• How far have we come in achieving equal opportunities and gender equitable education for girls and boys? Not everything can be measured……and some of the “less measured” aspects have not changed very much in the past decade and a half……….
We must understand that without a broader definition of gender equity, one that equally honors the various roles and expectations that have been “assigned” differentially to females and males, our efforts, no matter how vigorous, will fall short of providing a full range of choices for all our students

--- Susan Bailey, ETS Conference October, 1991
21st century girls and boys must grow up valuing and learning not only from men’s accomplishments but also from women’s

--- Susan Bailey, ETS Conference October, 1991
Citizenship

• K-12 education is a cornerstone of an informed and active citizenry

• A gendered sense of citizenship is counter-productive in a democratic society

• In a time of considerable attention to the concept of citizenship, the absence of attention to gender in relation to civic education is a gap that needs to be addressed
Seeing is believing

• The way girls and boys are treated in schools sends powerful messages about their roles in society
• Good citizenship is about more than voting and being a “good neighbor”
• We need to encourage girls as well as boys in leadership roles in the larger society
The Citizenship Connection

• Sexual harassment
• Bullying and teasing
• Zero tolerance
Dating Violence

• In 2001, 9.8% of all girls and 17.7% of sexually active girls reported physical abuse by a dating partner
Trends in Sexual Experience

• The gender gap in teen sexual experience has disappeared

• Teen’s use of contraceptives during first sexual experience has increased substantially.

• Between 1988 and 2002 use of contraception at first intercourse increased:
  – 67% to 75% for females
  – 71% to 82% for males
Teen Birth Rates

- Teen birth rates continue to decline
- BUT an estimated 17% of all 15 year old girls will give birth before they are 20
Girls and women globally

- In much of the developing world, girls are still struggling to obtain basic literacy

- Violence in school and out of school are major barriers to girls’ education

- Women and girls are both victims and caregivers in disproportionate numbers in the HIV/AIDS crisis
Global Citizenship

• To what extent is a sense of global citizenship a necessary aspect of any educational program or practice designed to foster an informed citizenry?
Numerous issues that effect the status of women and girls in our society remain unresolved, for example:

– women’s wages and status in the workplace

– The absence of adequate childcare and the continuing unequal distribution of work in the home

– women in engineering and technology

– women on higher education faculties
Questions to think about……..

✓ How do we know when or whether we have achieved gender equitable education?

✓ What about the resurgence of the “biology is destiny” ideas around women and STEM?
Questions to think about……..

✓ How can we do a better job of disaggregating the data so that important information on various groups of students is not lost?
✓ What about racial /ethnic differences? Social class and economic status? Sexual orientation?
✓ How can we ensure that we do not assume all women/girls are the same?
Questions to think about……..

✓ How can we avoid the zero sum game approach to education, otherwise known as the “helping girls hurts boys” philosophy?