



B-H-K CHILD DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**700 Park Avenue
Houghton, Michigan 49931**

*'Serving children and families through comprehensive
early childhood education, health and family support services'*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Seven key staff join Great Explorations after-school program

Academic, enrichment activities to begin in January at five area schools

HOUGHTON – Seven individuals were recently hired to coordinate the Great Explorations after-school program at five local schools.

Set to begin in January, Great Explorations will provide exciting, hands-on activities designed to enhance children's academic performance while providing a variety of fun extracurricular learning opportunities. Field trips, family fun nights and other activities are also planned.

The program is open to all middle-school students at the Public Schools of Calumet-Laurium-Keweenaw, all elementary students at Houghton-Portage Township Public Schools, and all elementary and middle-school students at the public schools of Chassell, Dollar Bay-Tamarack City and Lake Linden-Hubbell. B-H-K Child Development Board is the administrative agency for the project.

The recently hired staff members are Patrick Rozich, Cindy Karvonen Cowell, Stacy Cotey, Derek Gardner, Cheryl Gruver, Andrea Hinsenkamp and Treneice Marshall.

Rozich is the project's director. Rozich, who holds a master's degree in education administration, retired in 1999 as superintendent of the Adams Township school district. Most recently, he worked as human resources and training coordinator at B-H-K Child Development Board.

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Karvonen Cowell also holds a master's degree in education administration. She is the project's assistant director and assistant site coordinator at C-L-K. She most recently worked at Finlandia University as director of Upward Bound, a federal program that helps middle-school students attend college. Prior to that, she was director of Educational Talent Search and director of campus relations at Finlandia.

Cotey is site coordinator at Lake Linden-Hubbell. She holds a master's degree in biology. Cotey previously worked as a researcher and field assistant for an environmental services firm. She has also held various conservation positions, several of which involved education.

Gardner is the site coordinator at DB-TC, where he also coaches varsity boys basketball. Gardner has a bachelor's degree in exercise science. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Gardner also has worked as a personal trainer at Keweenaw Memorial Fitness Center and as a site coordinator for a YMCA program in Wisconsin.

Gruver is site coordinator at C-L-K. A graduate of Calumet High School, Gruver has a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a special endorsement for K-8 and a certificate in special education. She taught elementary, middle school and special education and served as a parent advisor at schools in Alaska before moving back to Michigan.

Hinsenkamp is site coordinator at Houghton Elementary. She holds a bachelor's degree in applied ecology and environmental sciences from Michigan Tech University and is working toward a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Finlandia. She has worked as a direct care staff member for disabled individuals, as a teacher's aide and as a member of Copper Country AmeriCorps.

Marshall, who holds a master's degree in public administration, is site coordinator at Chassell. Before joining the Great Explorations staff, Marshall worked as chairwoman of the environmental sciences department at Ojibwa Community College in Baraga. She also has worked as an associate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and as a special project assistant at Martin University.

Registration materials for Great Explorations will be available when schools resume after the holidays. The program is funded through a grant from the Michigan Dept. of Education. For more information, contact a participating school or B-H-K Child Development Board at 482-3663 or 800-236-5657.