Overview: *Handbook for Achieving Gender Equity Through Education*

We are building on the *Handbook for Achieving Sex Equity Through Education* (Susan S. Klein, Editor) that was published in 1985 by Johns Hopkins University Press and sponsored and endorsed by the American Educational Research Association. This 1985 research synthesis *Handbook* was developed collaboratively with the help of over 200 scholars and gender equity practitioners. For many years, it served as the key research reference book for educators working to achieve *sex equity* (later called *gender equity*) both in education activities and through education to create a more equitable society.

Susan Klein, Ed.D., editor of the 1985 *Handbook*, retired from the U.S. Department of Education in October 2003 to become the Education Equity Director at the Feminist Majority Foundation. She is working with previous and new co-sponsors and authors to produce a comprehensive, definitive, evidence-based 20-year update of the 1985 Handbook called the *Handbook for Achieving Gender Equity Through Education*.

**How will this new Handbook be different from the 1985 Handbook?**

- Coverage will be more comprehensive than the 1985 Handbook. Although the current Table of Contents is similar to the structure of the 1985 Handbook, new topics and chapters such as the following will be included:
  - Global gender equity issues and learning from other countries
  - The role of sexuality toward achieving gender equity with attention to sexual harassment, sexuality education, body image, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students and educators
  - Gender equity issues associated with technology including, but not limited to, technology based occupations, using technology for instruction, and using technology to collaborate on the Handbook
  - More attention to gender equity as it relates to males
  - More attention to gender equity as it relates to specific cross-cutting population groups such as individuals with disabilities or addictions or populations that face discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or poverty

As in the 1985 Handbook, the major focus will remain on gender equity rather than women and education or broader feminist perspectives, as covered in the chapter "Feminist Perspectives on Gender in Classrooms" by Sari Biklen and Diane Pollard in the AERA Handbook of Research on Teaching (2001).

- The authors will use the "baseline" information from 1985 to show changes during the past 20 years.

- Information will be more authoritative than in other general research synthesis books or reports on gender equity and education:
The chapters will be based on extensive collaboration and review to ensure accuracy and appropriate interpretations. This will be feasible as all authors will be able to use Blackboard and react to key documents from their own and other chapters.

This new Handbook will help refute some recently quoted "research on gender" that has been inaccurate and biased and identify obstacles to equity.

Although the gender equity knowledge base is more extensive than it was 20 years ago, it should be easier to access and synthesize.

Authors will use high standards for supportable and convincing evidence: In addition to providing disaggregated descriptive information by sub-populations such as disabled African-American females, authors will be expected to provide evidence to support both causal and associational or correlational claims.

Conclusions of authors of the diverse topic/chapter areas will be described using comparable language and as much precision about the specific claims and types of supporting evidence as possible. The authors will be expected to provide both quantitative and qualitative patterns of evidence to support their claims or conclusions. They will also be expected to use feminist research and evaluation principles.

- The 1985 Handbook has 544 numbered pages, end of chapter references, an index, and no illustrations. The new Handbook for Achieving Gender Equity Through Education will be similar, but longer. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc., Publishers, noted for their research handbooks, is the publisher of the new Handbook.

- We will have more active and numerous sponsors than we did for the 1985 Handbook. In addition to the Feminist Majority Foundation, we already have received help and encouragement from: the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Scholars and Advocates for Gender Equity; the AERA Special Interest Group Research on Women and Education; the American Association of University Women (AAUW); the Association for Gender Equity Leadership in Education, (AGELE); and the National Alliance for Partnerships in Education (NAPE). As previously, the roles and responsibilities of the sponsors will vary for each group.

What is the likely market appeal and use of this 2006 Handbook?

The 1985 Handbook has often been referred to as the "Bible" of information on gender equity. Many researchers working in the field of gender equity found it particularly useful, especially in topic areas where their personal expertise was limited.

It is anticipated that the new Handbook will be even more valuable to the increased numbers of researchers, educators, and educational activists interested in gender equity. It will be a key reference tool for participants in the Title IX Action Network such as Title IX Gender Equity Coordinators and their equity allies at all educational levels. Similarly, it will be very useful for education equity trainers at the pre-service and in-service levels, whether or not their primary area of expertise has been diversity issues in general or gender, race, language, or disability equity issues. In addition to schools of education, it will be a valuable reference book for women's and gender studies faculty and students and for professional organizations concerned with educational equity.