

Kathleen S. Kelly, Ph.D., APR, Fellow PRSA

Dr. Kathleen S. Kelly, APR, Fellow PRSA, is a tenured full professor in the Department of Public Relations, College of Journalism and Communications, at the University of Florida (UF). Her career in public relations spans both practice and teaching.

She started her career in Maryland in 1974, as a staff writer in a college public information office. Over the next 17 years, she held progressively senior positions as a public relations practitioner and development officer at institutions of higher education in Maryland and Washington, DC, from Director of Public Information for a historically black college (Bowie State University) to Vice President of Development and Public Relations for a private women's college (Mount Vernon College) to Director of Development for Maryland's flagship campus (the University of Maryland [UMD], College Park) to Associate Dean of UMD's College of Journalism.

Kelly earned her Ph.D. in Public (Mass) Communication, with a specialization in public relations, under Dr. James E. Grunig, from UMD College Park in 1989. As of 2012, she has 21 years of experience as a full-time academic. Positions she has held include Hubert J. Bourgeois Research Professor in Communication at the University of Louisiana (UL) at Lafayette, UL Lafayette's Coordinator of the Public Relations Degree Program, and Chair of UF's Department of Public Relations. In 1999, both UL Lafayette's and UF's undergraduate programs in public relations were named two of 23 "Premier Programs" in the country by a Marquette University study.

Kelly is an internationally recognized authority on public relations and fundraising. She is the author of two award-winning books and more than 70 articles, book chapters, monographs, and refereed papers. Her teaching areas include public relations principles, strategy, campaign management, theories of public relations, fundraising, and philanthropy. She has supervised 24 completed master's committees and 4 doctoral dissertation committees. Her former students – numbering approximately 1,500 – practice and teach public relations across the country.

Kelly is the recipient of the three highest awards in public relations teaching and research: the Outstanding Educator Award (PRSA, 2004), the Jackson Jackson and Wagner Behavioral Science Prize (PRSA Foundation, 1999), and the Pathfinder Award (Institute for Public Relations, 1995). Only nine other educators in the nation have achieved this distinction.

Kelly has an extensive record of service to the public relations profession. She has been a member of PRSA since 1978, and has held numerous leadership positions in the society, including President of the Maryland Chapter (1986-87), Chair of the national Professional Development Resources Committee (1990-92), and Director on the national Board (1994-96). APR accredited in 1980, she has attended many International PRSA Conferences, often serving as a professional development workshop speaker. Kelly was elected to membership in PRSA's College of Fellows in 1996. She has represented PRSA on the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC) since 2005, and served on the Steering Committees of the 1999 and 2006 National Commissions on Public Relations Education. She was a trustee of the Institute for Public Relations for 12 years (2000-12).

Kelly is one of only a few educators in public relations or business elected to membership (2003) in the Arthur W. Page Society (AWPS), an invitation-only association primarily composed of the chief communication officers of *Fortune* 500 corporations (at least \$2 billion in annual revenues) and the CEOs of the world's largest public relations agencies. Dr. Kelly is a member of the Arthur W. Page Society, an invitation-only, professional association composed of the chief communication officers (CCOs) of the world's largest corporations, the CEOs of the leading public relations agencies, and a few distinguished academics from public relations and business. She also is an elected member of PRSA's College of Fellows.

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