

Genetics to blame for gender wage gap? Florida education official's comment draws rebuke

A Florida college official said...that women make less money than men because genetically they might lack the skills to negotiate for better pay.

Edward Morton of the State University System of Florida, chair of the board's Strategic Planning Committee and a financial adviser from Naples, Fla., said, [according to Politico](#):

Something that we're doing in Naples some of our high school students, we're actually talking about incorporating negotiating and negotiating skill into curriculum so that the women are given — maybe some of it is genetic, I don't know, I'm not smart enough to know the difference — but I do know that negotiating skills can be something that can be honed, and they can improve. Perhaps we can address that in all of our various curriculums through the introduction of negotiating skill, and maybe that would have a bearing on these things.

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Morton apologized for his comment in an email sent to fellow board members shortly after the meeting.

"I chose my words poorly. My belief is that women and men should be valued equally in the workplace," he said, adding that the university's goal is to teach all students how to better negotiate their salaries.

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Politico reported that during the meeting board members were reviewing a report on gender wage gaps among students who graduated from the university system in 2015.

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The report attributes the wage gap partly to differences in career choices and to the fact that parenting more often puts women's professional lives at a disadvantage than it does men's.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [A Florida higher-ed official said women's genetics may be keeping them from equal pay](#)