

**Richard “Rick” Walsh  
Chairman & CEO  
The Knob Hill Companies**

Rick Walsh is Chairman and CEO of the Knob Hill Companies, which includes a strategic consulting firm, and the publishing company for *Winter Park Magazine*. Prior to founding Knob Hill, Rick served as Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs of Darden Restaurants. Rick was a founding member of the leadership team that took Darden public in 1995 and also served as a member of Darden’s Executive Committee.

Rick currently serves as Chairman of the University of Central Florida Board of Trustees and also serves on the College of Business Advisory Council for the University. He serves on the National First Jobs Institute Board, Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation Board, MD Anderson Council of Governors, Seaside National Bank and Trust Board, Blue Orb Software Inc Board, and several emerging companies’ boards. Rick is also founder and owner of Knob Hill Media, which publishes *Winter Park Magazine*.

A past Chairman of the Board of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce, Rick is also a former Board member of the Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce, Hubbs SeaWorld Research Institute Board of Trustees; the National Employment Policy Institute; and the National Restaurant Association. He formerly served on the Governor’s Florida Tourism Council, the Governor’s Taskforce on Affordable Healthcare, Enterprise Florida, and the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission.

Rick has been recognized as *Orlando Business Journal’s* “Businessman of the Year”, one of “Florida’s 100 Most influential” by *Florida Trend Magazine*, one of the “25 Most Powerful People in Central Florida” by *The Orlando Sentinel*; and one of the “50 Most Powerful People in Orlando” by *Orlando Magazine*.

He attended the University of Central Florida and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1977 and a Master of Public Policy degree in 1983. Rick received the University’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1985.