**FACTS ABOUT NWO’S STEM IN THE PARK at BGSU**

Bowling Green, Ohio

**Theme:** A free community event coordinated by the Northwest Ohio Center for Excellence in STEM Education. STEM in the Park

is a program created to get people of all ages interested and involved in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

**Location:** Perry Field House on Bowling Green State University’s campus; across from the BGSU Ice Arena. 801 North Mercer Road, Bowling Green, OH 43402.

**Time/Date:** The event will take place between the hours of 9:30am and 2pm on September 29th, 2018.

**Background:** STEM in the Park has been an annual program since 2010. Drs. Emilio and Lena Duran, both BGSU faculty members in the

 College of Education and Human Development, created the

 hands-on event. The event was inspired by Literacy in the Park,

 which is a BGSU on-campus event to bring children and

families together with literacy-boosting activities. STEM in the Park attracts families from all over northwest Ohio to southeast Michigan. In 2017, the program attracted over 5,600 participants including volunteers and exhibitors. The Northwest Ohio Center for Excellence is committed to increasing the number of at-risk children and low-income families who attend the program by providing transportation to and from the event. A catered lunch is also always provided for all those who attend the event.

**Exhibits:** Over 170 activity stations were provided in 2017 including*Animal Explorers, Butterfly Larva Necklace, Slime Monsters, The All Wheels Zone, Ice Cream Chemistry, StarLab Planetarium, and Slip ‘N Slide Races*. A popular addition, *The Robotics Zone*, will be making a return along with the *STEM Stage* where Imagination Station and the Toledo Zoo will also host BIG eye-popping demos along with many other hands-on activities. New features in 2018 will include a partnership with the Wood County Regional Airport’s Air Fair for the theme, Take FLIGHT with STEM with the *FLIGHT ZONE* offering activities at the airport.

**Contact:** For additional information, photographs and video, journalists should contact Program Manager, Jenna Pollock,

(419) 372-2739. jpolloc@bgsu.edu. Or the event website: [www.STEMinthepark.org](http://www.STEMinthepark.org) 2018