

MAA Award for Inclusivity

The MAA Award for Inclusivity was established in 2019. This award is the Association's recognition of the importance of its core value of Inclusivity to building a healthy and vibrant mathematical community where all are welcome and encouraged to flourish. The MAA Award for Inclusivity is awarded annually to a person or persons (not a program) who has performed significant, sustained work to broaden access to mathematics. The award may be made based on one or several activities that exemplify inclusivity and embrace and affirm diversity. The contribution should be such as to influence the community and culture of mathematics or mathematical education in a significant and positive way on a national scale or have that potential.

Candice Price

Smith College

Professor Candice Price has devoted her life to making mathematics welcoming to all, and we are delighted to honor her with the 2022 MAA Award for Inclusivity.

Co-founding USTARS in 2010, it was Price's mission not only to provide an inclusive space for future topologists and algebraists, but also to offer a vertically integrated mentorship program, developing networks between graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty. This program has had a direct impact on the trajectory of over 450 students and faculty over the past twelve years, and it has provided a forum to address the specific needs and concerns of underrepresented mathematicians at various levels of the academy. The program has been so successful that it has been continually supported by both the National Science Foundation and the National Security Agency.

One of the most notable contributions made by Price is the co-creation of the Network of Minorities in Mathematical Sciences, and in particular the co-founding of Mathematically Gifted & Black (MGB). The website was co-founded by Price with the goal of heightening the visibility and showcasing the careers of contemporary mathematicians of the African diaspora. This site and its impacts are "the real deal." It has become a preeminent international site for those seeking information on the lives of modern-day Black mathematicians. Posters from the site have drastically increased the visibility of Black mathematicians everywhere. The posters can be found at locations from top-tier research institutions like the Institute for Advanced Study to everyday high school classrooms across the globe. This effort draws attention to the progress and success of Black mathematicians worldwide.

In addition to the national visibility that USTARS and MGB has brought to groups typically underrepresented in mathematics, Price co-organized the 2020 Critical Issues in Mathematics Education (CIME) Workshop Series at MSRI, focusing on issues of inclusion. She has been heavily involved in the national Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) summer program, focusing on inclusion for women in the mathematical sciences. In EDGE she was both a mentor and an instructor of the analysis course for several years. She was a multi-year member of the steering committee of the Infinite Possibilities annual conference, a national effort designed to promote, educate, encourage and support minority women underrepresented in mathematics and statistics. Her work has gained her national recognition. The National Society of Black Engineers awarded her with the Dr. Janice A Lumpkin Educator of the Year Award. The Benjamin Banneker Association awarded her with the Exemplary Mathematics Teacher of African American Students Award. She has also received over a half million dollars of grant support for efforts in inclusion and diversity.

Her nominator goes on to point out work that Price does that goes unseen. "Where Professor Price is a true advocate is in her one-on-one efforts with individuals across the country. In this, she is unmatched... When a junior mathematician is in crisis, she will travel to them to provide support in the best way pos-

sible. She steps in at the most critical times, and literally changes the trajectory of people's careers one-by-one. She is a direct mentor of undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty across the country, paving the way for a generation of mathematicians who otherwise would not make it through the many obstacles required for underrepresented minorities to stay in mathematics.”

For her tremendous efforts to advance the professional mathematical careers of members of groups underrepresented in mathematics, we are pleased to award Professor Candice Renee Price the MAA's 2022 Award for Inclusivity.

Response

I first want to acknowledge that the land on which I have the privilege to work and live is the traditional and unceded territory of the Nipmuck and Pocumtuc Nations. I want to pay respect to the citizens of the Nipmuck and Pocumtuc Nations, both past and present, and their continuing relationship to their ancestral lands. It is important to me as a descendant of stolen and enslaved people to recognize and acknowledge that I am living and working on stolen land. It is important to me that I acknowledge that this land takes care of me, and that I should take care of the land as well. Second, I am truly humbled and honored to be recognized with this award.

My ever evolving service mission is to create and contribute to programs that broaden the participation of groups that have been historically and systemically excluded from mathematics by focusing on strong mentoring and research networks. I am proud to have such a mission to guide my career. I am also so grateful to my family, mentors, friends, co-conspirators, motivators, and fans. Every step I have taken has never been alone. I want to say thank you to everyone (way too many to name but I hope you know who you are) that has encouraged my wild ideas and been the gasoline to my fire. Wreaths Up.

Biographical Sketch

I was born in Long Beach, CA but raised in Sacramento. I am the daughter of Lauren and Dwight Price, sister to Talya Price, Geoffrey Price, and Jean Tashima. I am the proud aunt of the amazing Lyra Tashima Price. I earned my bachelors in mathematics from California State University, Chico, my masters' in mathematics from San Francisco State University, and my doctorate from the University of Iowa. I am currently an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics at Smith College. My research area is primarily in the area of DNA topology but I am currently working in various areas of mathematical modeling. I am the director of the MAA Tensor-SUMMA program, a co-director of the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute-Undergraduate Program (MSRI-UP), a co-founder and co-director of the website Mathematically Gifted and Black, and the co-founder and co-CEO of 619 Wreath Publishing LLC.