

Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics

Presented to

Dr. Ken Schilling of UM-FLINT

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to present the 2014 Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics to Ken Schilling of the University of Michigan-Flint. Ken is recognized for his clear instruction, for engaging students in problem solving, for providing career preparation for students, for encouraging high school students to become mathematicians, and for his editorial work with Classroom Capsules in the *College Math Journal*.

Ken's students make comments such as "His explanation of the material is phenomenal. He takes concepts that are otherwise really hard to grasp and breaks them down so that the students not only know how to do the problems but know what they're doing and why." This effective teaching stems from his fostering of active learning, teamwork and problem solving by using group labs in his teaching. And he is known also for attracting students to our field with his own fascination with mathematics.

Ken promotes mathematical maturity in his students with a broad and comprehensive approach to promote their engagement with problem solving and the corresponding development of their problem-solving skills. He and his students participate regularly in the *American Mathematical Monthly's* problem-solving challenges, and he has had 28 of his solutions published. He has formalized this activity by creating a course and teaching it many times as an unpaid overload. His students also participate in local and national competitions.

He excels not just at classroom teaching, but also in organizing the curriculum to provide students with career opportunities. He played a leading role in the revival and subsequent flourishing of his department's actuarial program, revising its curriculum and serving as its primary advisor, with the result that it is now the largest program in the Flint mathematics department. More recently, he led the creation of the first mathematics graduate program in his department.

In addition, Ken has helped bright high school students further develop their mathematical talents by organizing Math Field Day for over a decade. This event serves up to 200 students each year, exposing them to the fun and beauty of math, and encouraging them to study the subject as college students.

Finally, Ken is one of the editors of the Classroom Capsules section of the *College Mathematics Journal*. In this capacity, he facilitates the spread of excellent teaching ideas throughout the country and across the world, enabling instructors to better inspire and challenge students with new ways of thinking. This is an important part of the mission of the MAA.

It is, therefore, with great pleasure and pride that the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America presents the 2014 Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Award to Ken Schilling.