Women in the Teaching Professions

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Who Am I?

- Cisgender, white woman, mid-late career educator, upper middle-class person of privilege
- Former special educator, turned college professor, turned administrator
- Active at state and national level in educator preparation
- Married with five children





Is teaching a woman's field?

- Prior to the industrial revolution, teaching was a male-dominated profession
- When women began to be recruited into the profession, due to a lack of men, there were rules specific to them

- The rules included:
- Couldn't be married
- Had to get permission to leave town
- No smoking or drinking
- No makeup, bright colors or hair dye
- No short dresses (above ankles)



Statistics on the sexes in teaching professions

- In the US over 77% of teachers are women
- Women hold 54% of principalships and 30% of superintendencies
- Women earn on average between 2 and 4K less salary per year than males in the same positions

 Info from National Center for Education Statistics



Cause and effect of the imbalance of sexes in the teaching professions

- Women were an easily obtained commodity in the mid1800's as public schools were expanding across the country
- Women making up the bulk of the workforce have made it easier to continue to pay poorly
- Women now have more work options and are fleeing the profession in search of better pay, less stress, and greater work-life balance



What are we doing about it?

- Our priorities in educator preparation include:
 - Building partnerships with school districts to support them in grow-your-own efforts
 - Teacher residency programs that support people already teaching on emergency license to have rich, relevant preparation along with coaching and mentoring
 - Developing teacher and school professional licensure programs to meet prospective students where they are at
 - Career changers
 - People already working full time
 - People with families



Why does it matter?

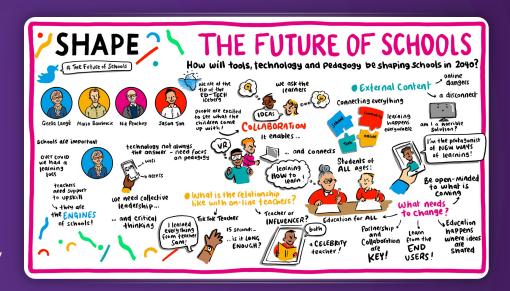
- These priorities stand to increase the diversity in our educator preparation programs, which in turn stands to increase the success of students of color in PK-12 settings
 - Carver-Thomas, D. (2018). *Diversifying the teaching profession: How to recruit and retain teachers of color*. Palo Alto, CA: Learning Policy Institute. https://doi.org/10.54300/559.310.



A vision for the future

Classrooms with multiple adults, in varying roles, supporting each learner to success

- Less isolation of teachers
- More support for students
- No rows of desks
- Variety of technology
- Varied furniture, lighting, and plants
- Stations students can use for hands-on, solo work, or to rest/regroup
- Clear pathways to and through postsecondary options and specific careers



https://shape-education.org/



