

Ricky Bell

CLASS OF 1975

A lifelong resident of Tallahassee, Ricky Bell grew up in the public school system, attending Hartsfield and Leonard-Wesson Elementary, and Rickards High School. After graduating from high school, Ricky began his academic journey at Tallahassee Community College in 1973, where he earned an A.A. in 1975. He continued his education at Florida State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education in 1977. His commitment to education led him to further his studies at Florida A&M University, where he earned a Master of Science in Physical Education in 1990.

He began his remarkable 43-year career in public education in 1977 as a physical education teacher and football coach in Wakulla County. Over the years, he taught and coached various sports, including football, girls' golf, girls' track, weightlifting, and boys' basketball, at several schools, including Lincoln High School, James S. Shanks High School, Leon High School, and Rickards High School. In 1999, Ricky transitioned into school administration, serving as Dean of Students at Godby High School. His leadership continued to shine when he was appointed County Athletic Director for Leon County Schools in 2002, a role he held until his retirement in 2020. Throughout his career, Ricky spent countless hours mentoring and supporting young men through the game of football, and he became a father figure to countless athletes, guiding them not only in sports but in life.

Ricky has been widely recognized for his contributions to education and athletics, but he considers his greatest achievement to be his family. He remains an active presence in the community, serving as an education consultant for Robert F. Munroe Day School in Midway, Florida, while also holding leadership positions as the President of the Leon Football Hall of Fame and the Shakey Pond Lake Owners Association.