



Non-Traditional Careers

are those in which fewer than 25%
of the workplace are of one gender.



Pros of Non-Traditional Careers

- Following your dream
- Receiving recognition
- Opening doors for others
- Earning higher pay



Cons of Non-Traditional Careers

- Lack of mentors
- Little support from family, friends, teachers
- Negative feelings from co-workers
- Physical demands



Encouraging Girls in Math and Science

“Teachers play a critical role—not only in terms of the math and science content that they teach but also in the explicit and implicit messages that teachers communicate about effort and ability.”

Professor Jon Star, educational psychologist, Harvard School of Education



Problems

- Girls score more poorly on high-pressure, timed tests while performing well on assignments.
- Girls underestimate their math/science abilities.
- Girls lack confidence in their math/science ability which leads to less interest.



Strategies

- Encourage a strong self-concept.
- Teach students that math/science abilities can be improved over time with effort.
- Relate how math/science is important in their future.
- Connect math/science with humanitarian goals



Strategies

- Give informative feedback focusing on strategies, effort, and the learning process.
- Provide female role models; avoid gender stereotyping.



What we're doing

- Math Club/Math Week activities to encourage interest and show relevancy
- “In Her Own Words” videos, NT Career Fair presenters for exposure to role models
- Recruitment of females to attend Parkland IT and computer Open Houses, U. of I. Engineering Open House
- Staff development to increase awareness of gender bias



What we can do

- Check materials for gender bias.
- Be alert for harassment, ridicule.
- Create a supportive school and classroom climate.
- Educate parents.



Sources

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