

KATHY MEARS
CLASS OF 2000

Kathy Mears is the Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Florida, serving as the highest-ranking staff member in the Florida Cabinet office of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Her career spans more than 25 years of state government service, including three terms as Chief of Staff in the Florida Legislature, two terms as Deputy Chief of Staff in the Florida Legislature, and one term as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Governor.

Mears also served as Chief Legislative Affairs Officer at Florida State University and as Vice President of a private public relations firm in Tallahassee. She earned an associate degree from Tallahassee State College, then a bachelor's degree in sociology, summa cum laude, and a master's degree in public administration, all from Florida State University. Her honors include induction into Florida State University's Circle of Gold and the Distinguished Alumni Award from FSU's College of Social Sciences and Public Policy. She is a member of the Capital Health Plan Board of Trustees and lives in Tallahassee with her husband.