

2024 Sr. Stephanie Sloyan Award for Distinguished Service

Dr. Amanda Beecher

The recipient of the 2024 Sr. Stephanie Sloyan Award for Distinguished Service to the New Jersey Section of the Mathematical Association of America is Dr. Amanda Beecher, Professor of Mathematics from Ramapo College of New Jersey.



Amanda has served the section for over a decade from volunteer positions all the way to Chair of the section. Her contributions began with volunteer work organizing the student talks sessions and student poster session at the Garden State Undergraduate Mathematics Conference. She was first elected to the Executive Board in 2016 and served as the Vice Chair for Speakers (2016-20), Chair-Elect (2020-2021), Chair, (2021-23), and finally Past-Chair (2023-24). Throughout this time, she participated, and often chaired, several standing and ad hoc committees.

At the association level, Amanda has served on the Curriculum Renewal Across the First Two Years (CRAFTY) committee, and is currently committee chair. She was also Vice-Chair of the Environmental Mathematics Special Interest Group of the MAA (SIGMAA-EM). She has

advanced the MAA's program nationally through regular service as a contributed paper session organizer at numerous national meetings such as MathFest and the Joint Mathematics Meetings.

The New Jersey Section is thankful for her contributions to the section and the MAA in general, and is proud to award this year's Sr. Stephanie Sloyan Award for Distinguished Service to Dr. Amanda Beecher.

Response from Dr. Beecher

I am truly elated to be recognized for my service to the MAA-NJ Section. Working with these fabulous e-board members makes it all the more enjoyable and frankly, why else would I do it? I love doing mathematics and offering my time to collaborate with other math professionals, planning conferences like this one, and tackling the challenges we face. This has been a true joy. I highly encourage others to get involved.

Our meetings provide a fantastic opportunity to connect with NJ math colleagues, learn about the challenges and victories in mathematics, and stay informed about the latest trends in higher education. I bring so many great ideas back to my own department at Ramapo College. This type of networking has been invaluable for my own career.

As I looked over the names of previous winners, I feel humbled to be in their company. Many of them are the leaders who welcomed me into the MAA-NJ community. They supported my growth, encouraged me to take on leadership roles, and most importantly, helped me succeed in those roles. I am incredibly thankful that this organization has turned so many into dear friends.

Above all, I am grateful for my family's support. My husband, Dan, knows that I am away for one weekend each semester for my NJ math conference, and he adjusts his own schedule to care for our two sons, William and Samuel. I appreciate my family for allowing me to engage in these rewarding math endeavors.

Thank you once again for this incredible honor!