
HENRY FOWLER, Navajo Technical University
Naayee – The Warrior that Overshadows Poverty

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The landscape is occupied by Monsters according to the Navajo oral traditional teaching. The Monsters slayed the People using their sharp eyes. Some Monsters still live among the People today. The Navajo Nation and Navajo leaders are challenged by Navajo students underachieving in mathematics in grades 3 to 12. I will discuss my initiative to combat the Monster of Navajo students' failure to be proficient in mathematics and share some culturally relevant math lessons. Navajo Math Circles was originated to assist in addressing the dismaying outlook of Navajo students' achievement in math education. Navajo Math Circles works with over 50 mathematicians to promote math education in the Navajo Nation. The Math Circles is directly looking at the eye of the Monster and transforming math education for teachers and students to find joy in learning mathematics. The Navajo Math Circles is the Warrior Naayee, combating poverty in the Navajo Nation through mathematics.