

## Gender Differences in Communications Training

**Dec 4, 2018**

**9:00AM – 11:00AM**

Women use different language patterns than men do when speaking with their own gender. Although highly effective in certain circumstances, these patterns can derail a woman's effectiveness when she is operating in an environment that is predominantly male. We explore these patterns and the benefits of being "bilingual".

In this session, we will cover:

- **Origins of differences in communication styles.** Boys and girls experience difference in how they interact in our society. This has led to differences in communication styles. Exploring these origins helps us frame our understanding of the patterns and recognize the legitimacy of both styles.
- **Male versus female language patterns.** We recognize that not all men speak one way and all women speak another, but it is useful to understand the general nature of gender patterns of speech.
- **Misunderstood clichés.** We will review the research on which gender talks more, interruptions, and other common debates in the context of how gender patterns may explain or debunk these clichés.
- **How women are disadvantaged when they use female patterns in a male dominated setting.** Business norms were established by men historically. Consequently, business speech patterns generally follow male norms. Women are disadvantaged when they use female patterns of communication, but they also are challenged when they use male patterns of communication in some circumstances.
- **What both men and women can do to bridge the gap.** We will discuss how women have adjusted their communication styles to be successful in the business world. We will discuss how men can recognize differences in speech patterns and value contributions of women even when they are not using the male style of communication.

We have found that once people understand the differences in communication styles, they are able to assess quickly how miscommunications are occurring and adapt their styles to compensate. When a group of people share a common vocabulary on this topic, they can work together to bridge these divides. Join this training to learn how you can help improve communications at Net@Work.