

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
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## **Imagination Station Inspires Young Women with Girl Power**

TOLEDO, Ohio – This weekend, Imagination Station will host nearly 200 girls in grades three through eight to explore science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers in one exciting day. The science center's fifth annual Girl Power event is Saturday, Feb. 9 from 9am – 5pm.

Participants will enjoy fun hands-on activities and workshops and engaging discussions with dynamic representatives from a variety of STEM fields and hear from special guests Ashlie Flegel and Maanasa Mendu.

Keynote speaker Ashlie Flegel is the Advanced Aircraft Engine Icing Technical Lead at the NASA Glenn Research Center. Her work is focused on understanding the physics of ice crystal icing in turbofan engines to aid in the development of Computational Fluid Dynamics prediction and risk mitigation tools. Flegel received her Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Toledo in 2007 and Master of Science degree from Cleveland State University in 2013.

The science center is excited to welcome Maanasa Mendu to Girl Power for the second year. Recently featured in Forbes' 30 under 30 list, Mendu is a 14-year-old Ohio native and inventor who is inventing new ways to bring electricity to developing nations. She will be featured in the panel discussion and will display her prototypes at her own activity table.

Women are severely underrepresented in the STEM fields. Despite making up 48% of the overall workforce, only 24% of STEM workers are women. The decline in interest in the STEM fields begins at a young age. Imagination Station is working to inspire girls within the community to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and pursue STEM careers.

"This is a great event to show how accessible STEM careers are for young women," said Sloan Eberly Mann, Education Director at Imagination Station. "This event gives girls the opportunity to meet role models in Toledo and to discover the sciences are for everybody regardless of gender."

While registration for the morning activities has closed, Imagination Station visitors can still join in on the fun. The science center will be open to the general public on Saturday from 10am – 5pm, and the hands-on activities provided by the STEM professionals will be available to all visitors from 1 – 5pm.

The agenda for the day is as follows:

**Registrants only:**

**9 – 11:45am** Morning workshops with STEM professionals

**12:15 – 1pm** Lunch and keynote speaker; NASA Engineer and UT alumnae, Ashlie Flegel

**All visitors:**

**1 – 5pm** Hands-on activities and demonstrations provided by STEM professionals throughout the science center.

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Girl Power is made possible thanks to our generous supporters. **Presenting:** BP; **Innovator:** Comfort Line FiberFrame, O-I; Wish Foundation; **Pioneer:** SSOE Group, Dana Inc.; **Catalyst:** Buckeye BroadBand, Columbia Gas, OmniSource.

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:** Imagination Station's third annual Girl Power

**WHEN:** Saturday, Feb. 10

9am – 1pm Girl Power workshops & luncheon  
*Pre-registration only*

1pm – 5pm Hands-on activities provided by STEM Professionals  
*Open to the public*

**WHO:** Keynote speaker:

Ashlie Flegel, Advanced Aircraft Engine Icing Technical Lead  
*NASA Glenn Research Center*

**Panelists:**

Sara Floyd, Principal Analytical Instrumentation Specialist – *Owens-Illinois*  
Sally Glomblowski, Battalion Chief in Training – *Toledo Fire Department and Rescue*  
Ellyn Fritz, Meteorologist, *WTOL-TV*  
Ronna Hampton, Software Engineer – *ProMedica*  
Jessica Hyde, Landscape Architect – *The Collaborative*  
Christina Nguyen, Architect – *The Collaborative*  
Adrienne Taylor, Chemical Process Department Manager – *SSOE*  
Kristen Thomas, Veterinarian – *The Toledo Zoo*  
Lee Ann Tyrell, Field Engineer – *Columbia Gas of Ohio*  
Maanasa Mendu, student and inventor

**Activity Tables and Demonstrations:**  
More than 60 local STEM professionals

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