

## Daniel Solow Author's Award

This annual award recognizes the author or authors of undergraduate mathematics teaching materials (textbook, lecture notes, computer software, web-based learning materials, video lectures, and others, as approved by the Council on Prizes). The primary criteria for selection will be the material's impact on undergraduate education in mathematics and/or the mathematical sciences (operations research, statistics, computer science, applied mathematics).

### David Lippman

*MyOpenMath.*

*MyOpenMath* is a free online course management and assessment system for mathematics courses, providing delivery of homework, quizzes, and tests with rich mathematical content, and scoring with immediate feedback on algorithmically generated questions with numerical or algebraic expression answers. It offers a full course management system, including file posting, discussion forums, and a full gradebook. According to the history provided at the system website, “*MyOpenMath* was born out of free, open-source software (IMathAS) developed by David Lippman, a community college math professor in Washington State, starting in 2005. He first ran a state-wide installation of IMathAS. Then, faculty from around the state got involved, and collaboratively contributed much of the content. Out of the Open Course Library project in Washington, several complete courses based on open textbooks were created.” In 2011, Lippman launched *MyOpenMath*. In 2017, Lumen created their own version of *MyOpenMath*, called Lumen OHM, to differentiate their supported service from the free, community *MyOpenMath* platform. In 2018, *MyOpenMath* became a non-profit organization, which continues to lead the development of IMathAS and to manage *MyOpenMath*, adding content regularly to expand its utility to dozens of instructors and tens of thousands of students at universities, colleges and community colleges across the world. Today, *MyOpenMath* offers support for 25 published courses, including College Algebra, Trigonometry, Statistics, Calculus, Differential Equations, and Linear Algebra, as well as free access to a library of nearly 1,000,000 mathematics problems.

Letters of support for this award testify to the impact that *MyOpenMath* has had on students and instructors alike. One writer told how “in the past many students would drop [my] class when they found out they could not afford the course materials; now the system is free for them to use. All courses [at my institution] incorporate *MyOpenMath*, saving our students” thousands

of dollars. “It has a super positive effect on all our students.” Several spoke about how “easy to use” the platform is, for students and instructors alike: students find navigating the system and monitoring their grades straightforward; instructors mentioned that “with no coding background, [I] was able to modify some questions for a practice exam.” A writer confessed that *MyOpenMath* “was a life saver during the pandemic,” since both teachers and students could easily work together solving problems in *MyOpenMath* on Zoom. They cited Lippman as “the brainchild of the system,” and supporters praised him for his regular contributions of content, especially of helpful videos for students, and for his helpful responsiveness to handle questions. In addition, Lippman has organized a community of support for *MyOpenMath*, including content providers and a forum for finding help with using and authoring for the platform.

The MAA is happy to recognize David Lippman of Pierce College for establishing the *MyOpenMath* platform and offering leadership with authoring and supporting the content that has been made available there. Congratulations on being the 2023 recipient of the MAA Daniel Solow Award!

## Response

I am honored to be recognized for my work on *MyOpenMath*. I started the platform over 15 years ago with the simple goal to reduce the cost of educational materials for my students and have been amazed by how it has grown and how a vibrant community of users has developed. I’m proud of the millions of dollars we have saved students on educational materials. I want to give a huge shout-out to the fantastic user community, whose question writing and course building and willingness to share their work with others is what truly has made the platform successful.

## Biographical Sketch

**David Lippman** has been teaching math at Pierce College Fort Steilacoom in Lakewood, Washington since 2000. David has been a strong advocate for and creator of open resources in the mathematics world since 2005, including creating *MyOpenMath* and authoring several open textbooks.