



CITATION
FEBRUARY 26, 2022

In keeping with the resolve of the Mathematical Association of America to take substantive action each year to honor extraordinarily successful teaching at all post-secondary levels, its Golden Section is pleased to identify

ANDREA ARAUZA RIVERA


as the recipient of its sectional award for a

**DISTINGUISHED BEGINNING TEACHER OF
COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS**

As an Assistant Professor at California State University, East Bay, Dr. Andrea Arauza Rivera has made key achievements in curriculum and instruction, equity through innovative assessment, and student research and projects. A senior colleague states

Dr. Andrea Arauza Rivera is an extraordinary teacher, collaborator, mentor, and leader. She infuses her values of joy, community, justice and love skillfully and visibly into her teaching and all of her interactions with students and others in the university community.

Dr. Arauza Rivera earned her doctorate in mathematics in 2018 at the University of California, Riverside. With her research program in noncommutative fractal geometry and ability to actively engage students across majors and levels in mathematics, Dr. Arauza Rivera immediately had an annual research group after joining the faculty at Cal State East Bay in 2018. In her first three years at Cal State East Bay, she led nine undergraduate research projects with 15 students. Three projects were a part of the *Research for Undergraduates on the Mathematics of the Bay Area (RUMBA)* project, funded by a MAA Tensor-SUMMA grant, where STEM majors



investigate social, cultural, and political systems in the Bay Area via a mathematical lens. One of her former students states,

she taught me so much in regards to doing mathematical research and the idea that math can be seen in many places outside of just the classroom.

Her colleagues and students both commend her ability to make her research spaces welcoming and her ability to provide meaningful support to students.

In an effort to explore assessment strategies that lead to greater equity and accuracy when evaluating student learning, Dr. Arauza Rivera worked collaboratively with colleagues to develop an outcomes based grading scheme for precalculus courses. The work of Dr. Arauza Rivera and her colleagues resulted in a cohesive set of materials that are aligned with the key learning goals for the course. As a result of this alignment, other instructors of the course have been able to implement outcomes based grading in their own classes.

Dr. Arauza Rivera is committed to integrating active learning strategies. She participated in and contributed to a year-long faculty learning program with this goal in mind. In regards to active learning, a senior colleague states,

Dr. Arauza Rivera ups the level of creativity to her classrooms. She thinks long and deeply about what will engage students in the math, how it relates to the real world, and how to draw in all students, keeping issues of equity and inclusion at the forefront.

We are proud to present the 2022 Golden Section Award for a Distinguished Beginning College or University Mathematics Teacher to Dr. Andrea Arauza Rivera, an exceptionally effective mathematics researcher, teacher, and educational leader.