

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed colleagues, and to my students who promised to laugh at my jokes if I kept this short, Wow, what an honor it is to receive the Teaching Excellence award! I must admit, I initially thought the email notification was spam. You know, like the ones promising a free trip if you just enter your social security number.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank my students, who provided ample opportunities for me to perfect my puzzled look when asked why we need to learn algebra. Seriously though, you're the reason I love my job. And also why I need so much caffeine.

A huge thank you to my fellow teachers who taught me everything I know. I mean, who else could turn a last-minute lesson plan into a motivational speech about the importance of preparation?

I'd also like to thank my family for their unwavering support--even when I practiced lectures at the dinner table so many times that my kids can recite the quadratic formula backward.

Finally, a word of advice to all teachers: may your coffee be strong and your Wi-Fi connection stronger.

Thank you for this incredible honor! Let's continue to mold young minds and attempt to make math fun--spoiler alert, it isn't always possible!