

62 top math students honored at the 30th annual CMA event on May 22nd at DU

The 30th annual Colorado Math Awards (CMA) reception and program was held on Thursday afternoon, May 22nd, on the University of Denver campus. Sixty-two middle school, high school, and university students were recognized for outstanding performance in 11 national math competitions: MATHCOUNTS; AMC 8, AMC 10 A&B, and AMC 12 A&B contests and the AMC Young Women in Mathematics Awards and Certificate Program; USA Math and Junior Math Olympiads; American Regional Mathematics League (ARML) team competitions; and the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition for college students in the U.S. and Canada. More than 120 persons attended the event, including students, family members, teachers and coaches, and guests.

After opening remarks by CMA Co-founder and Co-chair **David Carlson**, CMA Co-chair **Rhonda Naylor** addressed the students present with the questions: *Where will you be in 10 years? 20 years? 30 years?* She shared video clips and brief statements from CMA student awardees from 30 years ago who described what they are doing today and the positive impact of participating in math competitions while in school.

Some key results:

The Colorado National MATHCOUNTS Team placed 23rd overall in the Washington, D.C. national competition over Mothers' Day weekend. Eleven Colorado students in grade 8 or below finished in the top 1% nationally on the AMC 8 exam; nearly 80,000 students across the country took this exam in January. A 6th grader, a 7th grader, and an 8th grader had perfect papers, which required solving 25 multiple-choice problems in 40 minutes. The 7th grader also received a national award in the AMC Young Women in Mathematics Program.

Eight different Colorado high school students finished in the top 1% nationally on one or more of the AMC 10A & B, and 12A & B exams. A 9th grader had a perfect paper in the 10B exam—one of 65 perfect scores among the 23,364 students nationally who took the exam. This student also qualified for the USA Junior Math Olympiad and received an Honorable Mention. Another 9th grader and a 10th grader also qualified for the USAJMO. A junior qualified for the USA Math Olympiad and received a Bronze Winner award.

Three students from three different universities in Colorado – CSU, the University of Colorado Boulder, and the University of Denver – were honored for their top 500 performance among nearly 4,000 U.S. and Canadian students in the extremely challenging 6-hour, 12 question essay-type Putnam Examination.

Another highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of \$1,000 scholarship awards to two outstanding high school seniors: **Amanda Chen** and **Ethan Lou**, both from Cherry Creek High School in Greenwood Village. The scholarships are given in memory of **Dr. Richard "Dick" Gibbs**, professor emeritus of Ft. Lewis College and the co-founder and co-chair of CMA until his death in November 2023. Each awardee also received a medal, which reads: "Dick Gibbs Award -- Top Problem-solver! -- CMA 2025."

Awards are given to students who have demonstrated outstanding performance across a variety of math competitions over several years. Amanda has committed to attend the University of Wisconsin at Madison this fall, while Ethan will begin studies at Yale University. **Jim Padavic**, their teacher and coach at Cherry Creek High School, spoke briefly about each student, followed by remarks from each scholarship recipient.



In closing remarks, Dr. Carlson encouraged students to thank their teachers and coaches and to consider entering a state-level math contest in addition to the AMC 8-10-12 series this next year.