

Meritorious Service Awards

Tamara Lakins

Allegheny College

Tamara has served her Section in many different offices: Second Vice Chair (2000–2001), First Vice Chair (2001–2002), Section NExT Co-Coordinator (2002–2003 and 2008–2012), Chair (2003–2005), Governor (2011–2014), and Newsletter Editor (2014–2015). She has also served on countless section committees.

It is important to note that Tamara should not be known simply by her long list of offices. While this list is important, the strength of the leadership that she has displayed over the past twenty years is equally impressive. Her leadership style is professional, creative, and inclusive; and we all know that if Tamara is in charge of something, it will be done and it will be done well. For example, during her time as Chair, Tamara led the Section through a thorough and much-needed revision of the bylaws. It was due to Tamara's determination and hard work that the revised bylaws were successfully approved in 2005. Fifteen years later, those who worked with Tamara at that time still remember her efforts in this regard.

Tamara's leadership was also vital to launching and sustaining the Allegheny Mountain Section's successful Section NExT program. A Project NExT Fellow herself (Green dot, 1995), she was one of four section members to write the initial grant proposal in 1999 that got the program off the ground. After the funding was approved, Tamara helped run the first Section NExT workshop in April 2000. She then served as one of the first co-coordinators of the program, a role she took up again for an extended period some years later. In addition to providing such valuable leadership for Section NExT, Tamara has also contributed to the program by serving as a speaker or panelist at a few workshops.

Tamara has also done important service for the broader MAA community. She has organized sessions at national meetings and served as a member and Chair of the Basic Library List Committee. Tamara currently serves on the Classroom Resource Materials Editorial Board.

The Allegheny Mountain Section previously recognized Dr. Tamara Lakins with its Service Award in 2009, and we are thrilled to be able to acknowledge her dedication to the MAA once more with the Certificate of Meritorious Service.

Response

I am greatly honored to receive the 2020 MAA Certificate of Meritorious Service. It has been my privilege to serve with the many colleagues in the Allegheny Mountain Section who are deeply committed to the objectives and success of the MAA. I am thankful for the many friends I have made over the years while serving the Allegheny Mountain Section, and I look forward to continuing these friendships and professional relationships for years to come!

Biographical Sketch

Tamara Lakins is Professor of Mathematics at Allegheny College, where she has taught since 1995. She received her BS and MS degrees at Western Illinois University, where her undergraduate mentor Dr. Iraj Kalantari played an influential role in encouraging her to pursue a career in academia. In 1993, Dr. Lakins received her PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, specializing in computability theory. Prior to arriving at Allegheny College, she held a John Wesley Young Research Instructor teaching postdoc at Dartmouth College. She is a 1995 Project NExT fellow.

Dr. Lakins served as Chair of the Mathematics Department at Allegheny College in 2011–2019, co-authoring an in-house open source calculus textbook with several colleagues during that time, and facilitating her department's recent revision of its calculus curriculum. Her textbook, *The Tools of Mathematical Reasoning*, was published in 2016.