MAA 2013: GRANTS FOR WOMEN AND MATHEMATICS PROJECTS

Project: Women Advancing Arizona Mathematics (WAAM)

CONCEPT: Having seen few female role models during the course of our undergraduate and graduate careers, we feel that more women would continue in mathematics if there were a greater support network and more opportunities to give talks and have small discussions with peers. Whereas the departmental seminars focus exclusively on a particular research topic, our speaker series will feature research done by women in all areas of mathematics. We also feel that having graduate students "sponsor" a speaker by helping her feel at home on our campus will increase dialog and networking possibilities. To expand on the efforts already made by graduate students in the department who have organized and found funding for Sonja Kovalevsky Day in the past, we would like to continue Sonja Kovalevsky Day and provide funds for follow-up visits by graduate students to participating schools during the year.

RATIONALE: Our institution welcomes this proposal through contributions from the math department:
• $4000 via the chair of the department William McCallum (see attached letter)
• at least $500 in support for undergraduate women to attend the Southwest Undergraduate Mathematics Research Conference (see attached letter)

OBJECTIVES: The goal of WAAM is to encourage women in Arizona to pursue higher mathematics and to increase retention of those women currently studying mathematics. We plan to achieve these goals by:
• Increasing communication, social interaction and mentorship between women graduate and undergraduate students, postdocs and faculty in the UA mathematics department.
• Providing follow-up for Sonja Kovalevsky Day.
See http://math.arizona.edu/outreach/SoniaKovDay.html
• Providing travel funding for speakers to give seminar talks and to have small group discussions with seminar participants.
• Encouraging members of all traditionally under-represented groups (including women) to participate in "high level" math activities such as math colloquia, conferences for undergraduates, and research experiences for undergraduates.
• Promoting the application of undergraduates from under-represented groups (including women) to graduate programs.
• Increasing participation of individuals from under-represented groups (including women) in Math Cats (the undergraduate Math Club).
• Providing financial support to female graduate students (when other funds are unavailable) to participate in conferences and workshops.