

The City Colleges of Chicago Salute Vali Siadat, Ph.D.

Throughout February, tune in to WYCC-TV20 for our on-air Salute to the Illinois Professor of the Year. That honor was bestowed last fall on Professor M. Vali Siadat by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Dr. Siadat, professor of mathematics and department chair at Daley College, was selected from among nearly 400 top educators in the United States.

Professor Siadat's accomplishment was applauded by City Colleges of Chicago Chancellor Wayne D. Watson. "This honor," Watson declared, "decided by a national panel, is one of the most prestigious annual teaching awards in higher education."

Daley College President Sylvia Ramos echoed the Chancellor's praise. Noting that Professor Siadat has worked as director of Proyecto Access / Chicago PREP program, she praised his efforts to "inspire middle and high school students to develop an enthusiastic interest in science and engineering." Ramos also noted Siadat's dedication on behalf of Daley students: "He has had excellent success in arranging research internships for Daley College students at Argonne National Laboratory."

Dr. Siadat expressed gratitude and humility for "a wonderful honor"—but his comments also revealed that for this scholar the greatest rewards are of another kind. "This year marks my 31st year of college teaching. Part of my role as teacher is challenging myself. When I am successful, students feel a shared responsibility to see others succeed. My role is to cultivate each group of students, making their educational experience as engaging and productive as possible."

That's the voice of a true teacher—and it expresses the spirit of excellence that defines the City Colleges of Chicago.



Professor Vali Siadat, flanked by Illinois Senator Barack Obama, Daley College Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Elizabeth Hawthorne, and Illinois Senator Dick Durbin.