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# ADVANCE-Nebraska E-News

Advancing Women, Advancing STEM

## Special Interest Articles:

- Girls Lead in Science Exam, but Not in the United States
- Let's Give Girls a Chance to Succeed in STEM
- Girls and Science: A Dream Deferred

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## Girls Lead in Science Exam, but Not in the United States

From *The New York Times, Science*  
By *Hannah Fairfield*  
February 4, 2012

For years — and especially since 2005, when Lawrence H. Summers, then president of Harvard, made his notorious comments about women's aptitude — researchers have been searching for ways to explain why there are so

many more men than women in the top ranks of science. Now comes an intriguing clue, in the form of a test given in 65 developed countries by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. It finds that among a representative sample of 15-year-olds around the world, girls generally outperform boys in science — but not in the

United States. What explains the gap? Andreas Schleicher, who oversees the tests for the O.E.C.D., says different countries offer different incentives for learning science and math. In the United States, he said, boys are more likely than girls to "see science as something that affects their life."

[Read the full article.](#)

## Let's Give Girls a Chance to Succeed in STEM

From the *Huffington Post*  
By [Idit Harel Caperton](#)  
January 30, 2013

There is a digital divide threatening the future of girls in this country. Three of the top ten "Best Jobs of 2013" are in the computing field, according to *US News and World Reports*, yet [women make up just 25 percent](#) of the labor force in science, technology, engineering

and math-based (STEM) jobs. With all projections pointing to STEM-sector jobs continuing to grow at a higher-than-average rate, today's young women cannot occupy just the fringes of the field. With college-educated women outnumbering college-educated men, why does such inequality plague STEM-based professions? From what I hear in my work as an

an antiquated cultural myth still exists that girls are inherently uncomfortable with computing, math and science. Research shows this myth is perpetuated by the limited number of female role models present in computing careers, and the prevalence of computing curricula that do not appeal to girls. The consequence: The national average of female enrollment in computing electives is 20-25 percent, despite studies showing that 74 percent of teen girls [are interested in STEM](#). [Read the full article.](#)

## Girls and Science: A Dream Deferred

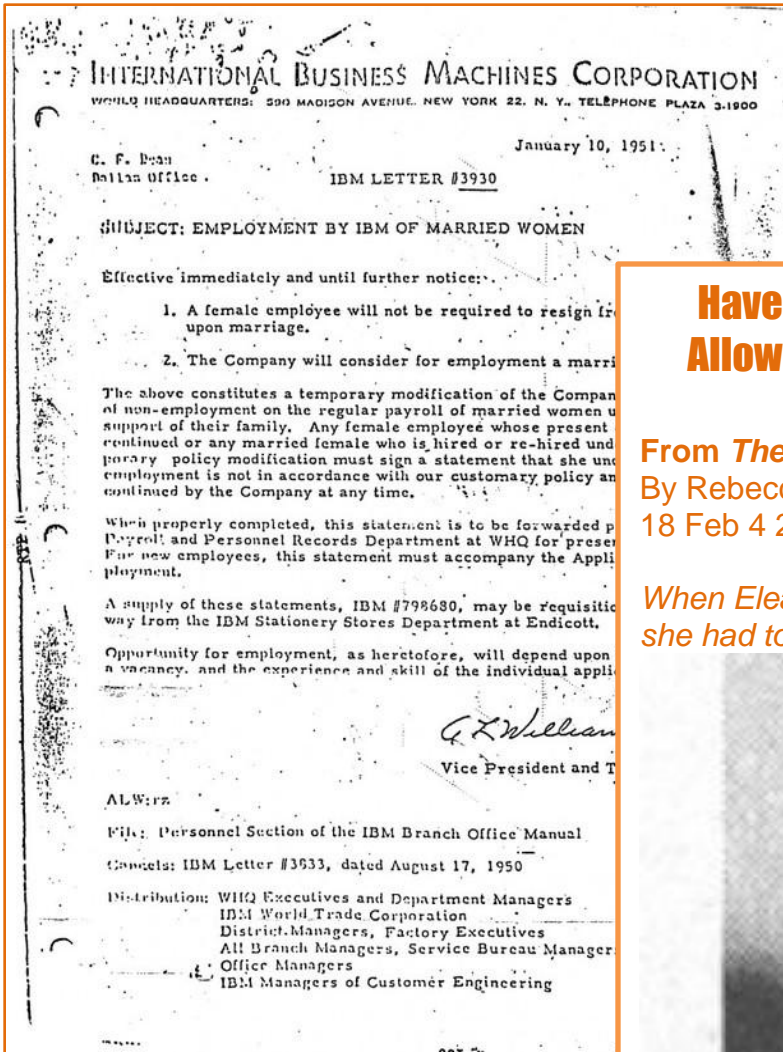
From *edutopia*  
*January 31, 2013*  
*This blog post is an excerpt from [Save Our Science: How To Inspire a New Generation of Scientists](#) by Ainissa Ramirez (TED Books).*

Even though girls and boys sit next to each other in class, only 26 percent of STEM bachelor's degrees go to women. By

allowing and encouraging society's message to girls that they are bad at these subjects, we're drastically reducing the number of our potential doctors, engineers, designers and computer scientists. Given the growing importance of STEM in the global economy, failing to nurture girls in these disciplines is dangerous for our country.

The data also shows that the difference among graduates is not due to girls' ability to do math and science; instead, the gender gap is caused by attitudes and behaviors toward girls and women, especially in the classroom. Recently, the [American Association of University Women](#) spelled out the STEM ecosystem for girls in its report titled [Why So Few?](#) [Read the full article.](#)

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



### Have you seen the Internal Memo That Allowed IBM's Female Employees to Get Married?

From *The Atlantic*  
 By Rebecca J. Rosen  
 18 Feb 4 2013

*When Eleanor Kolchin worked at IBM in the late 1940s she had to keep her marriage a secret.*



Eleanor Kolchin/Huffington Post

In 1946, Eleanor Kolchin's father came home with the news that IBM was hiring mathematicians. Kolchin was a math major and had already sent out application for a math Master's degree, in the hopes that she might someday become a teacher. She decided to send IBM a letter as well, and pretty soon she had her first full-time job. Kolchin, who is now 86, recently recalled those early days of the computing industry in a [fascinating interview with the Huffington Post's Bianca Bosker](#). Women, in those days, were seen as temporary hires, holding a spot for a man, which she would relinquish if she got married. Kolchin herself got married, but did so "on the sly."

[Read the full story in \*The Atlantic!\*](#)

Women anticipate social backlash more often than men when negotiating for higher pay, according to a new study in the March 2013 edition of the *Psychology of Women Quarterly*. [Click here](#) to read the full article and see the authors' recommendations for practice and policy.

U. of British Columbia Gives 2% Raises to All Female Profs to remedy gender gap  
[Read the full story @ Inside Higher Ed](#)