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Women Mathematicians in the Academic Ranks: The BIRS Report

In the fall of 2006, a group of mathematicians and administrators met at BIRS to discuss the status of women mathematicians in academic positions in North America. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was decided to write a report, a 'Call to Action', addressed to our colleagues in mathematical sciences departments, in academic administration, at funding agencies, and at mathematics research institutes. Drawing on many studies and the collective experience of the group, the report formulated strategies for increasing the number of women faculty in mathematics departments. In this talk, I will give an overview of the situation, as seen by the workshop participants, and point to some significant recommendations.