

## The Statistics

- Women comprise approximately 15% of high school and college band director positions combined perhaps because a majority of women perceive balance of career and family to be a significant obstacle at these levels. Despite this, more women are choosing both and succeeding.
- 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% high school and 10% college level).
- In choir and orchestra teaching, women are represented in much higher numbers (55% choir and 40% orchestra).
- 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 and these outstanding band directors are here to make sure you see it!

## Tips & tricks of the trade – Discuss something specific that helped you find success in these areas:

- Recruitment & retention
- Student motivation
- Student leadership
- Administrative duties
- Professional connections (other teachers, custodians, secretaries, other band directors, etc.)
- Music selection
- Fundraising
- Other thoughts

## Discuss your experiences at music contest

- What are some of your contest experiences, good and bad?
- How do you determine what is a successful competition performance (i.e. do you have to “win” to have a good contest day)?
- How do you use the judges’ commentary to determine how you feel about the student’s performance at competition? Do you let students listen to the tapes?
- Once you win a contest (or consistently get superior ratings), how do you deal with the pressure of “winning” again? What happens if you get second place or an excellent rating the next year?
- What advice would you give a young teacher as they prepare for their initial music competitions?

## Navigating the profession

- What have been your experiences as a female in a male dominated profession?
- What changes have you seen during your career?
- Who were your role models?
- What are strategies you have used to manage a healthy work-life balance?