

## T. Christine Stevens Award for Leadership Development

The MAA's four core values—community, inclusivity, communication, and teaching and learning—clearly explain what's important to us. Named in honor of the co-founder of MAA Project NExT, the MAA T. Christine Stevens Award for Leadership Development is the Association's recognition of the importance of professional development that seeks to build leadership capacity. It is to be awarded annually to a person or persons who has (have) performed significant, sustained work to cultivate and strengthen leadership skills within the mathematical sciences, across the full range of professional activities. The award shall be based on one or several activities that are meant to inspire future or current leaders who are committed to MAA's mission, values, and vision. The contribution should be such as to influence the community and culture of mathematics, statistics, or mathematics education in significant and positive ways on a national scale or have that potential. Rather than being a career or retrospective award, this award celebrates effective leadership efforts and encourages the awardee to sustain their efforts.

### **Edward F. Aboufadel**

*Grand Valley State University*

Dr. Edward F. Aboufadel earned his PhD from Rutgers University in 1992. He has now served for 28 years at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) holding positions that include Assistant Chair and Chair of the Mathematics Department, and Assistant/Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Aboufadel has been a leader in the mathematical sciences for almost three decades during which he has contributed to the development of many other leaders. His many accomplishments include chairing the MAA's Committee on Faculty and Departments; serving as Secretary of Section A (Mathematics) for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); chairing the AAAS's Subcommittee on Fellows; conceiving and facilitating a leadership development seminar at GVSU (across academic disciplines); modeling collaborative, inclusive, problem-solving leadership; and writing extensively about leadership and leadership development. The AAAS presented Dr. Aboufadel with a special proclamation for the work of the Subcommittee under his leadership. Dr. Aboufadel also worked on multiple leadership-related issues such as the Diversity of the Fellows program, studying the effectiveness of various policies, and writing the revocation policy for breaches of ethics. Dr. Aboufadel has invested considerable time and energy serving the MAA in matters related to leadership in the mathematical community. He led the MAA's Committee on Faculty and Departments through

crafting position statements on important issues such as teaching, resources, and faculty development.

While Dr. Aboufadel has worked to improve policy and practice among leaders in the mathematical community, he has also invested himself personally in the development of future leaders in the community. Dr. Aboufadel is an advocate for inclusive leadership practices that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. He's been recognized at GVSU for his extensive work supporting LGBTQIA+ students, faculty, and staff through his administrative role in the provost's office. In 2020, he received the GVSU Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center Solidarity Award, "given to an individual who demonstrates an exceptional commitment to supporting and advocating for the LGBTQIA+ community." In 2021, as part of his work for the MAA, he contributed to the AAAS's SEA CHANGE program, which "aims to advance institutional transformation in support of diversity, equity, and inclusion, especially in colleges and universities."

Dr. Aboufadel is a prolific author on a wide range of topics, and one of his frequent subjects is academic leadership and related issues. He has multiple pieces in *MAA FOCUS*, including articles on inclusive hiring; on being an associate dean; and a collection of first-person perspectives on teaching and leading during COVID (including his own story). He is co-author of a 2018 MAA task force report titled "The Importance of Mathematical Sciences at Colleges and Universities in the 21st Century." As part of a *PRIMUS* special issue for department chairs, Aboufadel authored "The DEAL Seminar" about a reading seminar he conceived and developed as training for future academic leaders. His piece on leadership recently appeared in *The EvoLLLution*.

The MAA's T. Christine Stevens Award for Leadership Development is to be awarded to a person who has "performed significant, sustained work to develop leadership within the mathematical sciences, across the full range of professional activities", and Dr. Aboufadel is most deserving of this honor.

## Response

I am deeply honored to receive the 2023 MAA's T. Christine Stevens Award for Leadership Development. This work can only be done in collaboration with fantastic, creative colleagues, and I appreciate the opportunities that have arisen over the last several years to collaborate with others on initiatives of the MAA, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), my home institution (GVSU), and elsewhere. Working with mathematicians nationally and around the world on MAA issues, it has been clear to me that the keys to being a successful student or expert of mathematics—preparation, study, practice, perseverance—are also essential to becoming an effective and successful leader.

## Biographical Sketch

Dr. Edward Aboufadel is associate vice president for academic affairs and professor of mathematics at Grand Valley State University, in Allendale, Michigan. His portfolio of responsibilities includes two primary areas “faculty affairs (e.g., personnel, governance, policy) and academic facilities. Ed earned his PhD in mathematics from Rutgers University and his BS from Michigan State University. He has been at Grand Valley State University since 1995, and he is an applied mathematician whose scholarship revolves around the solution of realistic problems via mathematics. Ed is the recipient of GVSU’s Outstanding Teacher Award and the Niemeyer Award. Before joining the provost’s office in 2016, Ed served as a department chair for seven years.

Nationally, Ed served for eight years as the Secretary of the Mathematics section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and for several years, he was the Chair of a select AAAS committee concerned with their Fellows program, leading to their revocation policy. He is also an active member of the Mathematical Association of America, having chaired the MAA’s Committee on Faculty & Departments for several years, as well as editing the In Memoriam pages. Ed is a Fellow of the AAAS.

Ed is currently a member of the board of Voters Not Politicians, the Michigan-based organization that has led on pro-voter ballot initiatives in the state. In the past, he was a Research Information Volunteer for one of the chapters of JDRF in Michigan. In 2022, he ran a spirited campaign for a seat on his local school board. Ed stays in shape running 5K’s and 10K’s.