

Teaching Award Committee
MAA Golden Section
c/o John Thoo
2088 N Beale Rd
Marysville, CA 95901-7605

Dear Award Committee:

I am writing in support of Prof. Jesús De Loera's selection for the Golden Section Teaching Award. Jesús De Loera's commitment to teaching is evidenced both inside and outside of the classroom. He has taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate classes at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Cornell University, the University of Minnesota, ETH Zürich, the University of California (Davis), and Technische Universität München.

In the classroom, Jesús De Loera is well-known for his energy. I saw this enthusiasm as a student in a graduate combinatorics class. In addition, I had the chance to experience his teaching as a teaching assistant. He implemented the **flipped classroom** model for linear algebra. In recognition of the need for an accessible text in discrete computational mathematics, he is writing an undergraduate level textbook tentatively titled *Actually Doing It: Polyhedral Computation and its Applications*. Even the title of the text gives a strong indication of his desire to bring active mathematics learning beyond Davis.

Jesús De Loera believes in **teaching outside the classroom**. He has served as math club advisor, and taught for COSMOS (a program for talented high school students in California). He is also the faculty advisor for CALESS (a student club for Chicanos and Latinos in Engineering and Science). His work has supported McNair Scholars and MURRPS, a program to facilitate the participation of minorities in the mathematical and physical sciences. He serves on the American Mathematical Society Council as a member of the Education Committee.

Jesús De Loera is a superb mentor for the next generation of mathematicians. His service to students at UC Davis has been recognized through numerous campus-wide awards. The mathematics graduate student association awarded him their **service award** in 2001 and the campus-wide graduate student association awarded him a similar **service award** in 2007. From 2003 to 2008, he was a **Chancellor's Fellow**. In 2006 he received the UC Davis **Principles of Community and Diversity Award**. In 2013, he was honored with the **Chancellor's Award in undergraduate research mentoring**. He has supervised 8 Ph.D. students and has four current students. In addition, he has supervised eight postdoctoral researchers, and 45 undergraduate student researchers. At one point in time, he had over 10 simultaneous undergraduate researchers!

What the awards and the numbers of students fail to demonstrate, however, is his compassion, patience, and enormous capacity as a mentor. Professor De Loera is as much a scholar devoted to research as he is a thoughtful mentor and colleague. Whether the audience is a group of fellow researchers, motivated undergraduates, disinterested non-majors, the struggling graduate student, or junior faculty member, one is quick to notice how his **passion** for teaching mathematics and encouraging all students of mathematics.

Sincerely,



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