

Women-Only Spaces Provide A Recipe For Success: Here Are The Ingredients

November 06, 2019

“You can’t be what you don’t see,” said Marian Wright Edelman, civil rights activist and founder of the Children’s Defense Fund. This quote speaks volumes to a question I often get asked as president of [Barnard College](#), an institution devoted to educating and empowering young women: “Are women-only institutions the only way to go?”

My answer may surprise you, because it’s no. But as a cognitive scientist who has dedicated her research to exploring how to ensure the success of women and girls, I tell people that there are some special ingredients that you find in women-focused spaces that do make a difference — ingredients that can be exported to coed environments but usually, and unfortunately, are not.