

Mark Daniel Ward Wins 2016 Mu Sigma Rho William D. Warde Statistics Education Award

ASA President Jessica Utts presenting the award
to Mark Daniel Ward
at the 2016 JSM Awards Ceremony



This award is named in honor of William Douglas Warde who unexpectedly passed away in August 2010. Bill was a faculty member at Oklahoma State University for forty-two years and was a long-time national officer of Mu Sigma Rho. Bill's energy and enthusiasm for the promotion of our discipline to students was second to none.

This year's recipient is Mark Daniel Ward from Purdue University. The award was given on Sunday evening in the award ceremony at JSM.

Mark has been the Undergraduate Chair in Statistics and Associate Director of the Actuarial Science Program since 2008. Purdue's undergraduate Statistics program

has become one of the largest in the United States. There are now typically more than 400 undergraduate students at Purdue pursuing a major in Statistics.

He is the Principal Investigator on two separate National Science Foundation grants dedicated to undergraduate student research programs. These grants total \$1.88 million and support a total of 136 undergraduate students on research projects. One of these grants provides a year-round research environment for students, in which they also take several courses in Probability, Data Analysis, and Mathematical Statistics together as a cohort, they have weekly professional development experiences, and they live together on the same floor of a residence hall, as part of a Statistics Living Learning Community. In the other grant, investigators who want to work with four REU students can apply for funding from the NSF, administered through the American Statistical Association, to work with diverse students on interdisciplinary research projects.

Ward has won 16 awards for student teaching and mentoring. He is a Fellow of the Purdue University Teaching Academy, whose mission “is to provide leadership and serve as a catalyst to enhance and strengthen the quality of undergraduate, graduate, and outreach teaching and learning.”