
Recommended Citation

Webster, Tammy; McBrien, Sarah; Becker, Betsy J; Hagggar, Faye; Honeycutt, Karen; Skrabal, Jill; Love, Linda. Spouses, Children, and the Pursuit of a Doctorate: Real or Perceived Barriers for Women in Academia. Presented at: Group on Faculty Affairs and Group on Women in Medicine and Science Joint Professional Development Conference (AAMC); 12 July 2019; Chicago.

This Conference Proceeding is brought to you for free and open access by the Radiation Science Technology Education at DigitalCommons@UNMC. It has been accepted for inclusion in Posters and Presentations: Radiation Science Technology Education by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UNMC. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@unmc.edu.

7-12-2019

Spouses, Children, and the Pursuit of a Doctorate: Real or Perceived Barriers for Women in Academia

Tammy Webster

University of Nebraska Medical Center, tammy.webster@unmc.edu

Sarah B. McBrien

University of Nebraska Medical Center, sarah.mcbrien@unmc.edu

Betsy J. Becker

University of Nebraska Medical Center, betsyj.becker@unmc.edu

Faye Haggar

University of Nebraska Medical Center, faye.haggar@unmc.edu

Karen Honeycutt

University of Nebraska Medical Center, khoneycu@unmc.edu

See next page for additional authors

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

<http://unmc.libwizard.com/DCFeedback>

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unmc.edu/sahp_rste_pres

 Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Authors

Tammy Webster, Sarah B. McBrien, Betsy J. Becker, Faye Haggard, Karen Honeycutt, Jill Skrabal, and Linda Love

Spouses, Children, and the Pursuit of a Doctorate: Real or Perceived Barriers for Women in Academia

Tammy Webster, PhD, RT (R) (M)¹, Sarah McBrien, PhD¹, Betsy Becker, PT, DPT, PhD¹, Faye Haggart, EdD², Karen Honeycutt, PhD, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)SM¹, Jill Skrabal, PhD, RD, LMNT, CDE³, Linda Love, EdD²

¹University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Allied Health Professions; ²University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Medicine; ³Nebraska Medicine; Omaha, NE

Common Barriers to Success for Women Pursuing a Terminal Degree:

- Time Constraints
- Isolation
- Uncertainty
- Fear
- Balancing Personal and Professional Responsibilities

An interdisciplinary team of six women came together in an organically-formed dissertation support group to overcome these barriers through:



Accountability

- Regular Meetings
- Goal-Setting
- Progress Updates



Mutual Trust

- Positive Regard for One Another's Work
- Celebrations of Writing Milestones & Other Career and Personal Successes



Ongoing Development

- Reference Tools & Library Services
- Writing Mechanics
- Turning the Dissertation into Publication
- Life After a Doctoral Program

May 2018

August 2018

December 2018

May 2019



Selected References

- Brown, L. & Watson, P. (2010). Understanding the experiences of female doctoral students. *Journal of Further and Higher Education*, 34(3), 385-404.
- Leonard, D. (2001). *A Women's Guide to Doctoral Studies*. Buckingham: Open University Press.
- Wall, S. (2008). Of heads and hearts: women in doctoral education at a Canadian university. *Women's Studies International Forum* 31(3), 219-228. DOI:10.1016/j.wsif.2008. 04.007.