

## Capitol Scene: House Dems' McCarthy Named Innovation Ohio Leader

Thursday, July 9, 2014

Keary McCarthy, who has served as chief of staff for House Democrats since 2011, has been named president and CEO of Innovation Ohio, the group announced Wednesday.

Mr. McCarthy will begin in the new role early next month, and will succeed Janetta King, who has also been working as chief of staff to CAP Action President and former Gov. Ted Strickland.

Before serving in his role at the Ohio House, he held key policy and communication jobs in the legislature, for the 2008 Obama presidential campaign, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation and the transition team for Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald.

He also worked on ballot issues regarding the restructuring of government and the state minimum wage.

"As the founder of Innovation Ohio, I'm absolutely thrilled that Keary has agreed to become its President," said Ms. King, who will continue as chair of the IO Board.

"While I will remain deeply involved with IO, the organization needs a full-time, hands-on president, which was no longer possible for me because of my duties at CAP Action in Washington. Keary's work at the Ohio House has been first-rate - and he is deeply committed to the progressive causes that are at the heart of our organization."

The current and former House Democratic leaders issued a statement praising Mr. McCarthy's service to the caucus.

"Keary is one of the hardest working, most thoughtful and well organized individuals in Democratic politics," House [Minority Leader Tracy Heard](#) (D-Columbus) said. "Innovation Ohio is gaining a tremendous asset by bringing-on Keary."

[Rep. Armond Budish](#) stated, "Keary is a consummate professional who understands both policy and communications. He has been a great leader for the caucus and trusted advisor for many of us in the House."

Rep. Heard said Andy DiPalma, a former Chief of Staff who currently serves as the caucus legislative director, will be interim chief of staff until the start of the next General Assembly.

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