

Big Learning Event – Study Group:

Women and the STEMM Fields – Fostering Opportunities in Higher Education and the Professions

Session 1: Women in STEMM Overview

Assigned Readings:

1. Sue V. Rosser, "Introduction," in *Women, Science, and Myth: Gender Beliefs from Antiquity to the Present* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2008), pp. vii-xvii.
2. National Research Council, "Status of Women in Academic Science and Engineering in 2004 and 2005," in *Gender Differences at Critical Transitions in the Careers of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Faculty*.

Reading Guide:

We suggest starting with the Rosser reading and then moving on the National Research Council reading.

Please note that the Rosser reading is an introduction to a larger book – and we will not be reading the entire book. We recognize that you may find some of the material Rosser introduces more interesting than other material. In reading this introduction we encourage you to focus on the Rosser's discussion of myths and beliefs regarding women, gender and science. Consider the following questions as you read:

- What are the myths and beliefs, Rosser identifies?
- To what extent do you think these myths and beliefs still influence Women in STEMM today?
- Are there other myths and beliefs Rosser did not discuss that you believe to be influential?
- To what extent do you think these myths and beliefs influence the status of Women in STEMM as described in the National Research Council chapter?