

# THE WOMAN AS BAND DIRECTOR

CULTIVATING SUCCESS ON AND OFF THE PODIUM

2016 MIDWEST CLINIC  
MEETING ROOM W185

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12 PM



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There ARE women who do want to do this, are doing it well, and are balancing all the demands of job and personal life. IT IS POSSIBLE, but many don't see.

## WHAT ARE THE STATISTICS?

- Despite being the majority of all music education majors, the percentage of women in band directing positions is as low as 30% at the middle school level.
- This percentage decreases with increasing grade level (20% for high school and 10% for college level).
- In choir and orchestra teaching, women are represented in much higher numbers. (55% choir and 40% orchestra)

## WHY ARE SO FEW WOMEN IN BAND DIRECTING?

- Historical precedent
- Gender stereotypes
- Lack of female role models
- Influence of types of instrument played
- Family responsibilities
- Perceived time commitment
- Job availability
- Marching band
- Music

## WHY WE DON'T TALK ABOUT IT... BUT SHOULD

- Fear of being labeled the "angry feminist"
- This is a discussion that can no longer be avoided out of politeness
- Established body of research including research articles & dissertations
- Gender distribution affects who enters the profession

## NAVIGATING THE PROFESSION

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- What questions did we have when initially pursuing this career?
- Who were our role models?
- How did we see career and family being balanced?
- What beliefs influenced us as we forged this path?

## MOVING FORWARD

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- First woman in particular job (when will the novelty wear off?)
- Letting go of the need to navigate around being a woman.
- Letting go of the need to represent all women because we are the “first” or one of the few.
- Knowing what/whom to listen and adapt to vs. what/whom to ignore

## TIME MANAGEMENT & BALANCE

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- Support
- Administrative duties
- Score study
- Recruiting
- Pursuing tenure
- Personal time/Family time
- Interviews
- Leaves of absence
- Conferences/Symposia/Honor Bands

## YOU CAN DO IT!

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- Focus first and foremost on being a great band director/teacher.
- There is no one “perfect” path. Make it your own.
- Search or make the job that balances what you want over what you don’t want.
- Don’t give up when things don’t go as planned.
- Know that there are seasons in life. It won’t always be “this” way.
- It is your life, don’t let others make the big decisions for you.

## CHALLENGES & FUTURE WORK

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- Equal pay at collegiate level (currently 94-96% of what male colleagues earn)
- Acceptance & perception of effectiveness
- Family & impact on tenure

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