

ORTH SHORE

A few good men Having more male teachers can bring role models to field of education

Historically speaking, women faced challenges that didn't allow their existence as equal members in society. Only a handful of jobs were allocated for them with a price tag significantly less than that of a man's salary.

Overcoming these obstacles, with the aid of civil rights movements during the 1960s, make it possible for today's women to hold positions in careers other than nursing, sewing (seamstresses), and teaching.

Ironically, many U.S. public schools are currently seeking more male teachers. Administrators are attempting to create more balance between the numbers of male versus female teachers.

According to a recent article on CNN.com, men make up for only 21 percent of teachers in

By Vicki Isacowitz

ON THE CHALKBOARD



Despite Nelson's work, school districts need to take anti-discrimination laws into consideration when trying to recruit more men into their schools.

Lisa Soronen, a staff attorney for the National School Boards Association, says, "The real way to get teaching to be a more attractive profession is to change the societal norms and structure of the profession." Perhaps put-

to offer men more money is unjust and inappropriate. It is disheartening to know that this is happening in our own country. We're not in the 1900s anymore.

The facts of the matter are that more elementary teachers are women. Generally speaking, women are innately nurturing, an essential quality when instructing young ones. However, there are plenty of women who lack any ability to nurture while there are plenty of men who can. Societal roles can be appointed as the culprit for this scenario.

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U.S. public schools. The gender disproportion in elementary schools is even greater with only 9 percent of its teachers being male. Apparently, stigmas are attached to the concept of being a male educator. Lower salaries, the idea that teaching is not masculine and the fear of posing a danger to students are three major contributing factors for men dismissing the option of educating the youth of the future.

MenTeach is a non-profit organization directed by Bryan Nelson. Its primary goal is recruiting men into teaching positions. The group offers training, mentors, and stipends to male teachers, hoping to increase the percentage of males in education. Since men and women exist together in society, shouldn't this be the case in our schools?

ting money into school budgets instead of taking it away is the first step. Adding benefits and stipends for all outstanding teachers would be the second step in achieving this goal.

Getting the right type of man into education is not a bad idea, given the uneven numbers that currently exist. The proper way to increase the number of male teachers is to encourage more young men to pursue a career in education. Promoting individual skills and characteristics that support the concept of teaching is why people should go into education. Having summers and vacations off is attractive — but not the reason to become a teacher.

Unfortunately, other factors are highlighted as encouragement. The fact or even initiation

When I think back to the teachers of my own education, I can safely say that all of my main classroom teachers in elementary school were women. Science, industrial arts, physical education, and computers were the only courses taught by men. Once I entered middle and high school, the numbers evened out, this time the majority of my teachers were men.

— Vicki Isacowitz is a secondary English teacher who has been educating students since 1996. She is co-founder of *Clever Minds Educational Services*, providing tutoring for students in grades K-12. Call 582-1707 or e-mail vicki@cleverminds.org.