

College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

DigitalCommons@CSB/SJU

Celebrating Scholarship and Creativity Day
(2018-)

Undergraduate Research

4-27-2023

Spotlight on Female Leadership: Conclusions Based on a College Survey on Gender and Leadership

Marisa LaPlante

College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, mlaplante001@csbsju.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/ur_cseday



Part of the [Economics Commons](#), and the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

LaPlante, Marisa, "Spotlight on Female Leadership: Conclusions Based on a College Survey on Gender and Leadership" (2023). *Celebrating Scholarship and Creativity Day (2018-)*. 210.

https://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/ur_cseday/210

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@CSB/SJU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Celebrating Scholarship and Creativity Day (2018-) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@CSB/SJU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@csbsju.edu.



Marisa LaPlante
College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University
Advisor: Dr. Sucharita Mukherjee



Office of
Undergraduate
Research & Scholars

Background/Purpose

The topic of my research is on women's leadership. The title of my project is Spotlight on Female Leadership: Conclusion Based on a College Survey on Gender and Leadership. The United States had never had a female president and women usually don't hold leadership positions. In 2022 the percentage of women leaders in the federal government was 32%. This topic interests me because I believe women are not always seen as leaders and we want more women leaders because women make up half of the population so their views should be represented. Women are less likely to reach the top level of management in the workplace so we want to inspire more women to be leaders.

Methods

I read the book "Electable" by Ali Vitali (2022) and looked at many scholarly articles. These sources helped me learn more about the barriers of female leadership. To explore views and understand the campus community's views towards leadership, I conducted a survey here on campus which had 41 different respondents. The purpose of the survey was to learn more about leadership experiences. The survey asked questions about participant's leadership experiences, challenges, and who they look up to.

Results

Women are usually shown not to be leaders because a lot of women choose not to run for leadership positions. Another reason women are usually shown not to be leaders is because of traditional gender ideologies which suggest that women belong and should stay at home. Third is the lack of resources that make it difficult for women to run for electoral office. Fourth is lack of access of women leadership positions implies women have less resources. Fifth is family obligations would make it difficult for women to meet the responsibilities of leadership positions. One last factor was women not being represented as leaders on social media and on other media sources.

The survey had 41 different respondents with 36 women and 5 men. Some respondents who identified as female and especially those who belonged to racial minorities mentioned how they usually don't feel seen or heard in the leadership positions they have held. The male respondents said differently that they are more privileged with how they are seen and heard in their leadership positions.

Conclusion

In conclusion we hope to see change one day in women leadership. I believe this could be done by spreading education on why we want more women leaders and to spread awareness. We also need to encourage more women to try to become leaders. Many women suffer from imposter syndrome. Imposter syndrome is the condition of feeling anxious and not experiencing success internally, despite being high performing in external objective ways. Thank you for stopping by and is there any questions you may have!

Acknowledgements

This research was made possible through funding and support from the Office of Undergraduate Research & Scholars. Thank you to my advisor, Dr. Sucharita Mukherjee for the guidance and expertise in executing this work. Huge thank you to my aunt Kristi Hemmer for helping me with this project and for inspiring me in women leadership. Thank you to all of our survey respondents and people I interviewed for taking the time out of your day to help me in this process.