"Navajo Math Circles" Documentary to Air on PBS This September
Stunning film documents education program that brings math to underserved areas

WHAT: This fall, the critically acclaimed documentary film, "Navajo Math Circles" will air on PBS as part of SPOTLIGHT EDUCATION, a special week of programming September 12 through September 18, examining the challenges facing today's students and America's education system.

"Navajo Math Circles" is a one-hour film that documents the meeting of two worlds: that of some of the country's most accomplished mathematicians and educators with that of the children and teachers in the underserved, largely rural Navajo educational system. Using a model called math circles, the students stay late after school and assemble over the summer at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona, to explore mathematics in cooperative and playful ways. The film explores how math can serve as a connector across languages and backgrounds and how mathematics principles intersect with Navajo culture. The film also shows how math circles help raise the hopes of parents, students, and teachers for a brighter future for the Navajo Nation. Watch the trailer for the film here.

There will be special screenings of the Navajo Math Circles documentary in the Film Room at the 2017 National Math Festival on April 22, 2017 in Washington, D.C. The National Math Festival brings together some of the most fascinating mathematicians of our time to inspire and challenge participants to see math in new and exciting ways.

WHEN: "Navajo Math Circles" will air on PBS stations in more than 90 markets across the country starting September 12. Check local listings for airdates and times. The film will be re-broadcast on PBS over the following three years.

MEDIA NOTES: Interview opportunities – in-person or by phone – are available with the following spokespeople:

- **Film Director George Paul Csicsery**, based in **Oakland, Calif**.
- **Mathematical Sciences Research Institute Director David Eisenbud,** based in **Berkeley, Calif.**
- **Mathematician Tatiana Shubin**, Co-Founder and Co-Director of Navajo Nation Math Circles and Professor of Mathematics at San José State University, based in **San Jose, Calif.**
- **Mathematician Robert Klein**, Co-Director of Navajo Nation Math Circles, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Chair in the Department of Mathematics at Ohio University, based in **Athens, Ohio**
- **Mathematician David Auckly**, Co-Director of Navajo Nation Math Circles, Professor of Mathematics, Kansas State University, based in **Manhattan, Kansas**

Contact Sara Neumann at sara@cfoxcommunications.com or 301-585-5034 to coordinate.

For more information about Navajo Math Circles please visit: http://www.zalafilms.com/navajo. The film was supported by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) through a generous grant from the Simons Foundation, and by Vision Maker Media, and by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

ABOUT MSRI: The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) is one of the world's preeminent centers for collaborative research in mathematics. Since 1982, MSRI's topic-focused programs have brought together emerging and leading minds in mathematics, in an environment that promotes creativity and the interchange of ideas. Over 1,500 mathematical scientists spend time at MSRI's California headquarters each year. MSRI is known around the world for the quality and reach of its programs and its leadership in basic research, and also in mathematics education and in the public understanding of mathematics. www.msri.org

ABOUT MATH CIRCLES: MSRI supports informal mathematics education through the **National Association of Math Circles (NAMC)**. Math Circles bring K-12 students together to explore mathematical ideas, facilitated by professional mathematicians. Math Circles center around cooperative and playful experimentation, discussion, and solution of interesting, easily understood problems that offer many paths of attack, which can lead to harder and deeper problems that can be solved using the same methods. NAMC supports new and existing Math Circles through resource sharing and development, mentorship programs, conferences, and publications. Today, more than 180 Math Circles are operating in communities across the United States. For more information, visit www.mathcircles.org.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL MATH FESTIVAL: The National Math Festival brings together some of the most fascinating mathematicians of our time to inspire and challenge participants to see math in new and exciting ways. The 2017 Festival offers engaging experiential programs, interactive exhibits, hands-on activities, and lectures accessible to a wide range of ages, interests, and preparation levels. We build community, both face-to-face and virtually, for the enjoyment of mathematics. The 2017 Festival, to be held on April 22 in Washington, D.C., is organized by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) in cooperation with the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) and the National Museum of Mathematics. www.nationalmathfestival.org

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