Giving Voice | Interruptions

a project to raise awareness of the gender challenges in STEM environments,
written by students, postdoctoral scholars,
faculty, and staff at Caltech.

More information at givingvoice.caltech.edu
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Empty Stage.

ROWAN
I am a graduate student.

REMI
I am a postdoc.

MARIN
I’m a graduate student.

KELLY
I’m a graduate student.

STEVIE
I’m a grad student.

ALL
I consider myself lucky.

STEVIE
My advisor cares about our lab group.

KELLY
My project is a perfect fit for me.

ROWAN
While I hear about some groups with members pitted against each other in a race to publish, my experience has been the opposite.

KELLY
Our lab is like the sitcom ideal of a lab.

REMI
Open, caring, collaborative.

STEVIE
And yeah, just a little bit quirky.

KELLY/MARIN/STEVIE
We joke around.

MARIN
We hang out both inside and outside of work.
ROWAN
This might make grad school seem better than it is for most people.

STEVIE
I have total support. But I am one of the few women in my group.

ROWAN/MARIN/KELLY/REMI
Me too...

ROWAN
So I know my experience might be different from my male colleagues.

KELLY
There may be some issues...I know what you might be thinking.

ALL
But no, I don't have any sexual harassment issues.

KELLY
I'm talking about some subtle issue.

REMI
Sometimes my ideas are not given the same consideration as others, but that might just be how I communicate them. That's something that I can change, at least.

MARIN
It only gets under my skin when someone else restates my idea and they get credit. Ughhh...it happened a few times

KELLY
Actually it happens every meeting.

MARIN
I just sit down and wonder how I could have worded things in such a way that they would get through.

ROWAN
And, of course, there are the occasional

MAN
Hey ladies, you done yet?

ALL
Interruptions.

REMI
On those days, I just push a little harder to be heard.
MARIN
I speak with a strong voice.

STEVIE
Talk through interruptions.

KELLY
Or cite the extra papers. You know, show them that I belong at the table.

REMI
I am a scientific force.

KIMBERLY
Why should I have to teach others to be inclusive?

MARIN/STEVIE/KELLY/ROWAN
I'm here to get my PhD.

STEVIE
Why would I take time away from my work?

REMI
I didn't sign up for this.

KELLY
I don't have time for that.

STEVIE
Why is it supposed to be my job?

ROWAN
I didn't chose that job.

KELLY
I want to publish now.

MARIN
Give that talk.

ROWAN
Present my research.

REMI
Get that data.

ALL
Now!
Don’t slow me down!

Get out of my way!

Let me do my science.