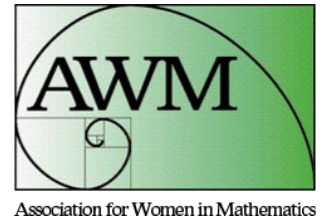**Association for Women in Mathematics**
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For Immediate Release: Aug 22, 2024
Pamela E. Harris to receive the Louise Hay Award for Contributions to Mathematics Education

The Association for Women in Mathematics is pleased to announce the 2025 Louise Hay Award will be presented to **Pamela E. Harris**, Associate Professor of Mathematics, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, for her dedication to diversity and equity in academia, for her success in fostering others' growth in how they support diversity and equity and for her brilliance, dedication, and passion as an educator who teaches both mathematics and equity.

Citation

Pamela E. Harris is a Mexican American mathematician who began college as an undocumented immigrant attending Milwaukee Area Technical College. She is an accomplished mathematician with research expertise in algebraic combinatorics, focusing on representation theory of Lie algebras. Harris is also President and co-founder of Lathisms: Latinxs and Hispanics in the Mathematical Sciences, whose goal is to provide an accessible platform that features the multifaceted and diverse nature of the Latinx and Hispanic mathematics community and inspires the younger generation of Latinx mathematicians. During Hispanic Heritage Month, Lathisms highlights contributions of Latinx and Hispanic mathematicians. The organization also provides $500 scholarships to support Hispanic/Latinx students interested in pursuing a career focused on mathematical sciences.

Harris co-hosts, with Aris Winger, the popular podcast, *Mathematically Uncensored*. Harris and Winger have also co-authored three books for mathematics faculty focused on advocacy for students of color in mathematics. The trilogy titles are: *Asked and Answered: Dialogues on Advocating for Students of Color in Mathematics*; *Practices and Policies: Advocating for Students of Color in Mathematics*; and *Read and Rectify: Advocacy Stories from Students of Color in Mathematics*. These books have been used in math department book clubs, by mathematicians for personal growth, and as a set of guiding lights for policy and practice changes. Harris has made additional notable contributions to mathematics education by supervising the mathematics research of over 120 undergraduate students. She exemplifies intentional mentorship of others working in mathematics education. Harris provides outstanding guidance and support to those who are navigating their careers as mathematics professionals - her mentees are gifted with her strategic vision, her inclusive approaches, and her wisdom about how to support students in defining and achieving their own versions of successful careers.

Pamela Harris was named a 2022 AWM Fellow, a 2022 AMS Fellow, a 2022 recipient of the MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics, a 2020 Karen Uhlenbeck EDGE Fellow, and a 2019 recipient of the MAA Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member. As one of her nominators stated, "I have no doubt that the space and prestige that the Hay award makes for Dr. Harris will be multiplied thousands of times over as she makes even more space for those who look up to her, seek to learn from her, and come after her."

Response from Harris

I am honored to receive the 2025 Louise Hay Award for Contributions to Mathematics Education. This recognition is incredibly meaningful to me, and I am grateful to the Association for Women in Mathematics for the recognition.
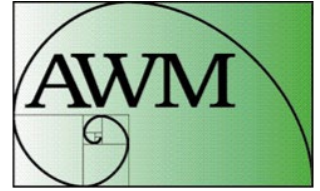
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Throughout my journey as a mathematician and educator, I have been fortunate to have the support of wonderful mentors who have guided me, inspired me, and made space for me. Their wisdom and encouragement have been instrumental in shaping my career. Mentoring, supporting, and making space for young mathematicians, especially those from underrepresented groups, has been a central part of my mission. My dedication to fostering diversity and equity in academia, originally sparked by my own experiences, is now fueled by the remarkable students and colleagues around me. Their growth and success inspire me daily.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my colleagues, students, mentors, and family members who have supported me throughout my career. Receiving this award reinvigorates my commitment to do as much as I can to support early career scholars in their pursuits, and to continue to work towards creating inclusive spaces where all students can thrive and achieve their dreams. Thank you for this incredible honor.

Established in 1991, the Hay Award recognizes outstanding achievements in any area of mathematics education. Louise Hay was widely recognized for her contributions to mathematical logic, for her strong leadership as Head of the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago, for her devotion to students, and for her lifelong commitment to nurturing the talent of young women and men. The annual presentation of this award is intended to highlight the importance of mathematics education and to evoke the memory of all that Hay exemplified as a teacher, scholar, administrator, and human being. It will be presented at the Joint Mathematics Meetings, scheduled for January 8 – 11, 2025 in Seattle, WA.