

# 2019 Joint Policy Board for Mathematics Communications Award

MARGOT LEE SHETTERLY was awarded the 2019 Joint Policy Board for Mathematics Communications Award at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Baltimore, Maryland, in January 2019.



Margot Lee Shetterly

## Citation

The 2019 JPBM Communications Award is presented to Margot Lee Shetterly for her book and subsequent movie *Hidden Figures*, which opened science and mathematics to a new generation of women and people of color by bringing into the light the stories of the African American women who made significant contributions to aeronautics and astronautics and, ultimately, to America's victory in the Space Race.

## Biographical Note

Margot Lee Shetterly is a writer, researcher, and entrepreneur. She is the author of *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race*, which was a top book of 2016 for both *TIME* and *Publisher's Weekly* (William Morrow and Company, New York, 2016), a *USA Today* best-seller, and a no. 1 *New York Times* bestseller. Shetterly is also the founder of the Human Computer Project, a digital archive of the stories of NASA's African American "Human Computers," whose work tipped the balance in favor of the United States in World War II, the Cold War, and the Space Race. According to the *New York Times*, the 2017 film adaptation of her book introduces viewers to "real people you might wish you had known more about earlier...[who]

can fill you with an outrage at the persistence of injustice and gratitude towards those who had the grit to stand up against it."

## About the Prize

The JPBM Communications Award is presented annually to reward and encourage journalists and other communicators who, on a sustained basis, bring mathematical ideas and information to nonmathematical audiences. JPBM represents the American Mathematical Society, the American Statistical Association, the Mathematical Association of America, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. The award carries a cash prize of US\$2,000.

A list of previous recipients of the JPBM Communications Award may be found on the AMS website at <https://www.ams.org/profession/prizes-awards/pabrowse?pur1=jpbm-comm-award>.

## Credits

Photo of Margot Lee Shetterly is by Aran Shetterly.