Indiana: The Genesis of Black PhD Mathematicians

Abstract: In 1925, Elbert Frank Cox became the first Black to earn a PhD in Mathematics. Cox was born in Evansville, Indiana, and went on to earn his undergraduate degree in Mathematics from Indiana University in 1917. At a time when Indiana had erupting race riots and the Indiana Klan had risen to a peak of power, how did Cox circumvent the odds? Dr. Talitha Washington, an Evansville native, will tell the story of Cox, the racial struggles of Indiana, and how other Black mathematicians navigate through racial barriers.

Short Bio: Dr. Talitha Washington is a Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the Convergence Accelerator, and was formerly in the Division of Undergraduate Education and the co-Lead of the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program. She is also a tenured Associate Professor of Mathematics at Howard University. She is interested in the applications of differential equations to problems in biology and engineering, as well as the development of nonstandard finite difference schemes to numerically solve dynamical systems.

Refreshments before the talk and socializing following the talk
http://www.uta.edu/math/seminars