

## Vali Siadat Receives Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics

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*In 1991 the Mathematical Association of America instituted the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics in order to honor college or university teachers who have been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful and whose teaching effectiveness has been shown to have had influence beyond their own institutions. Deborah Tepper Haimo was president of the Association, 1991–1992. She died at age eighty-five in Claremont, California, on May 17, 2007.*

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**Vali Siadat** is an educator, scholar, and researcher at the City College of Chicago, Richard J. Daley Campus, who cares deeply about the success of his students, and does whatever it takes to help them achieve their educational goals.

Student comments from a recent semester give a sense of his impact. "My fear of taking calculus was wiped out in the first class..." "I have always liked mathematics. However, after my experience in Dr. Siadat's class, I [feel] passionate about the subject..." "He has always shown to students that he cares about their future, and wants them to succeed in life."

Vali Siadat is best known for his Keystone Project, a synergistic teaching program that focuses on frequent assessment, constant feedback, and student support. In a controlled experiment with 800 entering college students, 63% of Keystone students passed an Elements of Algebra class, while only 18% passed in the control group. An interesting concomitant result was that the Keystone students also achieved significant positive gains on a standardized reading test whereas those in the control group did not.

He has also been a leader in Project Access, a NASA-funded mathematics-based summer program for low-income and minority students. Each summer from 1996–2004, 80–100 students were recruited from 52 middle schools and high schools to explore engineering as a career option. Vali Siadat directed the local program and was a key figure in developing curriculum related to mathematical logic and computer science for the national program.

As a mentor and advisor, Siadat supports students to obtain internships in scientific organizations and laboratories outside the college. He has had excellent success in arranging numerous summer research internship programs for two-year college students at the world renowned Argonne National Laboratory.

As a scholar with two doctorates, one in pure mathematics and another in mathematics education, Vali continues with his research to develop innovative approaches in pedagogy and improvement of teaching of undergraduate mathematics. His research in this area has been widely recognized and published in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Siadat won the Distinguished Professor Award of Richard J. Daley College in 1999–2000. He won the 1999 Exemplary Initiatives in the Classroom Award from the National Council of Instructional Administrators, the 2001 Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the 2001 Excellence in Learning-Centered Instruction Award from the Illinois Community College Board. He received the MAA Illinois Section's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2002, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Illinois Professor of the Year Award in 2005.

Vali Siadat is a dedicated, tireless, and effective teacher of mathematics. He is extremely deserving of the Haimo Distinguished Teaching Award.

*Vali Siadat earned his B.S. from the University of California at Berkeley. While working as a professional engineer in California's Silicon Valley, he obtained an M.S.E.E. from San Jose State University. Throughout his academic and professional work, however, mathematics remained the subject of his utmost passion. Upon coming to Illinois, he enrolled at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he earned an M.S. in applied mathematics, a Ph.D. in pure mathematics (harmonic analysis) and a D.A. (Doctor of Arts) in mathematics education. Dr. Siadat has taught at several institutions of higher learning, including California State University at Dominguez Hills, University of Southern California, Chicago State University, Loyola University Chicago and the City Colleges of Chicago where he is currently professor of mathematics at its Richard J. Daley campus. He was the director/co-principal investigator of over three-quarter of a million dollar grant from NASA to conduct Project Access/Chicago PREP program. He is also the director/co-principal investigator of a grant from the Gabriella and Paul Rosenbaum Foundation intended to expand the Keystone Project. Dr. Siadat has published in mathematics and mathematics education journals and has had numerous presentations at state-wide and national mathematics meetings.*