CITATION February 25, 2023

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

ARIEL SETNIKER

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 Maritime Academy, Dr. Ariel Setniker has made key achievements in curriculum design and classroom instruction that has transformed the learning experience for undergraduates throughout her institution. A senior colleague states

Dr. Setniker's teaching effectiveness is truly remarkable. She brought to our campus much-needed pedagogical innovation in the instruction of mathematics and did this brilliantly.

Dr. Setniker earned her doctorate in mathematics in 2019 from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Since joining Cal Maritime in 2019, Dr. Setniker has maintained two lines of research, one in pure mathematics, the other in mathematics education. This combination of research lines has allowed Dr. Setniker to engage students at different stages of their education, from redesigning gateway courses to leading undergraduate research projects.

While at Cal Maritime, Dr. Ariel Setniker led the redesign of several mathematics gateway courses, the creation of two comprehensive student workbooks, and the mentoring of the undergraduate teaching assistants. In addition, she developed new

course offerings and adopted open-access free textbooks, which she supplemented with her own materials, such as course readiness activities, reading guides, worksheets, and in-class interactive activities.

Dr. Setniker's teaching impact is felt throughout the campus, and her colleagues throughout the university hold her in high esteem. Indeed, a colleague from another department notes

She works hard to make her classes particularly fun and engaging, inspires students to excel, and finds effective ways to engender student learning.

Furthermore, she has been highly involved, and now leads, the campus-wide faculty development team and is currently instrumental in every faculty development opportunity, finding new ways to support her fellow faculty interested in learning and implementing new pedagogical methods.

Testimonies from students and colleagues all point to Dr. Setniker's unique skill at helping students shift their attitudes about mathematics towards more positive feelings and leaving the classroom with higher self-confidence. This is accomplished by using active learning strategies in the classroom, connecting with students so they feel supported in sharing their challenges, offering extra office hours, and providing one-on-one help. One student states

She would take the time to help me fully understand the material, no matter how long it took. With her level of dedication to my success, I am where I am today.

We are proud to present the 2023 Golden Section Award for a Distinguished Beginning College or University Mathematics Teacher to Dr. Ariel Setniker, an exceptionally effective mathematics researcher, teacher, and educational leader.