

Abbreviated Teaching Statement

Ryan C. Blair

As a teacher I am inspired by the personal connections I make with students, by seeing my students succeed and by igniting in others a love for the subject. I believe in creating a classroom environment that allows for the open exchange of ideas and makes the students an active part of every lecture. Through the integration of technology, manipulatives, class discussions and group work, I make my classroom dynamic. Additionally, I am dedicated to educating outside of the classroom. This includes helping underrepresented groups pursue their higher education goals, advising graduate students, mentoring math majors, and building a department that strives toward higher levels of excellence in teaching.

I have been honored to receive accolades for excellence in teaching from both my students and math departments. At the University of Pennsylvania, I was awarded the Mathematics Department Good Teaching Award for my undergraduate course on point-set topology. At the University of California at Santa Barbara, I was honored with the Mathematics Graduate Student Teaching Award from the Department of Mathematics for my lower-division course on differential equations and linear algebra.

Students genuinely respond to the encouraging and welcoming classroom culture that I build. As evidence, my calculus III course was the second highest rated by students amongst the 23 calculus courses taught at the University of Pennsylvania in the Spring of 2012. For the complete copy of the student evaluations for this course, visit my website at <http://www.math.upenn.edu/~ryblair/>