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Richard J. Daley College Professor Receives Highest Award Given by Mathematical Association of America

First Time Award Given to Two-Year College Professor

Chicago, IL – Dr. M. Vali Siadat, distinguished professor of mathematics at Richard J. Daley College (one of the City Colleges of Chicago), is the recipient of the Mathematical Association of America's highest honor: The Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished Teaching of Mathematics.

This is the first time that the prestigious award has gone to a professor of a two-year college. Past award recipients have come from such preeminent institutions as Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Chicago and the University of California.

The Haimo Award, bestowed annually on an individual mathematician for excellence in teaching, was given to Dr. Siadat for his lifetime dedication to his students and their academic success. Known for using innovative approaches to help students achieve their educational goals, Dr. Siadat travels nationally to speak about improving undergraduate mathematics education in the U.S.

He has also:

- developed and obtained grants from the Gabriella and Paul Rosenbaum Foundation to expand the award-winning Keystone Mathematics Project, a method Dr. Siadat developed to improve teaching basic mathematics to students;
- secured substantial grants from NASA for mathematics-based summer enrichment programs for high school and middle school students, called Project Access;
- arranged for students to obtain numerous summer research internships at the world-renowned Argonne National Laboratory; and
- conducted research with colleagues at Daley College over the last ten years, the results of which have been published in peer reviewed journals.

"We applaud Dr. Siadat and his outstanding dedication," says City Colleges of Chicago Chancellor Wayne D. Watson. "This award demonstrates the rich talent that the City Colleges offers its students."

Dr. M. Vali Siadat
 Richard J. Daley College
 January 2, 2009

Among his many previous honors, Dr. Siadat was also named Professor of the Year in 2005 by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Dr. Siadat has two doctorates, one in pure mathematics and one in mathematics education.

"This is really a recognition for the entire City Colleges administration, faculty and students," says Dr. Siadat, who has taught mathematics for 35 years – 26 of them at Daley. He estimates teaching more than 10,000 students during his career. "And I'm not out of gas," he adds. "Every time something good like this happens, I'm energized all over again."

"Professor Siadat is an outstanding educator, scholar and researcher who cares deeply

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about the success of his students," says Daley College President Dr. Sylvia Ramos. "He does whatever it takes to help students achieve their academic goals."

"It is quite an honor that Dr. Siadat is the first winner [of the Haimo Award] from one of our community colleges," says Dr. George R. Boggs, president and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges. "He is a great role model for all of us."

The award will be officially presented to Dr. Siadat at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Washington, D.C. this month.

Mathematical Association of America is the largest mathematics organization in the U.S., comprising the mathematician and mathematics educators of two-year and four-year colleges and research universities.

The City Colleges of Chicago (CCC), Community College District 508, is a system of seven independently accredited colleges. CCC provides four essential services. They are: Liberal Arts Education (associate degrees and certificates); Occupational Education (workforce development); Adult Education (General Educational Development, English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education); and Continuing Education (programs that add value to the quality of life).

City Colleges of Chicago, District 508, includes Richard J. Daley College, Kennedy-King College, Malcolm X College, Olive-Harvey College, Harry S. Truman College, Harold Washington College and Wilbur Wright College. WYCC-TV Channel 20, a public broadcast station, is also part of the City Colleges system. For more information about the City Colleges of Chicago call (773) COLLEGE or visit www.ccc.edu.

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