



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2022

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Kearney Hired as Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Ohio Chamber of Commerce

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Ohio Chamber of Commerce CEO Steve Stivers today announced the hiring of Eric H. Kearney as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Chamber. In addition to the part-time position with the Ohio Chamber, Kearney will continue in his role as the CEO and President of the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce.

“I worked with Eric in the Ohio Senate and have known him for over 15 years. He is a great addition to our team at the Ohio Chamber,” Stivers said. “What he has accomplished in growing the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber is impressive, and I know his expertise will be extremely beneficial in this new position as we focus our attention on diversity and inclusion efforts.”

In his position with the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce, he has led substantial re-organization efforts, including a 50 percent increase in membership and the creation of a \$300,000 endowment.

Kearney served as the State Senator for Ohio’s 9th District from 2005 to 2014, where he was elected as the Ohio Senate Minority Leader and championed a number of causes, including adoption, children's health, small business development and pension reform. He is also a managing partner of Kearney & Kearney, LPA.

In addition to politics and law, he has been a leader in the business community. He founded and built one of the largest African American-owned publishing companies, Sesh Communications, which publishes The Cincinnati Herald, The Northern Kentucky Herald, The Dayton Defender and other publications.

Kearney graduated from St. Xavier High School, then earned a B.A. in English from Dartmouth College and a J.D. from the University of Cincinnati, College of Law. He is married to Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, Esq., who is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School. They have two children, Celeste (a student at Dartmouth College) and Asher.

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate and represents thousands of companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

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