



JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

ADDING A GENDER LENS TO NONTRADITIONAL JOBS TRAINING

CREATED BY WIDER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

APRIL 2017

TOOL 4.4 **MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT WOMEN IN THE TRADES**

This tool contains a worksheet of common myths that builds on the quiz from Tool 4.3 to address commonly misunderstood stereotypes. Fact sample responses are also included on a separate page. Students can brainstorm in groups to build their understanding of barriers women face in apprenticeships and nontraditional jobs. Additionally, program leaders can use it to build the understanding and commitment of workforce development professionals to gender equity.

This tool is adapted from the pre-apprenticeship Multi-Craft Core Curriculum of the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO.

WHO SHOULD USE THIS TOOL

Occupational training instructors, with their students

This tool is part of Adding a Gender Lens to Nontraditional Jobs Training, created by Wider Opportunities for Women for the GreenWays initiative and revised by JFF as part of the Delivering the TDL Workforce initiative. All tools are available online at: <http://www.jff.org/newlensonjobs>.

Supported by the Walmart Foundation, Delivering the TDL Workforce expanded high-quality transportation, distribution, and logistics training programs in ten regions and promoted best practices in program design and delivery, employer engagement, and workforce partnership development. GreenWays was supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Labor through Pathways Out of Poverty and the Green Jobs Innovation Fund.

Work together in small groups to debunk each myth:

MYTH: Blue-collar work is nontraditional for women.

FACT: _____

MYTH: Women are not strong enough to do heavy labor.

FACT: _____

MYTH: Women won't like trades work and trucking.

FACT: _____

MYTH: Women aren't interested in nontraditional jobs.

FACT: _____

MYTH: Women won't want to tolerate the working conditions in male-dominated blue-collar jobs.

FACT: _____

MYTH: Women's family responsibilities will interfere with working conditions and hours of nontraditional jobs.

FACT: _____

MYTHS AND FACTS SAMPLE RESPONSES

MYTH: Blue-collar work is nontraditional for women.

FACT: Many jobs now thought to be nontraditional for women have been performed by women in the past.

MYTH: Women are not strong enough to do heavy labor.

FACT: Many traditional women's jobs (e.g., nursing, waitressing) are just as physically demanding as some nontraditional jobs.

MYTH: Women won't like trades work and trucking.

FACT: Many women employed in the construction trade and other nontraditional occupations report a high degree of job satisfaction.

MYTH: Women aren't interested in nontraditional jobs.

FACT: Women who haven't considered nontraditional jobs are often quite interested in exploring them once they are introduced to them.

MYTH: Women won't want to tolerate the working conditions in male-dominated blue-collar jobs.

FACT: Many women enjoy working with their hands and working outdoors.

MYTH: Women's family responsibilities will interfere with working conditions and the hours of nontraditional jobs.

FACT: Most working parents manage work and family responsibilities.