

Team 7983D

Savannah Gregg

Women in STEM

The STEM program, which stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, is a highly respected and very difficult career path to pursue. Besides its highly respectable and difficult to pursue reputation, STEM is also known for being dominated by males. This was set in motion a long time ago. Up until 1840, the Industrialization period, women were not able to work; however, when granted this right, all they were able to do was work at factories, help at the home with chores, and take care of their children. Most women were not even allowed to get an education, only those that were of the higher social class. Due to the precedents set in the past, specifically the idea of women working, especially doing very knowledgeable jobs, is not something that people are used to because it was something that was engraved into society's brain since the 17th century.

My name is Savannah Gregg, I am a junior at Centennial High School in Bakersfield, CA. I am in my school's robotics class and I am also the social media director for our engineering club. I was fortunate enough to be born in a family that is very supportive of the direction that I want to take my life, and I live in a state that is very welcoming of everything; therefore, me being a girl in the STEM program wanting to move forward with it in the future will not be something too difficult for me as it is for other people. There are many girls out there who would love to join the STEM program, but either their families do not want them to or society is telling them that they can not. That is why I believe women in STEM are so important today because society's view on STEM being male-dominated is unacceptable and needs to change. There are many women in STEM today who believe the same things I do. A woman

who was very crucial in the acceptance of women in STEM was Katherine Johnson. Mrs. Johnson was an American mathematician whose calculations of orbital mechanics were critical to the success of the first U.S crewed spaceflight. She was given many awards for this accomplishment, but most importantly showed what women could do in STEM if they were given the opportunity. It is so important for girls to see that they are as capable, if not more capable than men in more ways than one.

On top of the fact that the STEM program is male-dominated, the few females that work in STEM get paid 16% less than men do. However, this is not just in STEM, this is happening in all jobs around the U.S, and drives some women away because, on top of being in a male-dominated workplace, they would receive a lot less payment than the men that dominate their workplace. This is the main reason why we need more women in STEM so this can change. More women representation would get the higher-ups to finally pay attention to us and realize that something needs to change. Women are just as capable of getting the job done right than men are, so it is highly unfair that women get paid less for doing the same exact thing as their male counterparts. Even after the Equal Pay Act was created in 1963, people still turn a blind eye to it and continue to put a wage gap between men and women's pay. There have been many protests and stands taken by women all over the U.S in regards to the unfair payments they get. There has even been a good share of men at these rallies who support the cause as well. According to an article on the wage disparity between men and women, women make 77 cents to every dollar that a man earns. The 17th century, the standard that men do harder and more "labor-intensive" jobs was very common. This resulted in men continuing to get paid, while there were many women who did not get paid for the hard work they put into those factories. This societal standard blossomed in the early ages and continued to largely affect women today.

This is most likely due to people's views on “radical change” and how many people fear the idea of change.

Overall, women in the STEM program inspire other women to achieve the same goals. It is so important for girls to be there for each other and support one another, because gender inequality is a thing and it is still going on today.