



sigma Prizes for Outstanding Contributions to Mathematics and Statistics Support 2016

GUIDANCE NOTES

The **sigma** Network for Excellence in Mathematics and Statistics Support will award two prizes for outstanding contributions to mathematics and statistics support* in higher education during the current academic year 2015/16. The spirit of the prizes is to recognise, reward and celebrate outstanding contributions in this field.

- **The sigma Prize for Outstanding Contributor 2016:** £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 Student of the Year 2016:** £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.)
- 2. 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.

* Any activity 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.

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.

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.

Selection process

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

- Dr Rob Wilson, Cardiff University
- 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 2016. 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 6th September 2016.

Key dates

Call for nominations	Thursday 28 th April 2016
Closing date for nominations	Friday 3 rd June 2016
Announcement of prize winners	Thursday 29 th June 2016
Prize giving ceremony	Tuesday 6 th September 2016

Further information

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