

CELT Selects 2021-2022 Teaching Award Recipient

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TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENT



Dear Colleagues,

The Committee to Enhance Learning and Teaching (CELT) has selected **Lara Pudwell, Ph.D.**, associate professor of mathematics and statistics, as the 2021-2022 Valparaiso University Excellence in Teaching Award recipient.

The award recognizes at least one outstanding undergraduate faculty each year for general teaching excellence, with particular attention to excellence in any of three areas: course development, pedagogy, and mentoring/advising. The award comes with a \$3,000 prize.



Lara Pudwell, Ph.D.

Dr. Pudwell received the honor for her work in the mentoring/advising category. Zsuzsanna Szaniszló, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, nominated her colleague and cited Dr. Pudwell's efforts in directing undergraduate students in mathematical research.

"Dr. Pudwell is the most passionate and effective teacher and mentor," said Professor Szaniszló. "She is nationally known and recognized as an outstanding teacher and mentor in the mathematics community. She has received national awards from the Council on Undergraduate Research and the Mathematical Association of America. The latter, is one of the most coveted awards for teaching faculty across the nation."

Dr. Pudwell is the co-author of the book *A Mathematician's Practical Guide to Mentoring*

Undergraduate Research (September 2019, MAA Press). She served as the PI of Valpo's NSF-funded summer REU program from 2010-2019, leading six different teams of students on mathematics research projects. In her 13 years at Valpo, she has mentored numerous year-long projects with more than 40 Valpo and external students, leading to presentations at SOURCE, refereed published publications, and oral presentations.

She has also advised countless math minors and math majors over the years and matched students with career opportunities to help them find their path through mathematics. According to Professor Szaniszló, "Lara is devoted to following up with her former research students, guiding a number of them through application processes for graduate school and other summer and post-graduation opportunities."

She has received several awards for advising organizations, including the Mark R. Schwehn Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award, the Award for Outstanding Support of Fraternity and Sorority Life, and the Award for Significant Impact on a Fraternity Member.

In addition to Professor Pudwell, this year's finalists included the following outstanding faculty:

- **Jenny Marley, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, College of Engineering
- **Jon-Paul McCool, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of geography, College of Arts and Sciences
- **Danielle Orozco-Nunnally, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of biology, College of Arts and Sciences
- **Jeni Prough, Ph.D.**, associate professor of Humanities and East Asian studies, Christ College
- **Andrew Raridon, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of sociology and criminology, College of Arts and Sciences
- **Timothy Tomasik, Ph.D.**, professor of world languages and cultures, College of Arts and Sciences

Please join me in congratulating Professor Lara Pudwell and her fellow nominees on their outstanding work!

Lissa Yogan, Ph.D.
Assistant Provost for Faculty Affairs



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219.464.5310 - KRETZMANN HALL, 1700 CHAPEL DRIVE, VALPARAISO, IN 46383-6493 USA - valpo.edu/provost