

Ohio University

OHIO Open Library

All Forum Articles

College of Arts & Sciences Forum

12-7-2015

Navajo Math Circles Film—Showing Klein’s Work—Debuts in January

Ohio University College of Arts & Sciences

Follow this and additional works at: https://ohioopen.library.ohio.edu/cas_forum_all

Recommended Citation

Ohio University College of Arts & Sciences, "Navajo Math Circles Film—Showing Klein’s Work—Debuts in January" (2015). *All Forum Articles*. 2131.

https://ohioopen.library.ohio.edu/cas_forum_all/2131

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Arts & Sciences Forum at OHIO Open Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Forum Articles by an authorized administrator of OHIO Open Library. For more information, please contact deborded@ohio.edu.

Navajo Math Circles Film—Showing Klein’s Work—Debuts in January

December 7, 2015

Categories: News

Tags: math circles, mathematics news, Robert Klein



Dr. Bob Klein was one of the Math Camp leaders in July 2014. Photo by George Csicsery

[Navajo Math Circles](#), a film by George Csicsery, makes its world debut at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Seattle on Jan. 6.

Navajo Math Circles opens a window on the lives of several Navajo students who have participated in a lively collaboration with mathematicians and math educators since 2012. The students stay late after school and assemble over the summer to study mathematics, using a model called Math Circles. This notion of student-centered learning puts children in charge of exploring mathematics to their own joy and satisfaction, with potentially long-lasting results.

“We do something very unique here ... connecting students to their identities as students who are very good at mathematics, but also their identities as Navajo, is extremely important. We don’t want to see Navajo as somebody outside, or somebody on the fringes of the mathematical community. We want them to see themselves as part of that community, as Navajo, as mathematicians,” says **Dr. Bob Klein**, Associate Professor of [Mathematics](#) at Ohio University. Klein’s research includes rural education.

Klein, who is in Nepal to talk about starting a math circle there, was one of the Math Camp leaders in July 2014 when Csicsery filmed the movie. He and a student undergrad apprentice continued work at the Math Camp in summer 2015.

The documentary reveals the challenges of education in the largely rural educational system. Preservation of native culture, traditions, and the Diné language are essential components of the Navajo Math Circles project.

For the teachers, the natural beauty of the Navajo reservation in the Four Corners area, and applications of math in native culture provide tools for increasing math literacy. The presence of Math Circles raises the hopes of parents, students and teachers for a brighter future.