

Kevin J. Bell Biography

Kevin J. Bell was born in New York City and grew up on the grounds of the Bronx Zoo, where his father was Curator of Birds. Kevin became a zoo volunteer at the age of 10, a part-time animal caretaker at 17 and a keeper at 20. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Syracuse University, New York, and a Master of Science degree in zoology at State University of New York, Brockport, New York. He was hired in 1976 as Curator of Birds at Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, Illinois; in 1992, was promoted to Assistant Director; and in 1993, was appointed Director. After the zoo was privatized in 1995, Kevin was also named President and CEO of the Lincoln Park Zoological Society, which manages and operates Lincoln Park Zoo.

An American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) member since 1976, Kevin has served on the Wildlife Conservation Management Committee. In 1996, he was chairman of the Privatization Task Force, which produced AZA's first reference book for member institutions contemplating a governance change. Mr. Bell was elected to the AZA Board in 2007 and assumed the role of Chair in September 2009. He also is a member of several species survival plan (SSP) and taxon advisory group (TAG) management groups and has published numerous articles in the *International Zoo Yearbook* and other zoo-related publications.

In 2006, Bell was elected to the Board of Visitors of the College of Arts and Sciences at his alma mater, Syracuse University.