

Meritorious Service Awards

Benjamin Collins

University of Wisconsin – Platteville, now Epic Systems Corporation

The Wisconsin Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to select Dr. Benjamin Collins as its 2023 Meritorious Service Award recipient. Dr. Collins became active in the Wisconsin Section soon after taking a faculty position at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville in 2000. He served three years as Director of Project NExT in Wisconsin (later renamed Section NExT). After that he was appointed the Wisconsin Section Public Information Officer, a position he held for 15 years. As Public Information Officer, Ben went beyond the call of duty. Not only did he

- produce the Section's semiannual newsletter,
- maintain the Section's website,
- communicate regularly with campus liaisons,

he was also instrumental in

- shepherding the Section through two by-laws revisions,
- creating, promoting, and producing most of the interviews for the Know Your Wisconsin Mathematician program, which has featured semiannual interviews of prominent mathematicians in Wisconsin since 2006 (including an interview with himself),
- providing the technological support that allowed the Section to transition to online meeting registration,
- hosting most of the student Face-Off competitions that challenged student teams and entertained faculty at many Wisconsin Section Spring Meetings,
- becoming a self-appointed Wisconsin Section historian in preparation for the MAA centennial celebration and in doing so, compiling a comprehensive historical review of Section officers and activities.

Dr. Collins benefitted the Section with the insights he gained through his six-year membership on the MAA Committee on Sections. In spite of retiring from teaching and taking a position at Epic Systems Corporation, his involvement in the MAA has not ended. He is an active member of the MAA Business, Industry, and Government Special Interest Group (BIGSIG). The Wisconsin Section continues to benefit from Benjamin Collins' involvement.

Response

I am honored to receive the Meritorious Service Award from the MAA. In my years working with the MAA, both in the Wisconsin Section, and on Asso-

ciation-level committees, I have served with many wonderful and dedicated individuals, far too numerous to thank individually. I believe that the strength of the MAA is in its members, and I hope to be able to continue to serve for years to come.

Biographical Sketch

Benjamin V.C. Collins has been a member of the MAA since his days as an undergraduate student at Central College in Iowa, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1986. He earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan in 1988 and received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996, under the direction of Paul Terwilliger. He has taught at St. John's University/The College of St. Benedict (MN) and Midland Lutheran College (now Midland University, NE). He served for 20 years on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, before retiring in 2020. He is now a Technical Solutions Engineer for Epic Systems in Verona, Wisconsin. He has served the MAA as Director of Project NExT-Wisconsin (now Section NExT-Wisconsin), Public Information Officer for the Wisconsin Section, a member of the Association's Committee on Sections, and as Vice Chair for Services for the Special Interest Group on Business, Industry, and Government (BIG-SIGMAA)