

LEARNING NEWSFLASH

Innovative Strategies and Tools to Enrich Knowledge

In this Issue:

- Universities promote retention of women in STEM degrees

KEEPING WOMEN IN STEM

The Chronicle of Higher Education posted an article on *A Lab of Her Own*. This article discusses how universities gear their STEM programs to promote retention of female undergraduates. Carnegie Mellon emphasizes that men and women do not learn differently, and should thus be taught the same curriculum in the same way. Instead, they try to extend advantages to female students, in accordance with the advantages of male students, to level the playing field. Carnegie Mellon has since seen vast improvements in retention, with near equal male and female computer sciences undergraduate populations.

Conversely, public universities will see a broader range of talent levels for women pursuing engineering and computer science. Universities like California Polytechnic improve the curriculum options available, and seek to change the stereotype of a “typical scientist” to reflect the growing diversity of scientists and engineers.



The underlying culture in STEM fields remains an obstacle to eliminating gender bias. The gender disparity extends to the workforce, which further reduces representation for female students to realize career potential. By promoting organizations and systems to empower and support female students and other minorities, it is possible to improve gender equality in STEM and foster talent that moves our society forward.

The link to the full article is listed below:

<http://tinyurl.com/alabofherown>