



DEBORAH AND FRANKLIN TEPPER HAIMO AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED  
COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS

JANUARY 2009

*Vali Siadat*

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.