



# Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

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## **LAKE ERIE NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Bay Village, Ohio* -- A Peninsula, Ohio woman with a passion for non-profits and nature has been tapped as the next Executive Director of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center in Bay Village. Following a nationwide search that took nearly 6 months, the Search Committee announced the appointment of Catherine J. Timko as Executive Director. When she takes the helm in January, Timko will become just the fourth Executive Director to serve in the non-profit organization's vibrant 60 year history.

"We are thrilled to find someone of Catherine's caliber right in our own backyard," said Colleen Lowmiller, who chaired the Search Committee for the Center's Board of Directors. "We're confident Catherine's experience, talents and interests combine to make her a perfect fit to lead this cherished community organization into the future."

Timko has devoted her entire career to non-profit work, most recently as Division Development Director at the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national land conservation organization. "I have a real heart for the work that Lake Erie Nature & Science Center does inspiring an appreciation for nature," said Timko. "I'm thrilled and humbled to be stepping in to lead the exceptional people who make the mission happen every day."

As part of the search process, Timko was able to meet with staff and volunteer board members. She said she looks forward to meeting the wider community of Center stakeholders, including donors, members, volunteers, program participants and visitors.

"Our staff is excited to welcome Catherine and grateful to Colleen and the Search Committee for involving us in the selection process," said Renee Burslem, Center Director of Development & Community Relations. "We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Board President, Patrick Mazur, and the entire Board for supporting us as we've continued to carry out our mission on a daily basis during the search. We're busy working to meet our year-end goals so Catherine can hit the ground running with an eye on the future come January."

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Prior to TPL, Timko served in development roles at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens in Akron, the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeast Ohio and Cleveland Opera. She is a 1991 graduate of Hiram College with a Business Management degree and received Hiram's "Recent Graduate Service to Humanity Award" in 2003. An avid hiker, Timko says she and her husband Martin don't miss a chance to pull on their boots and connect with nature.

Timko takes over for Larry Richardson, who stepped down in May after 21 years as Lake Erie Nature & Science Center Executive Director. She is the 2nd woman to direct the organization after Elberta Fleming, who founded the Center six decades ago. Fleming's son, David, was one of the seven members of the Executive Director Search Committee that made the final recommendation to hire Timko.

"Our next Director will be expected to build on the Center's successes, challenging us to experience and value nature, while strengthening our expanding network of community support," said Board President Patrick Mazur. "Catherine is highly qualified to do it all."

Lake Erie Nature & Science Center is a regional center of excellence that features a planetarium, wildlife rehabilitation, more than 100 live animals on exhibit and a wide variety of educational offerings. The \$1.2 million non-profit organization employs 40 people and annually serves more than 180,000 children and adults. The Center is located at 28728 Wolf Road in Bay Village. For more information, visit [www.lensc.org](http://www.lensc.org) or call 440-871-2900.