



Joseph D. Swann

President, Retired

Rockwell Automation Power Systems

Joseph D. Swann grew up the son of educators in the small town of Clio, SC. In 1963, he earned his BS degree in ceramic engineering at Clemson University and in 1969 earned an MBA from Case Western Reserve University.

Upon graduation, Joe was employed as a development engineer for Ferro Corporation in Cleveland, OH and over time became division materials manager. In 1969, he accepted employment with Reliance Electric Company and had the opportunity to contribute with two stints in Cleveland, OH and one in Athens, GA. In 1974, he became plant manager of the Reliance Plant in Stone Mountain, GA, and in 1976 became plant manager of a new motor plant in Gainesville, GA. In 1981, Joe became vice president and general manager of the Dodge Business of Reliance Electric. In 1995, Reliance was acquired by Rockwell Automation and in 1998 he became president of Rockwell Automation Power Systems and senior vice president of Rockwell Automation. He retired from Rockwell in 2007 and spun-off a motor and generator repair business with the help of the Riverside Company, a private equity company headquartered in Cleveland, OH and New York City. The business was later called Integrated Power Services (IPS) where Joe served as non-executive chairman. IPS was sold in 2012. Since then he has given much of his time to assisting entrepreneurs in the Greenville community and continues to serve on numerous boards. He is currently co-chairing the Capital Campaign for the Ronald McDonald House.

Clemson University was very important in preparing Joe for his business and professional life and he has given back through service on the Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board, CURF Board of Directors, Clemson University Board of Visitors, and as an IPTAY representative. In 1990, he became a member of the Clemson University Board of Trustees and has served in that capacity ever since. In 1995, Joe received the Distinguished Service award from the Alumni Association and in 2013 he received the Clemson Medallion.

Joe is married to Barbara Ann "Bobbi" Porch who is a graduate of Ohio University. Bobbi and Joe have three children all of which are Clemson graduates; Erin '92, Audrey '95 and Ted '97. The Swann's have nine grandchildren.