Biographical Sketch

Rob Grimes graduated from Penn State in 1980 in Food Service and Housing Administration, an integral part of the College of Health and Human Development. Upon graduation, he applied his degree to operations management positions for Holiday Inn and then Marriott International, where he created a global group in Distributed Systems at Marriott's Headquarters; his first intrapreneural venture.

After Marriott, Rob created many technology companies for the global foodservice, hospitality and retail industries including the Foodservice Technology Conference & Showcase. He keeps his operational roots by owning and operating restaurants in the Washington, D.C. area. From day-one, he supported Penn State, his College and the School of Hospitality Management by mentoring and hiring students (at one time having over 50 alums when others were not hiring).

Rob is a past Chairman of the Penn State Hotel & Restaurant Society, a Lifetime Member of the Penn State Alumni Association, a member of the Mount Nittany Society and President's Club. Within the School of Hospitality Management he is a Conti Professor and founded the Technology Advisory Board. A past recipient of the Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award, he served on the Grand Destiny campaign and continues in the For the Future campaign committee.

Residing in Potomac, Maryland, Rob is proud of his Penn State family of 2 additional Penn State Alums; wife Beth, and daughter Lauren. His youngest daughter Melissa is a sophomore in the Schreyer's Honors College and just completed her second year with THON as a Communications Captain.

Position Statement

Since graduating from Penn State, I proudly carry the Blue & White with me in unwavering support of our Students, Faculty, University and Athletics. While Penn State has always been a dynamic institution, the challenges of the recent past have been all consuming, making it difficult to focus on Penn State's future.

I have known the time would come to step up and do more for Penn State; to make a meaningful contribution and difference in the leadership of the University. My entrepreneurial thinking and know-how to get things done, ability to network and connect, and my business and community leadership experiences and skills are assets I will put to work for you and Penn State.

With an understanding of the elements that make Penn State great; from Academics and Research to Athletics and Development that will continue to secure the future financially, I know now is the time for me to be a part of the leadership required to move forward at this critical time.

When I meet those who would question Penn State's commitment to education and focus on doing what is right for the Students and Community, I remind them of the great accomplishments of the University, Students, Faculty, Athletes and Alumni. We all make a difference and I hope you will allow me to represent you in accomplishing our goals now and for future of Penn State. To that end: "WE ARE."