford Foundation and administered by the National Research Council of the National Academies.

Application Deadline Dates:
- Predoctoral: November 14, 2012
- Dissertation: November 19, 2012
- Postdoctoral: November 19, 2012

For Further information please contact: Fellowships Office, Keck 576 National Research Council of The National Academies

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