

THE PINK TO GREEN TOOLKIT: BUILDING CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

CREATED BY WIDER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN FOR THE GREENWAYS
INITIATIVE

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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 the construction industry. Additionally, program leaders can use it to build the understanding and commitment of workforce development professionals to gender equity.

This tool is also part of 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

THE PINK TO GREEN TOOLKIT

This tool is part of *The Pink to Green Toolkit: Adding a Gender Lens to Green Jobs Training Programs*, created by Wider Opportunities for Women for the GreenWays initiative. All tools are available online at: www.jff.org/pinktogreen

The GreenWays initiative provides high-quality workforce services to employers and to workers seeking to advance their careers in the green economy. The initiative invests in 20 workforce partnerships across six diverse industry sectors

in eight metropolitan labor markets. It builds on JFF's approach of organizing employers and workforce resources into sectoral workforce partnerships to promote career advancement for lower-skilled workers. GreenWays is supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Labor through Pathways Out of Poverty and the Green Jobs Innovation Fund.

www.jff.org/initiatives/greenways

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.

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.

FACT: Many tradeswomen 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.