



HRSC SOUTHWEST

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2012 Theme: "Women's Education — Women's Empowerment"

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Diversity Bulletin

Women have made tremendous progress in education and the workplace during the past 50 years. Even in historically male fields such as business, law, and medicine, women have made impressive gains. However, in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) women's progress has been slower, particularly in engineering, computer science and physics, which typically lead to higher paying jobs.



Some results from the March 2011 "Women in America Report" show that:

- Women are more likely to graduate from college and are more likely to hold a graduate school degree than men.
- Higher percentages of women have at least a high school education, and higher percentages of women participate in adult education than men.
- Educational gains among women relative to men can be seen across racial and ethnic groups and this trend is also present in other developed countries.
- Despite these gains in graduation rates, differences remain in the relative performance of female and male students at younger ages, with girls scoring higher than boys on reading assessments and lower on math assessments.

Many women choose to work in traditionally female occupations such as social work or teaching because they want work that is personally fulfilling and makes a difference. Some women are also seeking out STEM fields, such as engineering, biomechanics and biomedical research for the same reasons. The spotlight in this issue is on contemporary women in leadership positions with a STEM background who serve as role models and mentors now, and for the generations to come.

Ursula Burns, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Xerox, is the first black woman to run a major U.S. corporation. She has spent the last two years recasting the 105-year-old copier and printer Goliath into a services-driven company. After acquiring Affiliated Computer Services, the world's largest business process outsourcing firm, Burns oversees a staff of 134,000 employees. Burns earned mechanical engineering degrees from New York University and Columbia University and started her Xerox career as a summer engineering intern. Burns is a leader of the White House's program on STEM and vice chair of the President's Export Council. Article/Photo Credit: <http://www.forbes.com/profile/ursula-burns>



Ellen J. Kullman, CEO for Dupont, is the first woman at the helm of this 208-year-old science giant. She oversees 67,000 employees in 90 countries and \$32 billion in revenues. She is focused on innovation and sustainable growth with a new focus on creating food, energy and security solutions. With degrees in mechanical engineering and management, Kullman began her career at DuPont in 1988 as a marketing manager. She is a member of the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness and a member of Change the Equation, a CEO-led initiative to move the U.S. to the top of the pack in science and math education over the next decade. Article/PhotoCredit: <http://www.forbes.com/profile/ellen-kullman/>





Dr. Ellen Ochoa, Deputy Director of the Johnson Space Center (JSC) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). She shares responsibilities with the Director to plan, organize, and accomplish missions assigned to the JSC. She was the first Hispanic female astronaut in space and was part of the *Atlantis* mission in 1994. In 1999 she was a member of the *Discovery* crew that executed the first docking to the International Space Station. She has patents on high-tech optical recognition systems and optical systems for spacecraft automation. She has a bachelor's of science degree in physics from San Diego State University, a master's of science degree and doctorate in electrical engineering from Stanford University.

Article/Photo Credit: <http://oeop.larc.nasa.gov/hep/lwon/LWONbios/jsc-EOchoa.html>

Cheryl Hayashi, Professor of Biology, University of California, Riverside, explores spiders silk's genetic makeup, evolution and unique biomechanics. She won a MacArthur "genius" grant, one of the most prestigious awards in the country in 2007. Her work blurs the boundary between biology and materials science, looking for the molecular basis of the silk and exploring how humans might learn from it. Some silks have the tensile strength of steel and often are much tougher while remaining light as air and extremely supple. Her work may inspire new models for the design of materials for a variety of uses, from biodegradable fishing lines and sutures to super strong ropes and armor cloth. Ms. Hayashi received her bachelor's and doctoral degrees in biology from Yale University.



Article/Photo Credit: <http://biology.ucr.edu/people/faculty/Hayashi.html>

To view her speech on "**The Magnificence of Spiders**" go to: http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/cheryl_hayashi_the_magnificence_of_spider_silk.html



The Navy and Marine Corps recognize that a STEM workforce is critical to meeting our greatest challenges. To encourage more students into the STEM pipeline, DON is introducing exciting and interactive science programs into classrooms and communities.

DON's STEM2Stern Program will be at the **San Diego Science Festival Expo Day on March 24** at Petco Park. The San Diego Science Festival, runs March 17-24. Last year over 20,000 attendees learned about science and engineering at fun and interactive booths located throughout the park. This is a great way to expose our children to these exciting careers. For more information go to: http://stem2stern.org/article?article_id=21

Women's History Month Events in San Diego

Veterans Museum & Memorial Center at Balboa Park will **honor women in the military** during March. Exhibits from WWII through contemporary conflicts highlight the stories of San Diego women who answered the call. For more info go to: <http://www.kpbs.org/events/ongoing/12532/>

International Women's Day Breakfast on March 14 sponsored by the Joan B. Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice in celebration of national Women's Day and Women's History Month. Filmmaker Maria Luisa Gambale will show a portion of the 2011 award-winning documentary *Sarabah* and discuss the positive role media and entertainment can play in advancing gender justice. For more info go to: <http://www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/ipj/>

"SHE'S HISTORY: The Most Dangerous Women in America, Then and Now" using theater, history, comedy, multi-media, audience interaction, and story telling. Amy Simon will tell true tales of fabulous women at the Downtown YWCA on Saturday, March 24th, 7:30pm, or Sunday, March 25th, 2:00pm.

For more info go to: <http://womensmuseumca.org/>

Front Page "**Women in America Report**": http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/Women_in_America.pdf

Photo Credit: <http://www.commerce.gov/blog/2011/03/01/white-house-releases-first-comprehensive-federal-report-status-american-women-almost>