

ROBERT CROWN CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hinsdale, July 1 -- The Robert Crown Center for Health Education announced today that Kathleen Burke of LaGrange is the new executive director of the Hinsdale-based health education center, effective immediately. Burke succeeds John Zaremba who retired on June 30 after serving as president for 21 years.

Burke will be responsible for all aspects of the Center's operations at both its Hinsdale and Chicago facilities, which currently reach over 180,000 students each year with programs on sex education/family living, AIDS education, drug abuse prevention and general health topics. She also will oversee specialized programs developed by the Center in recent years including outreach, special education, peer leadership, parent education, Body Trek summer camp, preschool education, BSE (breast self exam), and TSE (testicular self exam) program for high school students.

Burke also will oversee fundraising activities for the Robert Crown Center which have traditionally included special events like the Center's Golf Invitational and American Girls Fashion Show. She will be responsible for maintaining the high quality health education programs offered to the community while expanding Robert Crown's reach in creative ways, all of which are supported through the generosity of individual donors, corporations, foundations and other philanthropic organizations.

Burke will manage a staff of 15 instructors and administrators.

"Being the executive director of Robert Crown Center is a dream job for me combining my extensive background in health care management, museum education and development," Burke noted. "Robert Crown will call upon all my professional experience to lead it into its next period of evolution."

"I am fervently committed to make every effort to reach youth and their families in innovative settings that motivate them to understand and practice healthy living. During my tenure at the Museum of Science and Industry, we looked to Robert Crown for advice on how to communicate about sensitive topics and now we are partners working collaboratively together to significantly raise the bar on how we impact our community's health."

"My previous experience and community-based approach should be a perfect fit in managing the unique activities of the Center. I do realize that Robert Crown Center was the first health education center in the nation and that it holds an esteemed position in the world of health education. As I assume this position, I stand in awe of all that Robert Crown Center has accomplished in its 31 years and pledge to embrace its mission and uphold its high teaching standards while introducing new knowledge in the sciences and learning into the curriculum."

Burke most recently served at the University of Illinois at Chicago as director of advancement in the College of Education and the University of Illinois Alumni Relations Council. She also worked for the Museum of Science and Industry for more than 8 years as its Director of Education, Senior Exhibit Project Manager, and Science Exhibit Developer.

Burke also held the position of program administrator (neurosciences) at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago and has held other administrative positions at three other Chicago area hospitals.

Burke holds a bachelor's degree from Penn State in health planning and administration and a master's degree from Rush University in health systems management. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in policy studies in urban education at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

With facilities in both Hinsdale and in Chicago, Robert Crown provides instruction to 180,000 children annually in Drug Abuse Prevention, Sex Education, AIDS Awareness and General Health Education. Since opening 30 years ago, the Center has educated over 4.7 million students from the greater Chicago area.