

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 28, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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## Imagination Station's *Girl Power* Inspires Young Women to Pursue Careers in STEM

TOLEDO, Ohio – What do you want to be when you grow up? Imagination Station will inspire area girls to consider becoming the next generation of engineers, researchers, inventors and pioneers in an exciting day set aside just for them. The science center's annual *Girl Power!* – presented by BP is Saturday, February 8.

Since 2014, Imagination Station has hosted this extraordinary day of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) career exploration. *Girl Power!* offers girls in grades 3 - 8 the opportunity to meet local professionals and learn more about available careers in STEM fields.

"Data shows that women are severely underrepresented in the sciences," said Sloan Eberly Mann, education director at Imagination Station. "Girl Power gives girls the opportunity to meet female STEM professionals from our area who will motivate them to dream big and work hard to achieve their goals."

Attendees will hear from an inspiring keynote speaker, participate in STEM experiments during morning workshops, attend an engaging question and answer session with a panel of STEM professionals, watch an extreme science demonstration, participate in hands-on activities and explore the science center.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Sandrine Mubenga, PhD, PE, Electrical Engineer and Professor at The University of Toledo. Dr. Mubenga is a highly skilled electrical engineer, with research areas in battery management systems, electric vehicles and renewable energy systems. She is the founder of the STEM DRC Initiative, a nonprofit organization that aims to encourage Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Dr. Mubenga is also the founder and CEO of SMIN Power Group, a solar developer with offices in the USA and Democratic Republic of the Congo. She was awarded the Africa's Most Influential Women Award in Engineering and Manufacturing by *CEO Magazine*.

Registration is \$20 for Imagination Station Member participants and \$10 for Member chaperones. Non-member participant registration is \$25 and \$15 for non-member chaperones. At least one chaperone must join a participant, and one chaperone may accompany up to seven attendees.

While the morning activities are closed to registered participants only, the afternoon activity stations are open to all Imagination Station visitors. The science center is open 10am – 5pm, and the hands-on activities provided by the STEM professionals are available 1 – 5pm.

The agenda for the day is as follows:

- 8:30am** Registrant check-in.
- 9am – 12pm** Morning workshops with more than 30 female STEM professionals. *Participants only.*
- 12:15 – 1pm** Lunch
- 1 – 1:30pm** Keynote speaker; Dr. Sandrine Mubenga, PhD, PE, Electrical Engineer. *Participants only.*
- 1 – 5pm** Hands-on activities and demonstrations provided by STEM professionals throughout the science center. *Open to all science center visitors.*



*Girl Power!* is made possible thanks to Imagination Station's generous supporters. **Presenting:** BP; **Innovator:** Comfort Line FiberFrame, O-I and Wish Foundation; **Pioneer:** SSOE Group; **Catalyst:** Buckeye BroadBand and Columbia Gas; **Explorer:** Directions Credit Union, Lathrop, OmniSource, Savage and Toledo Refining Company; **Supporter:** Dana, Inc.

Imagination Station provides a critical layer of science enrichment by serving as an educational partner for teachers, schools and parents. It's with a thoughtful blend of exhibits, experiences, education and excitement that Imagination Station inspires visitors to pursue STEM careers in Northwest Ohio.

For more information, please call 419.244.2674 or visit [www.imaginationstationtoledo.org/GirlPower](http://www.imaginationstationtoledo.org/GirlPower).

**WHAT:** *Girl Power!*

**WHERE:** Imagination Station  
1 Discovery Way, Toledo, OH

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 8

**WHO:** **Keynote speaker:**  
Dr. Sandrine Mubenga, PhD, PE, Electrical Engineer  
*Professor at The University of Toledo*

**Panelists:**

Sara Floyd, Principal Analytical Instrumentation Specialist – *Owens-Illinois*

Kelly Heidbreder, Meteorologist - *WTOL*

Jessica Hyde, Landscape Architect, *The Collaborative*

Karen Karl, Senior Estimating Engineer, *Lathrop*

Dr. Angelica Vasquez-Ortega, Assistant Professor and Geochemist – *BGSU*

**Activity Tables and Demonstrations:**

Hands-on experiments provided by more than 30 local STEM professionals

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