AAUW PROGRAM IN A BOX

WHY SO FEW?

AAUW | BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS

AT A GLANCE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics profiles eight research findings that point to environmental and social barriers that continue to block women's participation and progress in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Use this Program in a Box to focus on these barriers and share ideas on how each of us can help open scientific and engineering fields more fully to girls and women.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

AAUW branches and states, local parent-teacher organizations, school boards, after-school groups, school administrators, college administrators or faculty, employers, guidance counselors, or any other group interested in opening more opportunities for girls and women in STEM fields

PROGRAM FORMAT

PowerPoint presentation

TIME CONSIDERATIONS

Time frame: Any time or season

Estimated presentation time: 25 minutes or an hour (there are two versions)

RESOURCES NEEDED

Advertising: Flyers, newspaper or newsletter ads

Budget: Photocopying costs

Equipment: Computer, data projector, and screen are ideal but not necessary

Handouts: PowerPoint presentation printout, AAUW membership brochure

Space: A room with chairs

Speakers or consultants: One presenter

Supplies: Computer stand or table, extension cord, extra chairs

BENEFITS TO YOUR STATE, BRANCH, OR COMMUNITY

- Increases visibility for your branch or state as a community leader and advocate for girls and women in scientific fields
- Helps establish new community partnerships and opportunities for raising funds in the business community
- Offers parents and teachers strategies for supporting girls and women in STEM fields
- Offers policymakers strategies to attract and retain girls and women in STEM fields
- Helps expand membership recruitment opportunities

PROGRAM DETAILS

WHY SO FEW?

In an era when women are increasingly prominent in medicine, law, and business, why are so few women scientists and engineers? AAUW's 2010 research report *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics* presents in-depth yet accessible profiles of eight research findings that point to environmental and social barriers—including stereotypes, gender bias, and the climate of science and engineering departments in colleges and universities—that continue to block women's participation and progress in science, technology, engineering, and math. The report also includes up-to-date statistics on girls' and women's achievements and participation in these areas and offers ideas for what each of us can do to open scientific and engineering fields more fully to girls and women.

This program can be used as a stand-alone presentation or as part of a longer program or meeting.

Download one or both of the presentations listed below. You can customize both presentations and scripts.

- A comprehensive one-hour PowerPoint presentation with script
- A 25-minute PowerPoint presentation with script

Read the notes on each slide and customize the presentation to fit your needs by editing the notes and removing or reorganizing slides as you think best suits the occasion and time frame.

Hook up your computer to a projector or copy the presentation to a thumb drive and load it onto a computer hooked up to a projector at the location of your presentation.

If you don't have a projector and computer, print copies of the slides and give them to audience members. (This is a useful addition to your presentation regardless, as it will help the audience retain and share the *Why So Few?* research findings.)

Don't forget to emphasize that AAUW has long focused on creating opportunities for girls and women in science and engineering fields, including awarding fellowships and grants in these areas. In fact in 1920, AAUW members from Maine to California helped raise $156,413 to enable Marie Curie to purchase one gram of radium to continue her experiments. Through her work, Curie launched the field of nuclear chemistry and won two Nobel Prizes—one in physics in 1903 and one in chemistry in 1911. AAUW's support seems even more remarkable when you consider that $156,413 in 1920 would be $1.7 million today.

INCORPORATE MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Membership matters! Help grow the AAUW community by inviting prospective members to your event and encouraging them to join AAUW. Visit the membership campaign website to learn more.

If your event involves college and university faculty or students or is held on a campus, invite schools that are not yet AAUW college/university partner members to join AAUW and offer their students the benefits that go with AAUW membership. All students attending a C/U partner-member institution are eligible to join AAUW for free as an e-student. For more information visit the college/university partner recruitment web page.

TOOLS

WHY SO FEW? TOOLS

- *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics* report
- *Why So Few?* flyer (in the tool kit)
- *Why So Few?* media references
- *Why So Few?* press release (in the tool kit)

PROGRAMS-IN-A-BOX TOOL KIT

Includes forms, checklists, and templates that you can modify and adapt for your program or event

- Attendee sign-in form
- Event evaluation form
- Event planning checklist
- Event registration form
- Photograph release form
- Sample time line

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT TOOLS

- Individual members
- AAUW college/university partner members

CONTACTS

- For questions or information about this Program in a Box, contact connect@aauw.org or 800/326-2289.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

SUGGESTED READING

- *Shielding Students from Stereotype Threat: A Guide for s* (2009), from the Laurel School Center for Research on Girls
- *Women in STEM: A Gender Gap to Innovation* (2011), from the U.S. Department of Commerce
- See also the bibliography in *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*