



## **sigma Prizes for Outstanding Contributions to Mathematics and Statistics Support 2015**

### **GUIDANCE NOTES**

The **sigma** Network for Excellence in Mathematics and Statistics Support will award up to four prizes for outstanding contributions to mathematics and statistics support\* in Higher Education during the current academic year 2014/15. The spirit of the prizes is to recognise, reward and celebrate outstanding contributions in this field.

- **The sigma Prize for Outstanding Contributor 2015:** £500 to an individual employed in a higher education institution (UK) who has made a sustained contribution to mathematics and/or statistics support.
- **The sigma Mathematics or Statistics Support Research Paper of the Year 2015:** £250 to an author (or authors) of a single outstanding paper that impacts directly or indirectly on support for mathematics and/or statistics in higher education.
- **The sigma Student of the Year 2015:** £250 to an undergraduate or postgraduate at a higher education institution (UK) 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. **sigma Prize for Outstanding Contributor**
  - Evidence of a sustained and significant contribution to mathematics and statistics support
  - Has championed mathematics and statistics support inside and outside own institution.
  - Can demonstrate a positive impact on enhancing the student learning experience (at least 2 examples needed)
  - Has promoted/disseminated effective practice to a wider audience (published work, conference papers/presentations, professional development activity etc.)

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\* 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.

## **2. Mathematics or Statistics Support Research Paper of the Year**

- The paper must have been published in the three years up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, in a peer reviewed English language journal, published in any country. This includes research papers that are only available online and conference papers where the proceedings are published. For papers that are “epub ahead of print”, the date of first online publication of the final version will specify the publication year.
- Papers should be in an area of theoretical or practical original research that impacts directly or indirectly on support for mathematics or statistics in higher education.
- A broad remit is envisaged including surveys, history, pedagogy, social science, technology, and discipline-specific scholarship.
- Authors may submit their own work for consideration.
- Those submitting a paper for recommendation should include a short evaluation of the work, describing in particular its impact on mathematics or statistics support.

## **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:

#### **sigma Prize for Outstanding Contributor**

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.

#### **Mathematics or Statistics Support Research Paper 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. As it may be necessary to provide a hard copy of the relevant paper, submissions via post and email are acceptable.

#### **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
- Dr Trevor Hawkes, Coventry University
- Prof Tony Croft, Loughborough University
- Prof Duncan Lawson, Newman University
- Michael Grove, University of Birmingham

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. 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 one free place at the CETL-MSOR Conference 2015 (Note: only one free place available for the Paper of the Year award). Recipients will be expected to cover their own travel expenses.

The prizes will be formally awarded at the Conference Dinner on the evening of Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

### **Key dates**

Call for nominations	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2015
Closing date for nominations	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2015
Announcement of prize winners	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2015
Prize giving ceremony	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2015

### **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)).