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Hughey Jr. to head foundation

Friday, July 13, 2007

By James Sanford
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Richard M. Hughey Jr. has been appointed executive vice president and CEO of the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation by its board of trustees.

The 46-year-old Kalamazoo native has worked at the Gilmore Foundation since 1995, most recently as vice president and program officer. He replaces Frederick W. "Fritz" Freund, who died June 28.

Hughey is a 1979 graduate of Kalamazoo Central High School and a 1983 graduate of the University of Michigan and received his juris doctor degree from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1987. He calls his job at the Gilmore Foundation "the most stimulating work I can imagine."

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"There are always new things to learn, always new things going on," he said. "I feel fortunate all the trustees and staff care about this community and also that I get to meet amazing people from amazing organizations."

The Gilmore Foundation, now in its 21st year, works "to support and enrich the cultural, social and economic life of Greater Kalamazoo," according to its mission statement.

Hughey said his appreciation of the arts goes back to his childhood, when his parents began taking him to see Shakespeare plays in Stratford, Ontario. Hughey is also a drummer: As a teenager, he played in a band called Item No. 9 with future Broadway star Jerry Dixon; he now performs with a classic-rock group called Chaos Theory.

Hughey and his wife, Patricia "Tissie" Hughey, who met at the Civic Theatre, have two children, Megan, 15, and Logan, 10.

Hughey's father, Richard M. Hughey Sr., is president and chairman of the board of the Gilmore Foundation. Hughey Jr. said his new position was a "planned board decision" and that his father recused himself from voting on it.

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