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## **Deborah Loewenberg Ball Honored with Hay Award**

(*January 21, 2009*) The Association for Women in Mathematics presented the NINETEENTH ANNUAL LOUISE HAY AWARD to to **Deborah Loewenberg Ball**, of the University of Michigan at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Washington, D.C. Established in 1991, the Hay Award recognizes outstanding achievements in any area of mathematics education. Louise Hay was widely recognized for her contributions to mathematical logic, for her strong leadership as Head of the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago, for her devotion to students, and for her lifelong commitment to nurturing the talent of young women and men. The annual presentation of this award is intended to highlight the importance of mathematics education and to evoke the memory of all that Hay exemplified as a teacher, scholar, administrator, and human being.

Deborah Ball presents a unique combination of highly integrated talents and accomplishments — long experience and continued engagement as an accomplished elementary mathematics teacher; original, rigorous, and prolific contributions on the frontiers of research in mathematics education; a high standing and respect among research mathematicians; and visionary intellectual and administrative leadership to reform the institutions of mathematics teacher education in this country. She is currently Dean of the School of Education at the University of Michigan.

One of Dr. Ball's primary research interests is the mathematical knowledge needed for teaching (MKT). Her investigations of what MKT is, how it may be measured, and how teachers' knowledge of it impacts the learning of children are providing a foundation for reforms of the mathematics education and development of teachers.

In their letter of nomination, Hyman Bass (a former president of the American Mathematical Society) and Edward Silver (William Brownell Collegiate Professor in Education at the University of Michigan) wrote, "Deborah's leadership in the world of mathematics education research and policy has been widely recognized, and the clarity, eloquence, and effectiveness of her public (written and oral) communication are much appreciated."

Dr. Ball was a major contributor to several NRC projects, notably the one that produced the widely-cited report, "Adding It Up." She was one of the few educators on the Glenn Commission, otherwise populated mainly by members of Congress and business leaders. She headed the subgroup on teaching of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel, whose report was recently released. She chaired the ICMI Study 15 on the Professional Education and Development of Teachers of Mathematics. Deborah Hughes Hallett (Professor of Mathematics at the University of Arizona and the eighth recipient of the Louise Hay Award) wrote, "Over the last decade, Deborah has been extraordinarily effective in promoting real collaboration and communication. In countless presentations, videotapes, and live demonstrations, she has displayed the insight a mathematics educator brings to an elementary school classroom."

The AWM is pleased to honor Deborah Loewenberg Ball with the 2009 Louise Hay Award for her important research into the mathematics needed by elementary school teachers, her ability to communicate mathematics to children and related understandings to diverse communities of adults, and her effective national and international leadership.

*The 2009 Joint Mathematics Meetings was held January 5-8 in Washington, DC. For further information on the Hay Award including past winners and the complete prize citation honoring Deborah Ball, please visit <http://www.awm-math.org>.*