

Dr. Walter L. Robb

Dr. Walter L. Robb is a former General Electric Senior Vice President, and is presently a mentor, director and angel investor to many Tech Valley start-ups. He also owns the Albany River Rats AHL hockey team and the Conquest AFL football team, which compete at the Times Union Center in Albany.

Dr. Robb was trained in chemical engineering at Pennsylvania State University and the University of Illinois and joined General Electric Company's Atomic Power Laboratory from 1951 to 1956. He became a researcher at GE's research laboratory in 1956 and successively served in various capacities for GE in management, research, and development, retiring in 1992 as Senior Vice President for Corporate Research and Development and a member of the company's Corporate Executive Council. For a time he directed GE's Schenectady R&D Center, one of the world's largest and most diversified industrial laboratories, with about 1,650 scientists, engineers, and technicians concentrating on the company's longer-range R&D needs. Among his specific assignments, Dr. Robb headed GE Medical Systems (headquartered in Milwaukee) from 1973 to 1986, building it into the world's leading producer of medical diagnostic imaging equipment.

In 1993 Dr. Robb received the National Medal of Technology -- the nation's highest technology honor -from President Clinton for "his leadership in the development of medical diagnostic systems that have improved people's health and maintained U.S. global competitiveness." He holds 12 patents and authored more than a score of articles in professional journals. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. Presently, Dr. Robb also serves on the Boards of Celgene, Mechanical Technology, Inc., which are publicly traded. In September, 1993, he received the National Medal of Technology from then President Clinton for his leadership in the CT and MR imaging industry.