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CONTACT: Shannon Duer | shannon@gzandassociates.com | 631-487-5883

National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) Convenes Top Black Leaders in STEM to Share Personal Career Success Stories in Online Panel Discussion, "Bending the Arc," Hosted by Former NFL Baltimore Raven & Mathematician John Urschel

Special introduction by Adrienne E. Adams,
New York City Council Member and Co-Chair of the Council's
Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus

Wednesday, September 23, 6:30 p.m. EDT

New York, NY (September 9, 2020)—The National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) convenes top black leaders in STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—to share personal career success stories in an online panel discussion, "Bending the Arc," on Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m. EDT. This online event will be hosted by former NFL Baltimore Raven, mathematician, and MoMath Trustee John Urschel with a special introduction by Adrienne E. Adams, New York City Council Member and Co-Chair of the Council's Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus.

"It's very hard to dream of being in a career if you can't relate to anyone who's actually in that field," said John Urschel. "One of my main goals in life as a mathematician is to increase representation of African American mathematicians. 'Bending the Arc' shows

young African Americans that there are people just like them who are successful mathematicians."

Inspired by Martin Luther King Jr.'s declaration that "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," MoMath created the online panel "Bending the Arc" to engage in intimate conversations with a diverse group of Black mathematicians, engineers, and scientists about their personal career journeys and experiences that have helped them succeed in their STEM careers.

"Mathematics is a universal language that is shared across the world regardless of race, culture, religion, or gender," said Cindy Lawrence, CEO and Executive Director of MoMath. "MoMath is deeply committed to encouraging young people of all backgrounds to engage with mathematics and to consider careers in STEM. We hope that 'Bending the Arc' will provide an insightful and enlightening experience for everyone who participates."

Members of the online panel include:

- **Monica C. Jackson**, Interim Deputy Provost & Dean of Faculty, Mathematics & Statistics, American University
- **William A. Massey**, Edwin S. Wilsey Professor, Department of Operations Research and Financial Engineering, Princeton University
- **James McLurkin**, Senior Hardware Engineer, Google
- **Jelani Nelson**, Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, UC Berkeley
- **Ashia Wilson**, Assistant Professor in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT

John Urschel is a mathematician and a former NFL offensive lineman. He attended Penn State University, where he played football and received his bachelors and masters degrees in mathematics. While at Penn State, he was awarded the Campbell Trophy, commonly known as the "Academic Heisman," and the Sullivan Award, presented to "the most outstanding amateur athlete in the United States." Urschel was drafted by the Baltimore Ravens in 2014 and played three seasons in the NFL.

Urschel has published a number of research papers in areas including graph theory, machine learning, and numerical analysis. In 2017, he was named to the Forbes "30 under 30" list of outstanding young scientists, and in 2019 he published a New York Times bestselling memoir, "Mind and Matter: A Life in Math and Football." He is currently a fifth-year PhD student in mathematics at MIT.

Following the online panel, MoMath will publicly release “Bending the Arc” so that teachers, math lovers, and organizations around the world can use this free program to advance diversity in STEM.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, audiences for MoMath’s online education programs have reached nearly 35,000 virtual visitors in all 50 US states and in 95 countries, including Australia, Vietnam, Italy, Argentina, China, Spain, Sweden, and France.

For more information about MoMath’s “Bending the Arc” online panel, visit arc.momath.org. For information about the Museum, visit momath.org.

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