
CHICAGO

Carnegie fund honors Daley College professor

Frustrated math students should be heartened by the story of M. Vali Siadat.

Siadat had little interest in math when he was in high school in Iran.

"I never thought I would be a mathematician," he said Thursday. "I was always afraid of mathematics and mathematics teachers."

Yet, on Thursday, Siadat was in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., being honored as Illinois' 2005 Professor of the Year. Siadat received the honor from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

For 31 years, Siadat has been teaching, of all things, mathematics.

Since 1997, Siadat has been chairman of the Department of Mathematics at Richard J. Daley College.

Siadat, 60, is best known for developing and implementing a program that greatly helped college students understand basic mathematics.

The program, called the Keystone Project, quizzes students frequently, almost daily, on the subject matter at hand. This emphasis on frequent quizzes forces students to keep current on their studies and enhances focus and concentration.