**Why Do We Still Need Women’s Centers?**

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**Education**
- Women now make up the majority of college students, but still lag behind men in earning doctoral and professional degrees.¹
- There are fewer women in math and science (receiving, for example, only 18% of undergraduate engineering degrees and 12% of doctoral engineering degrees), due in large part to the hostile environment many face in these fields.²
- In many departments, women still feel that the university climate is not supportive of their success i.e. they get less attention, feedback and encouragement from teachers than male students get, and at times face outright incivility in their classes. A study found that women applying for a research grant needed to be 2.5 times more productive than men in order to be considered equally competent.³
- Schools are eliminating affirmative action programs responsible for increasing access to higher education for women, particularly women of color.⁴

**Athletics**
- While slightly more than half of the students in NCAA schools are women, they receive only 44% of the athletic participation opportunities.⁵
- Female athletes at the typical Division I-FBS school receive roughly: 28% of the total money spent on athletics, 31% of the dollars spent to recruit new athletes; and 42% of the total athletic scholarship dollars.⁶
- In 2008, only 43% of coaches of women’s teams were women. In 1972, the number was over 90 percent.⁷
- In Division I-FBS, typical expenditures on football alone (over $12 million) exceed the typical total expenditures for women's sports (over $8 million).⁸

**Science, Technology, Engineering and Math**
- Women receive 45% of bachelor’s degrees in mathematics, 21% of bachelor’s degrees in physics, and 20% of bachelor’s degrees in engineering.⁹
- The highest median starting salaries for college graduates are in the fields of computer science & engineering, fields that have the lowest percentage of women.¹⁰
- In computer and information sciences, there is a downward trend. The number of women receiving bachelor’s degrees in computer and information sciences reached a high of 36% in 1986, but dropped to 21% in 2006.¹¹
- In 2006, women earned almost one-half of the doctorates in the biological and agricultural sciences; around one-third of the doctorates in earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences, chemistry, and math; and approximately one-fifth of the doctorates in computer science, engineering, and physics.¹²

**Professors and Administrators**
- While women are more than 50% of the lecturers and instructors, and a little less than 50% of the assistant professors, they are only 36% of associate professors and only 21% of full professors. And only 2.4% of full professors are women of color.¹³
- On average, compared to men, women earn less, hold lower ranking positions, and are less likely to have tenure.¹⁴
- Only 25% of college presidents are female, with more than a third leading two-year colleges.¹⁵

**Women’s Leadership**
- Less than one-fifth of companies have 25% or more women board directors.¹⁶ About one in ten companies have no women serving on their boards.¹⁷
- Women of color still hold only 3% of corporate board seats.¹⁸
- Women held 14.1% of Executive Officer positions in 2011.¹⁹
Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment

- Stalking is particularly prevalent on college campuses; in fact, more than half of all stalking victims are between 18–29 years old, and 13% of college women have been stalked.\(^\text{22}\)
- Most cases of sexual assault go unreported. Less than 5% of completed and attempted rapes of college students are brought to the attention of campus authorities and/or law enforcement.\(^\text{23}\) Sexual assault is widely considered to be the most underreported violent crime in America due in part by the complex victim-perpetrator relationship. 48.8% of college women who were victims of attacks that met the definition of rape did not even consider what happened to them as rape.\(^\text{24}\) In addition, we live in a society that often blames women for the assault.\(^\text{25}\)
- While in college, 50-75% of women are sexually harassed, and 20 to 30% of college women report being sexually harassed by a professor.\(^\text{26}\)
- Eight in 10 students experience some form of harassment during their school years, and more than 25% of them experience it often.\(^\text{27}\)
- Girls are more likely than boys to experience sexual harassment, but boys today are more likely to be harassed than boys were in 1993.\(^\text{28}\)

**Earnings**

- Women who work full time earn approximately 77 percent of the wages of their male counterparts.\(^\text{29}\) African American women earn only 68 cents for every dollar a man earns, while Hispanic women earn only 57 cents to the male dollar.\(^\text{30}\)
- One year after college graduation, women on average earn $35,296 as compared with the $42,918 that their male counterparts earn.\(^\text{31}\)
- High-skill, high-wage jobs and training programs are still dominated by men. Low-skill, low-wage jobs and training programs are still dominated by women. Even the highest paid workers in the traditionally female fields of cosmetology, child care, or medical assistant even begin to approach the median wages earned by those in the predominantly male jobs. In no case does the amount earned by the top 10% of workers in the predominantly female fields of cosmetology, child care, or medical assistant even begin to approach the median wages earned by those in the predominantly male occupations.\(^\text{32}\)

**Politics**

- No woman has served as U.S. President or Vice-President.
- In the 113th Congress, 20 of 100 in the U.S. Senate are women (16D, 4R) and out of 435 seats, only 78 in the House of Representatives are women (59D, 19R).\(^\text{33}\)
- Of the 98 women serving in Congress in 2013, 30 are women of color. To date, only a total of 47 women of color have served in Congress.\(^\text{34}\)
- 5 Women Governors (1D, 4R) and 10 Women Lieutenant Governors (4D, 6R)\(^\text{35}\)
- Women Secretaries of State: 12 (7D, 5R)\(^\text{36}\)
- Women Attorney Generals: 8 (7D, 1R)\(^\text{37}\)

2 Ibid.


6 Ibid.


12 Ibid.


14 Ibid.


17 Ibid.

18 Ibid.


20 Ibid.

21 Ibid.


26 Ibid.


28 Ibid.

29 Ibid.
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Ibid.


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