

NEWSLETTER

March 2023

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



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Happy Women's History Month!
The Office of Academic Advising proudly honors all the women advisors of Messiah University who continue to serve as an inspiration of strength, wisdom, and empowerment to our student body.



Important dates

- ✓ March 4-12: Spring Break
- ✓ March 12: Daylight Saving Time
- ✓ March 15-17: 2023 NACADA Regional Conference
- ✓ March 17: St. Patrick's Day
- ✓ March 21: Spring Advising Workshop
- ✓ March 27-31: Advising Week

Article Review

Working with Women to STEMulate Interest

Author: Stephanie Soto | Article link [here](#)

Reviewed by Samie Tan

Research shows that there are disproportionately fewer female students taking up science, technology, engineering, and mathematics courses, or what is known as STEM, than their male counterparts. Only 20% of female students earn their bachelor's degrees in STEM fields and even with women's interest in these fields, these disparities persist.

In this article, Stephanie Soto from Florida International University talks about the importance of analyzing the factors that influence how female students choose their majors. One factor is gender role stereotypes for particular careers. "Female students feel they will not be valued in these domains (STEM), or even be discriminated against". These assumptions, according to Soto, are called social identity threats, and academic advisors can play a role in addressing these assumptions to encourage more female students to take up STEM courses. Social Identity threats are correlated with four factors, environment, familial influence, mentorship, and self-efficacy.

Universities that discourage women to participate in a class or allow comments that are derogatory or ridicule women's perceptions, create an environment for women that makes them feel diffident. Academic advisors should strive to "foster a supportive learning environment" by being more attentive to situational cues that make female students feel singled out and address them. Soto also points out that "Learning about our own biases" will help address this social identity threat.

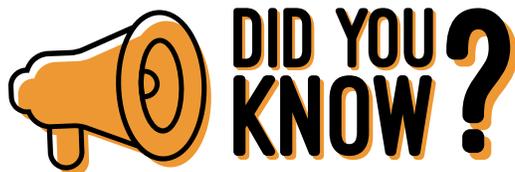
Helping female students identify female role models that have become successful in the STEM field is helpful in breaking the

gender stereotype around these courses. "(A) Mentor is the greatest evidence that the student will be successful in the field". Creating an on-campus community for female STEM students is also another way to help them get connected to mentors, like female faculty and staff members."

College students naturally want to follow in the footsteps of their parents, "Research shows there are strong links between a college student's major and their parents' educational attainment and socio-economic status", therefore it is helpful for universities and advisors to accurately recruit graduating high school students to help students learn about the STEM field and spark interest in them. Emphasizing the broader applications of STEM degrees in helping society also helps and has proven to attract more female students.

Guiding female students to think more positively about their abilities is also another way advisors can get female students into the STEM field. According to research, "women are more likely to assess their abilities more negatively than men", therefore they have a preconceived idea that they will perform badly pursuing a degree in STEM. Motivating students that show low self-efficacy and discussing class expectations and grade averages is effective in helping them gain self-confidence as "women tend to hold themselves to a higher standard in traditionally male fields like STEM".

With Advisors actively working to get more female students to pursue a degree in STEM, we can ensure a more diverse scientific community in the future.



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The first Women's History day was held in 1909 in New York City. It commemorated the one-year anniversary of the garment workers' strikes when 15,000 women marched through lower Manhattan.

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Office of Academic Advising

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Important Updates

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Verse of the Month

Proverbs 31:30

"Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised,"

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