

# Mastermind Members Only Book for ECE Leaders



**KPF** Kristie Pretti-Frontczak

**NAME**

Marcia Blum

**RESIDENCE**

Denver, Colorado

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**TITLE**

Consultant, Instructional Technology  
for Preschool Special Education Team  
at Colorado Department of Education

**FUN FACT**

My mother, myself and both my  
daughters are graduates of the  
University of Colorado. Go Buffs!

**A BIT ABOUT ME**

I like to ski. In the summer I garden - I am really into low to no water wildscapes. My husband and I have two married daughters with a grandchild on the way. There is also a big, spoiled white German Shepherd dog!

**CURRENT ROLE/WORK**

I help develop professional learning opportunities for and provide technical assistance to early childhood special educators through the Colorado Department of Education. A typical work day starts with email. I attend 2 to 3 meetings per day that pertain to different aspects of educating young children with disabilities. Cross-unit meetings with peers developing guidance and support in multi-tiered systems of support, work pertaining to continuous improvement of local education agencies, policy team meetings on data, and work groups with content specialists to inform development of professional learning. I am with a variety of educators working with the state in harmony to improve outcomes for all children in Colorado. My responsibility is to engage in discussion and advocate for young children with disabilities so that they are included in any conversation that may affect providing services and including them in their educational communities. My work is in downtown Denver near the capitol building.

**REASON FOR MASTERMINDING**

By participating, I hope to delve into what inspires leaders, and by that what inspires any of us to want to lead. I also want to build capacity of local leaders instead of creating dependence. So my hope is by joining a Mastermind, our group will explore ways of engagement in topics that can also be a model for other groups that I have influence with.

**NAME**

Ted Burke

**RESIDENCE**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**EMAIL**

beyondthebox.ted@gmail.com

**TITLE**

President and Consultant for  
Beyond the Box LLC

**FUN FACT**

I was the first person in my family to graduate from high school.

**A BIT ABOUT ME**

I'm a passionate dreamer who wants to be part of having a positive impact on the lives of people. I need to surround myself with people who are also passionate but are more grounded than I tend to be, so that dreams can be realized. I've spent most of my adult life working in the early intervention field and I am a very active member of the Council for Exceptional Children's Division for Early Childhood (DEC). I live in Hawaii, so I spend a lot of time outdoors either hiking or out on the water.

Grandfather was Theodore, but everyone called him Teddy. So I was Teddy as well growing up and still to my family and high school friends. It took moving away from the East Coast and to the Midwest to become Ted.

**CURRENT ROLE/WORK**

Consultant for Early Intervention, Professional Development and Leadership. No day is typical. I usually work out of my home. Lots of conference/video call meetings and occasional face to face meetings. Currently I have contracts with a Preschool, EI Provider Agency and Non Profit Data Management Company. I also spend a good part of my time with DEC activities in my role on the Executive Board of Directors.

**REASON FOR MASTERMINDING**

Work on figuring out the next steps to bringing together a group of like minded people to develop solutions for Early Intervention practitioners that will have a positive impact on the work they do to support children and families.

**NAME**

Chrystee Houser

**RESIDENCE**

Albany, Oregon

**EMAIL**

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**TITLE**

Early Childhood Education Supervisor  
for two Kidco Head Start centers

**FUN FACT**

I am a professional ballroom dancer  
and a 2nd Dan black belt who finds  
her happy place deep sea fishing.

**A BIT ABOUT ME**

I am a mother of 3 beautiful children; Rhyson is 14, Chrystopher is 13 and Dalaynee is 11. All of us participate in martial arts and I spend my free time shuffling children around to one activity or another. I'm a very proud mom :). I have always participated in competitive sports and continue that drive and determination today (I am told) in all that I do.

I have 2 cats and a rambunctious kitten that the kids and I adore. I have a bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon in Speech Pathology and Audiology and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. I have many years of experience working with children with special needs and currently I am in my fourth year at Kidco Head Start. Life is good!

**CURRENT ROLE/WORK**

I work for a free infant/toddler and preschool program that serves families from Linn, Benton and Marion Counties. We provide services to low income families and/or families in need. We serve children from pregnancy to Kindergarten and work to provide families with the resources they need to provide for themselves and their children.

**REASON FOR MASTERMINDING**

I love to take on challenges and one of those is to ease the stress of my staff and keep them remembering why they chose the field they did.

With changing mandates, standards, and policies, staff tend to feel overwhelmed most of the time and frustrated with added expectations and "consequences" if they don't get everything done. There is also an increase in violent behaviors in children across many programs and not many teachers know how to handle such situations. I'd love to know what others are doing in their settings and if they are also encountering the same situations. I want teachers to be able to find peace in what they have and be able to take on the challenges with the tools they have and that I can provide to offer support.



**NAME**

Robin Hornkohl

**RESIDENCE**

Traverse City, MI

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**TITLE**

Birth to Three/Early On Coordinator

**FUN FACT**

I learned to appreciate fine wine from one of Italy's top sommeliers while on a college study abroad trip.

**A BIT ABOUT ME**

I have taken an alternative path in to the world of early childhood. I started as an administrative assistant. It was during a time that I had three children under the age of 2. I told myself I just needed a job that would help pay the bills. I couldn't help but fall in love with the research. And I was able to translate what I was learning and make positive improvement with my own children at home. One of my favorite sayings is: "Parenting is part natural and part learned."

My immediate family consists of my husband of 17 years. He is a police officer. We have three children, including two 13 year old boys and a 12 year old daughter. We also have two dogs. One has a job as a K-9 police officer and the other does not have a job, unless you consider snuggling and being my motivator for taking walks. I love living in Northern MI and enjoy hiking, snow, sun, beaches and traveling.

**CURRENT ROLE/WORK**

I am new to my role as of October 2017. I work to align programs and services so it is easy for families to access supports they may want or need. I also support staff who work directly with families with children birth to three who may have developmental delays.

**REASON FOR MASTERMINDING**

I want to figure out how to help people I work with understand their role in supporting and elevating early childhood. I want to find my own legs as a new supervisor/leader. I dream that I will have a shift in my practice that will help me see my own personal habits that are hindering me from moving forward. I dream that a whole new level of even BIGGER dreams will emerge. I hope to make meaningful connections with my group members and develop a level of trust that allows me to accomplish these things.