Herb Gross Presidential Award
by Kathryn Kozak, Past President

The Herb Gross Presidential Award recognizes exceptional service to AMATYC and to the mathematics profession. At the AMATYC Annual Conference in Phoenix, the Herb Gross Presidential Award was presented to George Hurlburt and Judy Williams. In addition to the visible service both of these individuals perform for AMATYC, they both do important work behind the scenes that most people do not see.

Along with teaching at Corning Community College in Corning, NY, George Hurlburt has been the website coordinator for AMATYC since 2012. During this time, he redesigned the entire website to interact with the new management system adopted by AMATYC. George always takes initiative to figure out the best way to post new information, asking for input whenever needed. He keeps members informed by adding information about sister organizations and about grants involving AMATYC, as well as AMATYC statements about topics such as racism. He also updates the job board to help members connect with job opportunities. And of course, he makes sure that the conference information is always up to date and easily accessed. To say George always responds quickly to website requests is an understatement. Even before an update is requested, George would anticipate that a change was needed and make sure that it was completed in a timely manner. It has been great working with George all these years.

Judy Williams has been the AMATYC Program Coordinator since 2013. This position is instrumental for AMATYC to host the high-quality conference we have known for years. The process to create the program doesn't begin or end when a proposal is submitted. All year round Judy writes articles for the AMATYC News encouraging members to submit a presentation proposal. She answers many questions from people considering a proposal. Once the proposals are submitted, Judy's work continues. After anonymizing all the proposals, she coordinates the work of the team of reviewers who carefully read and evaluate them. Using the reviewers' comments, Judy and others on the conference committee plan the program for the AMATYC Annual Conference. Once the program is finalized, Judy works with her team and the AMATYC office to inform each person who proposed a session if their proposal was accepted or not. Judy remains in contact with all the presenters, always ready to answer their questions and provide advice. To help AMATYC members stay informed, Judy helps to create the mini program and the conference program, as well as writing newsletter articles about the conference. At the conference she works tirelessly to make sure that all presenters and participants have a memorable conference. Then the entire process starts again for the next conference. I am continually amazed at Judy's energy and positive outlook.

George and Judy both perform very important activities behind the scenes for AMATYC. Their work helps AMATYC complete its mission and they are extremely deserving of this award.