

Mr. Kelley A. Bergstrom

Chairman of Bergstrom Investment Management, LLC

After graduating from Iowa State University with his undergraduate degree in accounting and finance, Kelley Bergstrom was all set for a career as an accountant. But his time in the military would set his career on a different path. Having gone through the ROTC program at Iowa State, Bergstrom was in the Army reserves and was soon called to active duty for two years, where he rose to the rank of captain while serving initially at the Army Aviation Material Command and then with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea.

Some of Bergstrom's Army colleagues were in the real estate business back home, and their conversation piqued his interest. When he returned to the reserves after two years of active duty, Bergstrom used his GI Bill to attend the University of Florida to earn his MBA with a concentration in real estate. Bergstrom said he chose UF based on the strength of its real estate offerings.

That real estate concentration has served both Bergstrom and UF well. Upon graduating, Bergstrom worked as a real estate manager for IBM then joined Chicago-based JMB Properties Company from 1972-1994, where he served as President and CEO. He then struck out on his own, founding Bergstrom Investment Management, where he continues today.

In 2006, UF's real estate center was named the Kelley A. Bergstrom Real Estate Center after Bergstrom established a major endowment that would support the center for years, and he has served on the center's advisory board since 1998, including as its chairman. Bergstrom also recently spearheaded a major renovation project for the center. Bergstrom served as chairman of the UF Foundation Board of Directors and continues to serve on Warrington's Business Advisory Council, on which he has been a member since 2001. He received the Academy of Golden Gators Lifetime Volunteer Award in 2015 and the UF Distinguished Alumnus award earlier this year.