

Meritorious Service Awards

Matt Boelkins

Grand Valley State University

The Michigan Section is proud to nominate Matt Boelkins for the Meritorious Service Award for his work on multiple facets of governance within and beyond the Section.

From 2001–2005, Matt co-organized the Michigan Project NExT Symposium, and, in 2003, chaired the organizing committee for the Sixth Annual Michigan Undergraduate Mathematics Conference.

Moving on from there, Matt served on the program committee for the 2006 Section Meeting and acted as a co-four-year-college vice chair during that time. Matt then served on the executive committee from 2007–2010 in the roles of four-year college vice chair, chair, and past chair.

Finally, Matt served as one of the last governors of the Michigan section (a position now replaced with the section representative to the MAA Congress) from 2013–2016.

Building on his tremendous service record at the state level, Matt became an active leader at the national level. In 2016, he was the First Vice President of the Mathematical Association of America and in 2017 was the chair of the MAA's Inaugural Congress.

He has also been a contributor to MAA Project NExT in several ways: in 2015, he gave the welcoming plenary address to the Red '15 cohort; in 2017, he gave a presentation on time management and well-being to the Blue '17 cohort; in 2020 and 2021, he led workshop sessions on Active Learning with Active Calculus; and presently he facilitates a Teaching Support Group on the teaching of calculus for a small group of current Fellows.

In 2017 he chaired the MAA's search for the next editor of the *College Math Journal*, which resulted in the hiring of Dominic Klyve; and in fall 2021 he chaired the MAA's search for the next editor of *MAA FOCUS*, the newsmagazine of MAA, which resulted in Allison Henrich being hired.

Along with his national service, in 2018, Matt led the program committee in planning the 75th Anniversary Tri-Section meeting in Valparaiso, IN, that brought together the Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan Sections for the 3rd joint meeting in their respective histories. He was a member of the local arrangements committee for the spring 2022 Michigan MAA Section Meeting that was held at GVSU.

Beyond his work within the MAA, Matt has worked tirelessly to promote undergraduate and K–12 mathematics within the state of Michigan and beyond. He co-organized the regional Math in Action conference in 2001 and 2002, a conference that brings together different constituents, including K–12 teachers, pre-service teachers, curriculum directors, and university professors, to discuss issues and share resources related to mathematics education. He co-authored the free, open-source text series *Active Calculus* (<http://activecalculus.org>). Currently, he serves as editor-in-chief for *PRIMUS*, a scholarly journal that promotes and supports the teaching and learning of undergraduate mathematics. His dedication to teaching has been honored numerous times, most notably in 2013 with the Section's Distinguished Teaching Award and in 2016 with the Michigan Association of State Universities' Distinguished Professor of the Year Award.

Response

I love the MAA and have benefited tremendously by being a member. It's been an honor and privilege to contribute to the collective work, and I have gained far more than I've given. I'm grateful to all of the wonderful people in the organization who contribute their time, talent, energy, and goodwill to the collective cause of making mathematics more accessible to others. And I'm thankful for the many invitations that have been extended to me to be involved in that work. I'd like to add a particular note of thanks to my mathematics department colleagues at GVSU who have been supportive and encouraging of my work

in many different ways throughout my time there, including work connected to the MAA. As my home department provides me with local friends, collaborators, and fellow-travelers, the MAA does the same on a national scale, and I am grateful for all of these people connected to my professional life who make the entire endeavor better. I'm honored to receive this award and be recognized along with so many outstanding others who've served the MAA.

Biographical Sketch

Matt Boelkins is professor of mathematics at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI, where he has been a member of the faculty for almost 25 years. A passionate teacher and proponent of active learning, Professor Boelkins has been recognized with several teaching-related honors, including the Michigan Association of State Universities' 2016 Distinguished Professor of the Year. Throughout his career, he has worked to promote the scholarship of teaching and learning mathematics through scholarly papers, conference presentations, and the journal *PRIMUS (Problems, Resources, and Issues in Mathematics Undergraduate Studies)*, which he serves as editor-in-chief. Professor Boelkins has co-authored several research papers with undergraduate students and is the author or co-author of four textbooks, including *Active Prelude to Calculus*, *Active Calculus Single Variable*, and *Active Calculus Multivariable*. As Director of New Student Advising & Registration at GVSU, he leads a large team of staff, faculty, and undergraduate student assistants that welcomes Grand Valley's incoming class of about 4000 students annually. He is an active member of the MAA and a former first vice president of the Association.