

Thomas (Tommy) Bagwell is an accomplished business leader and longtime supporter of Kennesaw State University.

A native of North Georgia, Tommy graduated from Clemson University with a degree in economics. He began his professional career at American Proteins, Inc. (formerly North Georgia Rendering Company) in 1969 and served as president and owner from 1972 to 2018.

For more than three decades, the Bagwell family has been instrumental in the growth of Kennesaw State University. Tommy and his wife, Chantal, have profoundly impacted the Coles College of Business by supporting the Bagwell Center for the Study of Markets and Economic Opportunity and the Education Economics Center. Their support of these cutting-edge centers, which have received international acclaim, is well into the seven figures.

The Bagwell family has also made significant contributions to the success of the Bagwell College of Education through a multi-million-dollar gift to support faculty and student success and establishing the Chantal and Tommy Bagwell Endowed Dean's Chair. Through their generosity, the education building was built and named in Chantal and Tommy Bagwell's honor. Kennesaw State's Clarice C. and Leland H. Bagwell College of Education is named in honor of Tommy's parents, who championed higher education. Tommy followed in his mother's footsteps, serving as a Kennesaw State University trustee for 16 years.

A long-time member of Rotary International, Tommy is recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow, Will Watt Fellow, and a member of the Major Bequest Society. Tommy currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Northeast Georgia Council of Boy Scouts of America and is a board member of the U.S. Poultry Foundation. He previously served on the Carter Center Board of Councilors and the Governors Energy Policy Council.

In Spring 2023, Bagwell was knighted to the Royal Order of Francis I for his achievements and philanthropic service.