
Inside the AMS

AMS Epsilon Fund Makes Awards

The AMS Epsilon Fund for Young Scholars was established in 1999 to provide financial assistance to summer programs for mathematically talented high school students in the United States. For many years these programs have provided these young people with their first serious mathematical experiences. The name for the fund was chosen in remembrance of the late Paul Erdős, who was fond of calling children “epsilons”.

The AMS has chosen eight summer mathematics programs to receive Epsilon grants for activities in the summer of 2001. The grants will support program expenses and student scholarships and, in some cases, scholarships only. The programs were chosen on the basis of mathematical excellence and enthusiasm by a selection committee chaired by Joel Spencer of the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University. Award amounts were governed by the varying financial needs of each program and totaled \$80,000.

The programs receiving grants are: All Girls/All Math (University of Nebraska); Mathcamp (Port Huron, Michigan); Michigan Math & Science Scholars (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor); Mathematics Scholars Academy (Oklahoma State University); Hampshire College Summer Studies in Mathematics (Hampshire College); PROMYS (Boston University); Young Scholars Program (University of Chicago); and Ross Mathematics Program (The Ohio State University).

The grants for summer 2001 are paid for by the Society’s Program Development Fund. The AMS has now begun an effort to raise an endowment for the Epsilon Fund and has pledged \$500,000 to get the endowment started. The hope

is to build the endowment to around \$2 million through individual donations and grants from foundations. Once the Epsilon Fund endowment has reached the targeted amount, the AMS intends to award a total of \$100,000 in Epsilon grants each year.

For further information about the Epsilon Fund for Young Scholars, visit the Web site <http://www.ams.org/giving-to-ams/>; or contact development@ams.org, telephone 800-321-4267, extension 4111, or 401-455-4111. Information about how to apply for Epsilon grants is available at <http://www.ams.org/employment/epsilon.html>. A fairly comprehensive listing of summer programs for mathematically talented high school students (including those with and without Epsilon grants) is available at <http://www.ams.org/employment/mathcamps.html>.

—Allyn Jackson