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## Area Mayors Support Imagination Station Levy Renewal

### *Mayors cite STEM education, economic development and quality of life in urging voters to support Imagination Station Renewal*

TOLEDO, Ohio – Imagination Station officially kicked off its 2016 levy renewal campaign at a press conference this morning. Imagination Station supporters were joined by area mayors who urged voters to continue their support for the science center, which has had a positive impact in the region.

The .17 mill levy renewal, which will be on the ballot November 8, is not a new tax and will support operations and maintenance at the nonprofit institution, which was formerly known as COSI Toledo.

Area mayors praised the efforts of Imagination Station to make science fun and innovative for students and adults of all ages while improving the region's quality of life and providing supplemental education for students in studies that are essential for the communities' continued economic growth and prosperity.

As a result of the levy, Imagination Station offers free Saturday admission for Lucas County kids, 12 and under, discounts on admission for Lucas County residents and discounts on school visits for Lucas County schools.

Since the last levy renewal, Imagination Station has brought popular, high-profile traveling exhibits to Toledo – Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition, Mythbusters: The Explosive Exhibition, Dinosaurs Unearthed, GUITAR: The Instrument That Rocked The World and NASA's Science On a Sphere, and more.

Imagination Station also seeks private investment for traveling and permanent exhibits to continually enhance the science center experience and reduce its reliance on taxpayer dollars. The latest example is the spring 2016 opening of IDEA Lab, a brand new exhibit focused on innovation and creativity and funded entirely by private dollars.

"Through partnerships with businesses, educators and other local organizations, we have used the funds entrusted to us by donors and taxpayers to provide programs and exhibits that go beyond our walls, spark a passion for the sciences and generate innovation that will shape the world," explained Imagination Station Executive Director, Lori Hauser. "Imagination Station makes it fun for the next generation of leaders to experience STEM education which is vital to our community's future."

Imagination Station welcomed more than 220,000 visitors last year. And its offerings expand beyond its walls. Imagination Station takes interactive science education out into the community through science festivals, community outreach events, community workshops, on-air TV segments and more. Imagination Station provides a critical layer of science enrichment by serving as an educational partner for educators, schools, parents and the community.

#### **About Imagination Station**

Imagination Station, Toledo's Science Center, is a vital non-profit organization that is an integral part of Toledo's economic, educational and social landscape. With hundreds of hands-on exhibits and demonstrations, Imagination Station delivers a multi-sensory experience that's as fun as it is educational. 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. To learn more, visit [imaginationstationtoledo.org](http://imaginationstationtoledo.org).

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