



## **2014 sigma prizes for outstanding contributions to mathematics and statistics support**

### **GUIDANCE NOTES**

The **sigma** Network for Excellence in Mathematics and Statistics Support will award up to three prizes for outstanding contributions to mathematics and statistics support\* in Higher Education during the current academic year 2013/14.

- **The sigma Prize for Innovation 2014:** £500 for a successful innovation delivered this year.
- **The sigma Support Resource 2014:** £500 for developing new resources successfully used for mathematics/statistics support this year.
- **The sigma Student of the Year 2014:** £250 to an undergraduate or postgraduate who has made a significant difference to any aspect of mathematics/statistics support.

#### **Judging Criteria**

The spirit of these prizes is to recognise, reward and celebrate outstanding contributions in each category. The criteria are as follows:

##### **1. Innovation of the Year**

- The innovative activity needs to have been running in the current academic year (2013/14)
- It should have made a significant, and demonstrable, difference to the mathematics/statistics support at the home institution
- It should be possible to replicate or develop at other institutions
- All aspects of support are eligible – pedagogy, organisation, technology, public engagement, etc.

##### **2. Support Resource of the Year**

- The resource should have been available for use in the current academic year (2013/2014) by staff or students in the applicant's institution
- All types of media count – paper-based, audio, video, mobile etc.

---

\* Any activity or product enhancing the teaching and learning of mathematics and/or statistics provided separately and in addition to the standard provision of a student's degree programme and in the context of any academic discipline. It includes a physical centre, a support team or an individual.

- Resources that are easy to transfer, scalable, have broad application or involve a novel approach will be favoured.
- Resources that are designed for specific academic contexts with a mathematics or a statistics component will be eligible.
- Resources can be aimed at different levels of study, from transition to postgraduate.

### **3. Student of the Year**

- Must be able to demonstrate a positive impact on the support experience through, for instance, direct contact with students or resource development.
- Evidence may include staff appraisal, improved outcomes, student evaluation and feedback
- Among the desirable qualities are: pedagogic expertise, enthusiasm and commitment, academic authority, breadth of knowledge, the ability to inspire and engage.

### **Nomination process**

Details of the nomination process for each category are as follows:

#### **Innovation of the Year**

Self-nominations will be accepted. Nominations may also be received from any third party, other than members of the Award Panel.

Nominations will only be accepted via completion of the relevant proforma. Submissions via email are preferred.

#### **Support Resource of the Year**

Self-nominations will be accepted. Nominations may also be received from any third party, other than members of the Award Panel.

Nominations will only be accepted via completion of the relevant proforma. Submissions via email are preferred.

#### **Student of the Year**

It is expected that candidates are nominated by any third party, other than members of the Award Panel.

It is the responsibility of the nominator to seek the approval of the nominee, complete and submit the relevant pro-forma, ensuring the accuracy of the submission. Submissions by email, containing electronic signatures of both nominator and nominee, are preferred. If either party does not have an electronic signature, then a signed hard copy must be submitted.

### **Selection process**

All nominations will be scrutinised against the criteria by an Award Panel consisting of:

- Dr Rob Wilson, Cardiff University
- Dr Chetna Patel, University of Sheffield

The panel reserves the right to draw upon other sources in the public domain (e.g. websites, publications) to verify statements made by the nominator. Panel members will individually assess and rank each application in the three categories. The individual rankings will be aggregated to provide a short list of overall winners in each category.

David Bowers (Chair, the **sigma** Network) will convene the final meeting of the Award Panel to consider the shortlisted entries. In the event of a tie, the Chair will exercise a casting vote. The decision of the Award Panel is final and no correspondence will be entered into thereafter.

### **Additional prize details**

In addition to the monetary award, each recipient will receive a Certificate of Award and up to two free places at the CETL MSOR Conference 2014 (one place for the Student of the Year prize winner). The prizes will be formally awarded at the Conference Dinner on the evening of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

### **Key dates**

|                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Call for nominations          | Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2014    |
| Closing date for nominations  | Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2014      |
| Announcement of prize winners | Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2014   |
| Prize giving ceremony         | Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2014 |

### **Further information**

Informal enquiries should be directed to Moira Petrie, **sigma** Project Manager ([m.g.petrie@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:m.g.petrie@lboro.ac.uk)).