

MATHEMATICIANS HONOR WOMEN

One of the nation's largest mathematical organizations has paused to give special recognition to the Women's Movement.

The Board of Governors of the Mathematical Association of America has issued a special citation honoring all those who have contributed to mathematics by working to enhance the status of women. The citation, approved by the Board in January and read publicly on January 26 at the Annual Business Meeting of the Association in Louisville, Kentucky, begins:

"History will record the 1970's as the decade of Women's Rights, a time when liberating movement captured the imagination and stirred the conscience of the Western World. . . The Women's Movement in mathematics has been especially strong."

The citation states that, "Many women - and more than a few men - have worked hard and effectively to convince women that they have potential for excellence in mathematics and that they should receive recognition and rewards commensurate with their achievements."

The contributions of women to mathematics are described and honored in the concluding passage of the Citation:

"Women have achieved prominence in research, teaching, writing, and editorial responsibilities, and have risen to the highest levels of leadership in mathematical organizations. Public recognition for these achievements has inspired other women to make full use of their capabilities, in mathematics as in all affairs, with pride and confidence. The Board of Governors of the Mathematical Association of America recognizes and honors their many contributions."

Following the reading of the Citation, Dr. Julia Robinson, President of the American Mathematical Society, and Dr. Linda P. Rothschild, President of the Association for Women in Mathematics, accepted the Citation on behalf of those honored.

The Citation will be on permanent display in the Dolciani Mathematical Center in Washington, DC, headquarters of the Mathematical Association of America.

The Citation was also read at a February meeting, organized to inaugurate a new Washington, D.C. Region of the Association's Women and Mathematics program (WAM). WAM is a visiting scientists program for secondary schools designed to attract more young women into mathematics-related careers.

Following the reading of the Citation to the WAM volunteers, Dr. Carol Lacampagne, National Director of WAM, commented that "We are indeed pleased that the Mathematical Association of America appreciates our efforts to encourage young women to continue studying mathematics in high school and beyond. In this age of technology our nation cannot afford to lose the mathematical talent of any of our citizens because of cultural prejudice."