



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MATHEMATICS (MoMATH) AWARDS
2017 ROSENTHAL PRIZE FOR INNOVATION IN MATH TEACHING
TO MATT ENGLE OF MONTEREY BAY ACADEMY, LA SELVA BEACH, CA**

Since 2012, MoMath has presented nearly \$200,000 to 18 teachers in seven states to promote distinguished hands-on math teaching in upper elementary and middle school classrooms

Prize will be presented Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at MoMath

New York, NY (January 29, 2018): The **National Museum of Mathematics** (MoMath) is proud to present the 2017 *Rosenthal Prize for Innovation in Math Teaching* to Matt Engle, a high school teacher at Monterey Bay Academy in La Selva Beach, CA. Engle's winning lesson, *Bringing Similarity Into Light: Experiencing Similarity and Dilations Using Shadows*, was chosen as the most innovative, unique, and interesting project for students. The lesson examines the shadows of shapes to explore concepts such as ratio, dilation, and proportionality in triangles. The annual *Rosenthal Prize* includes a cash award of \$25,000.

MoMath's *Rosenthal Prize for Innovation in Math Teaching* was established to recognize and promote distinguished hands-on math teaching. Since 2012, MoMath has awarded the *Rosenthal Prize* to 18 teachers, along with \$200,000 in cash awards. Each year, the winning classroom instructional activity is shared via MoMath's website with teachers across the country. Over the years, *Rosenthal Prize* winners have developed a wide range of classroom lessons, including math probability activities, exploration of the math of fashion design, and the most recent investigation of projections using light and shadows.

The award is named for Saul Rosenthal, President of investment firm Oxford Lane Capital Corp. and long-time supporter of math education.

"As both a student and occasional guest teacher, I have always enjoyed that 'aha' moment that comes from a new understanding of a difficult concept or seeing something in a new way," commented Saul Rosenthal. "I was delighted to work with the founders of MoMath to create this prize and recognize truly innovative and inspiring teachers. As we enter our sixth year of awarding the prize, it is terrific to see so many fantastic teachers from around the country submitting their lesson plans – with so many to choose from, it is very difficult to select a winner!"

"MoMath is thrilled to present Matt Engle with the Rosenthal Prize for his dedication to mathematics and his creative and innovative math lesson," said Cindy Lawrence, MoMath Executive Director. "We are delighted that over six years, we have been able to build a strong network of math teachers across the country through this competition and have empowered a total of 18 teachers to continue to provide hands-on math experiences that make learning fun and compelling for students."

The second-place prize and \$5,000 cash award was given to *Derangements and Random Rearrangements: An Exploration of Probability*, created by Heather Danforth-Clayson, a middle school teacher from Helios School in Sunnyvale, CA. The lesson encourages students to explore rearrangements of number sets by conducting hands-on experiments in probability.

Additionally, two teachers received Awards of Merit. Elisabeth Jaffe, who taught until this past summer at Baruch College Campus High School in New York, NY, was recognized for her lesson, *Dancing Transformations: Translating, Reflecting, and Dilating Points on the Coordinate Axis*. In Ms. Jaffe's lesson, students manipulate points on a coordinate axis by choreographing a dance in which they represent how points are translated, reflected, and dilated on a graph. David Poras, a middle school teacher from Weston Middle School in Weston, MA, won for his lesson, *Growing Alligators: How Big Will It Grow?* In Mr. Poras's lesson, students use surface area, volume, and proportional reasoning to determine whether a sponge alligator toy really grows 600% in water, as advertised.

Saul Rosenthal will present prizes to the winners in a ceremony at MoMath Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Applications for the 2018 *Rosenthal Prize for Innovation in Math Teaching* will be accepted starting in February 2018. For more information on applying, visit momath.org/rosenthal-prize.

About the National Museum of Mathematics

The National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) strives to enhance public understanding and perception of mathematics in daily life. Currently celebrating its fifth anniversary, MoMath has reached more than 1.5 million New Yorkers and visitors from around the world.

The only math museum in North America, MoMath fills an incredible and critical demand for hands-on math programming, offering a space where the math-challenged, as well as math enthusiasts of all backgrounds and levels of understanding can enjoy the infinite and beautiful world of mathematics through more than 37 unique, state-of-the-art, interactive exhibits.

In addition to MoMath's home in New York City, Museum exhibitions and content are currently featured in Singapore, Brazil, Germany, Russia, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

MoMath received the 2016 Communications Award for Public Outreach from the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics. The Museum was awarded the bronze 2013 MUSE Award for Education and Outreach by the American Alliance of Museums. MoMath has been recognized as the Most Fascinating Museum in

New York State by the TripAdvisor vacation site, and hailed as “Best Museum for Kids” by New York Magazine.

MoMath, located at 11 East 26th Street on the north side of popular Madison Square Park in Manhattan, is open seven days a week, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. For more information, visit momath.org.

###

CONTACT: Lisa Sherman-Cohen | lisa@gzandassociates.com | 347-539-7382
Shannon Duer | shannon@gzandassociates.com | 631-487-5883