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### **TAMPA'S LOWRY PARK ZOO NAMES CEO**

**TAMPA, Fla. (February 26, 2010)** – The Board of Trustees of the Lowry Park Zoological Society today announced the appointment of Craig A. Pugh to the position of CEO of Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo. Pugh, the Zoo's deputy director since 2005, has served as acting CEO since December 2008. "Our nationwide search attracted several qualified candidates for the position," said Zoo trustee and search committee member Sean Butler. "Craig is our clear choice and the decision was unanimous."

"We have been impressed by Craig's leadership of our team and ability to move this organization forward," said Zoo board chair Catherine Lowry Straz.

Pugh will be responsible for operations of the nearly 60-acre Zoo that features 2,000 animals from Florida, Africa, Asia, Australia and South America. "We are a business with two brands," said Pugh. "The Zoo is an important tourist destination and affordable attraction for families to enjoy locally, and we provide education and conservation programs that have statewide and global reach."

The top-attended Zoo in the southeast, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo was named number one zoo in the U.S. by Parents magazine in 2009. With its Florida Environmental Education Center, nicknamed Zoo School, the Zoo is the first to offer early childhood education, preschool

and kindergarten programs. The Zoo supports conservation programs in the Caribbean, South America, Africa, and Australia. The Zoo's manatee hospital is the only nonprofit rehabilitation facility of its kind in the world and one of only three critical care facilities in Florida.

Pugh came to Lowry Park Zoo in 1999 from Palm Beach Zoo where he served as executive director. He was previously associate director for communications at the Chicago Zoological Society, which operates Brookfield Zoo. While there, Pugh was conservation affairs officer for the IUCN Species Survival Commission, a worldwide network of scientists. "The international work helped me to appreciate the value of conserving biodiversity, simply put, the variety of life on earth," said Pugh.

In 2009, he was appointed to The Florida Council on Arts and Culture that advises the Florida Secretary of State on cultural grant funding and on matters pertaining to culture in Florida.

Pugh was a rotary scholar to the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa for undergraduate studies in biochemistry and genetics. He holds a Master of Science degree in business communications from Northwestern University.

"It is a privilege to have the opportunity to build on the Zoo's many successes," said Pugh. "Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo brings together exceptional staff and volunteers who consistently deliver exceptional results. Nonprofits depend on strong partnerships, and the Zoo enjoys many. It is a humbling experience to work daily with dedicated staff and equally committed volunteers."

### **About Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo**

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is operated by the Lowry Park Zoological Society, an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization committed to excellence in education, conservation and research. Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), and has been named the No. 1 zoo in America by both *Parents* magazine (2009) and *Child* magazine (2004). The Zoo is located at 1101 W. Sligh Avenue in Tampa, one mile west of I-275 (exit 48) and is open seven days a week, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Parking is free. Visit [LowryParkZoo.com](http://LowryParkZoo.com) or call (813) 935-8552 for information. Also find the Zoo on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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