

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS DIVISION
2009 ACADEMIC SENATE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

UNDERGRADUATE CATEGORY

Motohico Mulase
Department of Mathematics

“During my first year at UC Davis, I did not know then what I wanted to study, and Professor Mulase’s inspiring and relevant lectures intensified my interest in mathematics.” “He’s a great role model...he’s my hero.” “He is the most effective and inspirational instructor I have ever had.” “I hated math before Prof. Mulase. Now I actually enjoy it. Thanks!” “Absolutely the greatest math teacher ever. If I had him for 21 series, I’d be smarter. He made math fun, ‘gasp!’ ”

The preceding statements were made by undergraduate students in the classes of Department of Mathematics Professor Motohico Mulase. A distinguished scholar and former Chair of his department, Professor Mulase is an outstanding teacher of classes ranging from first-year calculus to upper-division courses. His students praise his novel and inspirational teaching methods that are highly effective yet fun. He is also an excellent mentor. Several former undergraduate students who are now professors or graduate students state that Professor Mulase was instrumental in encouraging and inspiring them to pursue careers in mathematics. The quality of his teaching is also praised by his colleagues. One wrote, “What makes Motohico so special is his ability to pass on his own passion for mathematics to his students, who as a consequence do not perceive mathematics as a dull or boring subject, but as a lively exciting area of study.” Another colleague who inherits students previously taught by Professor Mulase states, “I have reason every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to be grateful for the extraordinary quality of his teaching.” The Chair of his Department summarizes as follows. “We wish that every student at our university has the chance to be taught by someone like Motohico at least once during his or her career at Davis.”

The Committee is delighted to confer on Professor Mulase the 2009 Distinguish Teaching Award in the Undergraduate Category for his inspirational efforts.