

Problem of the Week

Proposed by Bernardo Ábrego and Silvia Fernández

March 12-19

Find a second-degree polynomial with integer coefficients, $p(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$, such that $p(1)$, $p(2)$, $p(3)$, and $p(4)$ are perfect squares (that is, squares of integers), but $p(5)$ is not

This contest is sponsored by the Mathematics Department. Open to all CSUN students. Winner gets \$5 or an equivalent prize. All complete and correct solutions get a certificate. **Special prizes will be given to the three people solving the most number of problems correctly during the semester.**

Type and send your solution before March 19th, 9:00PM to silvia.fernandez@csun.edu. All steps of the solution must be clearly justified.

For rules, winners, solutions, and more information visit: www.csun.edu/math/probweek