Richard J. Daley College

One of the City Colleges of Chicago

Daley College Professor Wins State Math Award

May 1, 2002 .... A professor at Richard J. Daley College, Dr. M. Vali Siadat, has received the 2002 Distinguished Teaching Award of the Mathematical Association of America -- Illinois Section. This is the highest form of state recognition awarded to a college teacher of mathematics. In 2001, this award was conferred upon Professor Paul Sally, a faculty member at the University of Chicago.

Earlier this academic year, Dr. Siadat won the Excellence in College Teaching Award of the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics. A project headed by Dr. Siadat and Professor Paul Musial has won both national and state awards. Dr. Siadat is now a candidate for the prestigious Haimo award, the highest national honor for teaching of mathematics. Dr. Siadat is a long-time member of the department and department chairman.

Dr. Siadat was nationally recognized in 1999 for the Keystone Method of Teaching Mathematics, which he developed with UIC Professor Yoram Sagher and pioneered at Daley College. The Keystone method, which uses a combination of psychology, technology, and responsive/adaptive teaching, has dramatically improved student retention and success in introductory and college algebra classes. Passing rates more than doubled for students taught with the Keystone method. Longer term studies suggest that these students also improve their ability to concentrate. Students taking Keystone classes show a surprising12% increase in reading comprehension scores, even though the classes do not teach reading.

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7500 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, Illinois 60652 • Phone (312) 838-7500 • Fax (312) 838-7524

The Keystone Method won the 1999 Exemplary Initiatives Award from the National Council of Instructional Administrators (NCIA). The award is the top honor conferred by the National Council of Instructional Administrators for innovation in classroom instruction.

For further information contact: Dan Landt, 773 838-7543.