

# MYTH BUSTERS

## Myths and Realities for Women Considering Nontraditional Studies and Careers

Source: *Tools for Learning: Resources for Linking Vocational Programs with Special Populations*, pp. 27-28. Office of State Director for Career and Technical Education, Honolulu, Hawaii.

# Myth Buster

## MYTH

Women will lose their femininity if they work in a trade.

## REALITY

The sense of “who you are” comes from within. A hard hat or work boots can’t change that. Besides, being in good physical shape is the “in” look for women now.

# Myth Buster

## MYTH

Women on a job site make it hard for men to concentrate and encourage a sexually charged work atmosphere.

## REALITY

Women and men work side by side in many occupations. Everyone, men and women, needs to know that work is a place for professional behavior and anything less should not be tolerated on the job.

# Myth Buster

## MYTH

Women do not have the mechanical or mathematical aptitude for skilled trade work.

## REALITY

Not! Women have the ability to perform well in all academic and technical areas required in nontraditional work. There is no research-based evidence that supports the notion that men are more mathematically gifted than women.

# Myth Buster

## MYTH

Training programs in nontraditional fields don't want to admit women.

## REALITY

Many employers and training programs are actually encouraging women to enter their fields. Affirmative action requirements and simply the knowledge that women make good workers are helping to open doors for females.

# Myth Buster

## MYTH

Disadvantages of nontraditional construction work outweigh the advantages.

## REALITY

This may be true for some women, but is not true for many. If you like the idea of high pay, working outdoors, being strong and physical, using your innate talents, doing something that interests you, building something tangible, or being adventurous, then this kind of work may be for you.

# Myth Buster

## MYTH

Women are not strong enough to do heavy labor.

## REALITY

- Many blue-collar jobs are no more physically demanding than housework, especially when performed carrying a 30-lb. toddler on your hip.
- Traditional female occupations like waitress, nurse, and home health care aide involve heavy lifting too.

# Myth Buster

## MYTH

Nontraditional jobs are too dirty, noisy and dangerous for women.

## REALITY

Some nontraditional jobs have disadvantages and workers entering these fields should weigh the benefits from the drawbacks. Gender fairness requires that all occupations be presented as possible options for both females and males.

# Be a myth buster!

For more information on nontraditional careers go to [www.napequity.org](http://www.napequity.org)