



## Noem's communications director resigns, takes new post

By: Tom Lawrence February 11, 2013

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There's been another change of spokesperson for U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, R-S.D.

Andrea McCarthy announced her resignation as Noem's communications director Friday, less than a year after she took the post. McCarthy assumed the job in March.

She replaced Josh Shields, who resigned in early 2012 and took a job with Black Hills Corp. in his hometown of Rapid City. Jordan Stoick, Noem's chief of staff, served as interim spokesman between Shields and McCarthy, a California native.

"As many of you already know, today will be my last day in Rep. Noem's office," McCarthy said in a brief email message. "I am moving on to work at the Cato Institute."

The Cato Institute is a conservative/libertarian think tank based in Washington, D.C.

"Working for Rep. Noem and the people of South Dakota has been a true honor," McCarthy said. "It was a pleasure working with each and every one of you."

She had worked for California Rep. Kevin McCarthy, whom she is not related to, before she was hired by Noem. McCarthy, a Republican House chief deputy whip, has served as a mentor to Noem during her years in Congress.

Courtney Heitkamp, who was named Noem's press secretary in January, will now be the primary spokeswoman for the South Dakota congresswoman.

Heitkamp, a South Dakota native, had worked for Noem in South Dakota before she was assigned the new duties in Washington, D.C., a move that was announced Jan. 4.

At the time, McCarthy said Heitkamp would report to her and there would be no staff changes. On Friday, Heitkamp said she would be the sole press contact.

“There are no plans to bring anyone else on board,” she said in an email reply to a Daily Republic question. “I will remain press secretary and will assume all responsibilities that Andrea and I had been sharing.”