

## Department of Mathematics and Statistics Colloquium

### *Indigenous Math Circles*

**Bob Klein**

**Ohio University**

**Abstract:** (Adapted from Navajo Math Circles): Hundreds of Navajo children and teachers in recent years have found themselves at the center of a lively collaboration with mathematicians from around the world. The children stay late after school and assemble over the summer to study mathematics, using a model called math circles, which originated in Eastern Europe and which has proliferated across the United States. Bob Klein will describe his participation in the Navajo Math Circles Project and the maturation of that effort into the Alliance of Indigenous Math Circles that now draws far more tribes into the project. Klein will use clips from George Csicsery's PBS documentary, *Navajo Math Circles*, that has been shown every November for the past three years. That documentary will air on PBS stations across the U.S. this November as well as part of the *Independent Lens* series.

**Speaker Bio:** Bob Klein is a 2019-20 American Council on Education Fellow at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. His home institution remains Ohio University, where he has served as Interim Dean of Ohio University's Eastern Campus and Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics at Ohio University in Athens, OH. As Executive Director of the Alliance of Indigenous Math Circles, he is working to expand his previous work with the Navajo Math Circles project to other indigenous groups across the United States and the world (<https://mathunbounded.org/>). His work with Navajo communities is featured in a PBS documentary, *Navajo Math Circles*. He is proud to be part of an amazing Board of Directors for Teachers2Teachers Global.

**Monday, October 28 at 3:50 pm in Roop 103**

**Refreshments at 3:30 pm**