

Mark R. Mills



Mark R. Mills serves as “chief encouragement officer” of the [Political Leadership Innovation Institute, Inc.](#), a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that has groomed over 400 business leaders in three states to seek elected office or government appointments and use their business experience and skills to address public issues.

Graduates have gone on to serve as mayors, city council members, legislators, commissioners, school board members and sheriffs. Locally-branded and guided programs have been launched in Florida as well as San Diego and Northern Virginia.

Mark has extensive experience in politics and government. He served as staff director and deputy staff director to the number-three ranking U.S. Senate Republican leadership office - the Republican Conference - in 1998/99, under (retired) U.S. Senator Connie Mack of Florida and during the trial of President Clinton.

He was communications director to Senator Mack throughout much of the Senator’s tenure (1988-1989, 1990-1997), guiding press and external communications efforts and serving as spokesperson.

He is also president of a strategic communications firm that works with leaders in business, politics and public affairs on public messaging strategies, public speaker training, media relations and leadership. He is a frequent political analyst for an Orlando television station.

In 2014/15, Mills worked with business leaders in Belize to develop and facilitate a business leadership program to engage future civic-minded business leaders who have a stake in the nation’s well-being. [LEARN MORE.](#)

Mark’s life in politics, public relations and media relations began in Ohio, working as a media aide in the State Senate, for a public relations firm in Columbus and on numerous campaigns, including runs for governor and U.S. Senator. He began his career as a broadcast journalist in Ohio, winning an award from the Society of Professional Journalists for his reporting on a widespread pyramid-money scheme.

He received a bachelor’s degree from Ohio University in political science and a master’s from Asbury Theological Seminary/Florida (2005), where he served in 2007 as an adjunct instructor of Church in Society, during a faculty transition.

He and his wife Virgi live in Central Florida, have two grown sons and dote over their granddoggy.