



STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL FINDS OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYEE IMPROPERLY USED POSITION AND STATE RESOURCES TO FURTHER PRIVATE BUSINESS INTERESTS

Columbus, Ohio, August 17, 2017

The Ohio Inspector General issued a report of investigation today after initiating an investigation into the private business interests of Lauren McGarity, former director of special projects at the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE).

The Office of the Ohio Inspector General determined McGarity improperly used her state email, desk phone, and computers to conduct personal business. McGarity also made numerous phone calls using her personal phone during the work day to further her private business interests, including WinWin Inc., and her son's business. McGarity was the founder and executive director of WinWin Inc. that entered into a series of contracts with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

The investigation further discovered that McGarity improperly used her position by identifying herself as an ODHE employee and using her state email account to contact Ohio Senate staff to discuss legislation that would advance the interests of one of her personal businesses, WinWin Academy.

Finally, the Ohio Inspector General found wrongdoing for McGarity's failure to accurately report her hours of work on over three hundred occasions.

The report of investigation has been sent to the Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney and the Columbus City Attorney for consideration.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2015-CA00046 is now available at:

<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/investigations/2017investigations.aspx>

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