

**Women's History Month 2013  
Facts of the Day**



**DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE  
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

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Day	Fact	Source
1	Each year, the National Women’s History Project selects a theme that highlights achievements by distinguished women in specific fields. The theme for 2013 is <i>Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)</i> . This year, we honor generations of women who, throughout history, have used their intelligence, imagination, and tenacity to make extraordinary contributions to the STEM fields.	<a href="http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php">http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php</a>
2	The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition advocates for policies to improve STEM education at all levels. The central mission of the coalition is to inform federal policymakers on STEM issues and serve as an advocate for the critical role that STEM education plays in U.S. competitiveness and future economic	<a href="http://www.stemedcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/Note-2012-Annual-Report-for-the-STEM-Education-Coalition.pdf">http://www.stemedcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/Note-2012-Annual-Report-for-the-STEM-Education-Coalition.pdf</a>
3	The Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery was dedicated in 1997 and is a living memorial honoring all military women—past, present, and future. The memorial is the only major national memorial honoring women who have served in our nation's defense during all eras and in all services. Work on the memorial was in progress for 11 years.	<a href="http://www.womensmemorial.org/">http://www.womensmemorial.org/</a>
4	A 2011 report by the U.S. Department of Commerce found only one in seven engineers was female. Additionally, women have seen no employment growth in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics	<a href="http://www.esa.doc.gov/Reports/women-stem-gender-gap-innovation">http://www.esa.doc.gov/Reports/women-stem-gender-gap-innovation</a>
5	The first Native American color guard composed of all female veterans took part in the 2013 presidential inauguration parade.	<a href="http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/">http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/</a>
6	In fiscal year 2009, the average age of women veterans was 48 years, compared to 63 years for their male counterparts.	<a href="http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/">http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/</a>

7	<p>International Women’s Day is a global celebration of the economic, political, and social achievements of women, and it first took place on March 8, 1911. The United Nations (UN) has sponsored International Women’s Day since 1975, “To recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation, equality and development of women; and to acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security.”</p>	<p><a href="http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history-month">http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history-month</a></p>
8	<p>International Women’s Day 2013 is celebrated annually on the 8th of March. The United Nations' theme for this year is “A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women.” International Women’s Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change, and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/csw/csw57/iwd2013/">http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/csw/csw57/iwd2013/</a></p>
9	<p>Our science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) workforce is crucial to America’s innovative capacity and global competitiveness. Yet women who make up nearly half of the U.S. workforce and half of the college-educated workforce are vastly underrepresented in STEM jobs and degrees leaving an untapped opportunity to expand STEM employment in the United States.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.esa.doc.gov/Reports/women-stem-gender-gap-innovation">http://www.esa.doc.gov/Reports/women-stem-gender-gap-innovation</a></p>
10	<p>First Lady Michelle Obama said, “If we’re going to out-innovate and out-educate the rest of the world, we’ve got to open doors for everyone. We need all hands on deck, and that means clearing hurdles for women and girls as they navigate careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.”</p>	<p><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/women">http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/women</a></p>

11	<p>After the American Revolution, the notion of education as a safeguard for democracy created opportunities for females to gain a basic education. The premise was, as mothers, they would nurture not only the bodies but also the minds of male citizens and future leaders. The concept that educating women meant educating mothers endured in America for many years and at all levels of education.</p>	<p><a href="http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php">http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php</a></p>
12	<p>In January 2013, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced the lifting of the military ban on women in combat, allowing them to officially serve on the front lines for the first time in the history of U.S. armed forces. The policy change, "will initiate a process whereby the services will develop plans to implement this decision, which was made by the Secretary of Defense upon the recommendation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff."</p>	<p><a href="http://servicewomen.org/">http://servicewomen.org/</a></p>
13	<p><i>...To ignore the vital role that women's dreams and accomplishments play in our own lives would be a great mistake. We draw strength and inspiration from those who came before us—and those remarkable women working among us today. They are part of our story, and a truly balanced and inclusive history recognizes how important women have always been in American society. —Virginia Woolf</i></p>	<p><a href="http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php">http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php</a></p>
14	<p>In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand Women's History Week to the entire month of March. Since then, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.</p>	<p><a href="http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php">http://nwhp.org/whm/index.php</a></p>
15	<p>The Office of Science and Technology Policy, in collaboration with the White House Council on Women and Girls, is dedicated to increasing the participation of women and girls—as well as other underrepresented groups—in science, engineering, and mathematics by increasing the engagement of girls with STEM subjects in formal and informal environments, encouraging mentoring to support women throughout their academic and professional experiences, and supporting efforts to retain women in the STEM workforce.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/women">http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/women</a></p>

16	According the U.S. Department of Education's 2012 report, despite women's gains in some nontraditional fields as a whole, the rate of female enrollment in certain career clusters remains at persistently low levels. In 2009–2010, females made up less than 25 percent of participants in science, technology, engineering, and math programs nationally.	<a href="http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/gender-equity-in-education.pdf">http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/gender-equity-in-education.pdf</a>
17	The Nobel Prize and Prize in Economic Sciences have been awarded to women 44 times between 1901 and 2012. Only one woman, Marie Curie, has been honored twice, with the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics and the 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.	<a href="http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/lists/women.html">http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/lists/women.html</a>
18	The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that women who were full-time wage and salary workers had median weekly earnings of \$699 in 2010. Women earned 81 percent of the median weekly earnings of their male counterparts (\$824) in 2010.	<a href="http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2010.pdf">http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2010.pdf</a>
19	As of November 30, 2012, the total number of active duty women in the military was 204,973. Of that total, 38,378 women were officers, and 164,021 were enlisted.	<a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/</a>
20	Although women fill close to half of all jobs in the U.S. economy, they hold less than 25 percent of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics jobs. This has been the case throughout the past decade, even as college-educated women have increased their share of the overall workforce.	<a href="http://www.esa.doc.gov/Reports/women-stem-gender-gap-innovation">http://www.esa.doc.gov/Reports/women-stem-gender-gap-innovation</a>
21	Overall student interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics has been gradually climbing for about a decade, with about 1 in 4 high school students excited about pursuing a STEM major or career. However, keeping students attracted to such subjects is proving to be a challenge. "Tying education to the workforce needs is critical to the future of the nation," said STEMconnector CEO Edie Fraser. Science and engineering careers are expected to grow more than 20 percent by 2018, twice the rate of the overall U.S. labor force.	<a href="http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/stem-education/2013/01/31/report-many-high-schoolers-giving-up-on-stem">http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/stem-education/2013/01/31/report-many-high-schoolers-giving-up-on-stem</a>

22	<p>On January 20, 2013, President Obama signed a presidential memorandum to strengthen and expand U.S. government capacity and coordination across all agencies to better promote gender equality and empower women and girls. In the memorandum, the president reaffirmed that “promoting gender equality and advancing the status of all women and girls around the world remains one of the greatest unmet challenges of our time, and one that is vital to achieving our overall foreign policy objectives.”</p>	<p><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/01/30/president-obama-signs-new-directive-strengthen-our-work-advance-gender-equality-worl">http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/01/30/president-obama-signs-new-directive-strengthen-our-work-advance-gender-equality-worl</a></p>
23	<p>Women hold 97 (18.1%) of the 535 seats in the 113th U.S. Congress: 20 of the 100 seats in the Senate, and 77 (17.7%), of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives. In addition, three women serve as delegates to the House from Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Washington, D.C.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/Congress-CurrentFacts.php">http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/Congress-CurrentFacts.php</a></p>
24	<p>In the 113th U.S. Congress, of the 97 women serving, 29.9% are women of color. In addition, an African American woman and a Caribbean American woman serve as delegates to the House from Washington D.C. and the Virgin Islands, respectively.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/Congress-CurrentFacts.php">http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/Congress-CurrentFacts.php</a></p>
25	<p>The demographics of students attracted to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields demonstrate a significant gender and race gap. Male students are more than three times as likely to be interested in STEM than female students, and that gap is widening. Across the country, Hispanic and African-American high school students continue to lag behind their Caucasian and Asian peers in STEM engagement.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/stem-education/2013/01/31/report-many-high-schoolers-giving-up-on-stem">http://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/stem-education/2013/01/31/report-many-high-schoolers-giving-up-on-stem</a></p>

26	<p>The U.S. continues to face high unemployment rates (7.8% as of September 2012), yet American companies cannot find enough workers to fill all the available science, technology, engineering, and mathematics positions. According to the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy research organization, “American companies urgently need professionals trained in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, but there are not enough workers with the necessary skills and too few Americans earn post-secondary STEM credentials.”</p>	<p><a href="http://www.forbes.com/sites/lisaquast/2012/10/22/women-and-stem-careers-how-microsoft-is-building-a-bridge-to-future-innovation-one-girl-at-a-time/">http://www.forbes.com/sites/lisaquast/2012/10/22/women-and-stem-careers-how-microsoft-is-building-a-bridge-to-future-innovation-one-girl-at-a-time/</a></p>
27	<p>In 1951, The Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) was established. The Committee is composed of civilian women and men who are appointed by the secretary of defense to provide advice and recommendations on matters and policies relating to the recruitment and retention, treatment, employment, integration, and well-being of women in the armed forces.</p>	<p><a href="http://dacowits.defense.gov/">http://dacowits.defense.gov/</a></p>
28	<p>When the Equal Pay Act was signed into law by President Kennedy in 1963, women were earning an average of 59 cents on the dollar compared to men. While women hold nearly half of today's jobs, and their earnings account for a significant portion of the household income that sustains their families, they are still experiencing a gap in pay compared to men's wages for similar work. Today, women earn about 80 cents on the dollar compared to men—a gap that results in the loss of about \$380,000 over a woman's career. For African-American women and Latinas, the pay gap is even greater.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.dol.gov/equalpay/">http://www.dol.gov/equalpay/</a></p>
29	<p>The total veteran population in the United States and Puerto Rico, as of September 30, 2012, was approximately 22.3 million. The population of women veterans numbered 2,248,579. States with the largest number of women veterans were California, Texas, Florida, Virginia, and Georgia.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.va.gov/WOMENVET/Women_Vet_Pop_FS_1_13.pdf">http://www.va.gov/WOMENVET/Women_Vet_Pop_FS_1_13.pdf</a></p>

30	Women and girls across America are benefiting from efforts to promote science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) degrees and careers because women who hold STEM degrees and jobs earn 30 percent more, on average, than women in non-STEM jobs.	<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/email-files/womens_report_final_for_print.pdf">http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/email-files/womens_report_final_for_print.pdf</a>
31	In 2011, the number of women 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher was 31.4 million, more than the corresponding number for men at 30 million. Women held a larger share of high school diplomas (including equivalents), and associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees. More men than women had a professional or doctoral degree.	<a href="http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff04.html">http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff04.html</a>