



MUSEUM of
NORTHERN
ARIZONA

Celebrating the Colorado Plateau

PRESS RELEASE

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MNA to screen *Navajo Math Circles* April 3 Documentary Chronicles Cross-Cultural Understanding, Mathematical Concepts

(Flagstaff, Ariz.) March 23, 2016 – The Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) will screen *Navajo Math Circles*, a film by George Csicsery, Sunday, April 3, at 3:00 p.m. in Branigar Hall. The event is included with Museum admission.

Filed in 2014-2015, the one-hour documentary reveals the challenges in education on the Navajo Nation and looks at a new approach for improving the mathematical skills of students. The film documents the blending of mathematics and science education with traditional Navajo culture at reservation schools. Central to the story is the implementation of Math Circles by Dr. Henry Fowler, a member of the Navajo Nation and professor of mathematics at Diné College in Tsaile, Ariz.

Math Circles introduce students to math outside of the regular curriculum and include after-school and summer camp programming. In these transformative sessions, students enjoy learning mathematical concepts and the circle gives them a social context in which to do so. The spirit of traditional values informs the stories and experiences of the 28 Navajo middle and high school students and the 48 mathematicians across the United States at the core of the film. The *Navajo Math Circles* project summons applications of math in Navajo culture to provide tools to increase math literacy and highlights the special connections between Navajo culture, natural beauty and mathematics.

“Math itself is a cross-cultural language, and the film is designed to inspire cross-cultural understanding on multiple levels,” said Csicsery. “We hope the film will encourage those who view it to embrace math, to embrace others different from themselves, perhaps even to start math circles in their home communities.”

In addition to Csicsery and Fowler, others in the film will be present at the screening.

To learn more, visit navajomathcirclesfilm.com.

The Museum of Northern Arizona is located at 3101 N. Fort Valley Road in Flagstaff, Arizona. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors (67+), students (with ID), American Indians (10+ with tribal affiliation) and youths 10-17. Children under 10 are free. To learn more, visit musnaz.org or call 928.774.5213.

The **Museum of Northern Arizona** inspires a sense of love and responsibility for the beauty and diversity of the Colorado Plateau. Founded in 1928, the 200-acre campus includes an historic exhibit building with nine galleries showcasing the geology, anthropology and art of the region; research and collections facilities; a museum shop and bookstore; and more than 450 public programs annually.