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Friday, Aug.6, 2021



Iowa Hospital Association names new president and CEO

The [Iowa Hospital Association's](#) Board of Officers and Trustees has announced the appointment of Christopher Mitchell as the association's next president/CEO. Mitchell will succeed Kirk Norris, who has been IHA's president/CEO since 2002 and is retiring after 34 years with the association.

Mitchell is the executive vice president of advocacy and public affairs for the [Michigan Health and Hospital Association](#). He will start his new role with IHA in mid-October.

"Our national search identified several exceptional candidates for us to consider, and the review and interview process was extensive," said Jason Harrington, chair of IHA's Board of Officers and Trustees, and president and CEO of [Lakes Regional Healthcare](#) in Spirit Lake, Iowa. "Kirk has provided incomparable leadership during his time with IHA, and his direction has resulted in many impressive achievements on behalf of Iowa hospitals. We feel Chris is an excellent choice to continue this rich tradition of service, support and advocacy for Iowa hospitals."

Mitchell began with the Michigan Health and Hospital Association in 2006 as an administrative fellow in the association's advocacy division. From there, he rose through the association's ranks, holding leadership roles in government relations, political affairs and advocacy. Mitchell has been in his current position since January 2019. He received his bachelor's degree in political science/prelaw from Michigan State University and his MBA from the University of Notre Dame.

"I'm very honored to be selected to lead such an outstanding organization," Mitchell said. "IHA's track record in successfully advocating for hospitals both nationally and in Iowa is remarkable. The path Kirk has maintained for IHA over the years is an enviable accomplishment. I look forward to continuing IHA's mission of representing Iowa hospitals and supporting them in achieving their

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missions and goals.”

During his 19 years as IHA's president/CEO, Norris has guided the organization to significantly expand Iowa hospitals' influence and leadership in public policy, information technology and professional education.

“It's been an honor and pleasure to work with such outstanding people at both IHA and all 118 hospitals in Iowa,” Norris said. “Chris is an excellent selection to build on IHA's reputation as a trusted, respected and influential leader in health care. I look forward to working with him during the transition period.”



100 EAST GRAND, SUITE 100, DES MOINES, IA 50309-1800 | P 515.288.1955 F 515.283.9366 |
WWW.IHAONLINE.ORG