

2023 NAM David Harold Blackwell Lecture

Different Differences

Dr. Ron Buckmire
Occidental College

MAA MathFest
Saturday, August 5,
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.,
Ballroom B/C



Dr. Ron Buckmire is a Professor of Mathematics at Occidental College in Los Angeles, California. Ron holds mathematics degrees (Ph.D., M.Sc. and B.Sc.) from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He was Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs and Director of the Core Program from 2018–2022. He was an employee of the National Science Foundation (NSF) from 2011–2013 and 2016–2018. In 2023, he was recognized as a Fellow of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). His primary research interests are numerical analysis, scholarship of teaching and learning, mathematical modeling, and most recently the area of data science, focussing on its intersections with social justice.

He is a passionate advocate for broadening the participation of historically excluded groups (especially LGBTQ+ individuals and racial/ethnic minorities) in math and other STEM disciplines. He serves the broader mathematics community in several capacities, such as Vice-President for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at SIAM, Chair of the AMS Committee on EDI, Chair of MSRI's HRAC, member of BIRS' EDI board and ICERM's board of trustees. He is a co-founder and board member of Spectra, the association for LGBTQ+ mathematicians and their allies. He has well over 35 years of experience as an LGBT rights activist, serving on the boards of organizations such as Equality California, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (now OutRight International) and the Center for Health Justice.