

Candidate for Honorary Degree

Dr. Thaddeus Seymour, Jr.
Doctor of Public Service

Dr. Seymour was nominated for a Doctor of Public Service and received unanimous approval from the University's Commencement, Convocations, and Recognitions Committee. With the endorsement of the faculty, President Cartwright requests approval of the honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service for Dr. Thaddeus Seymour.

Thad Seymour, Jr., Ph.D., has been an extraordinary leader and advocate for higher education, economic development, and innovation across Central Florida. Following nearly three decades as a business leader, Thad joined UCF to provide vision and leadership to the university and many major initiatives, including the development of the 2016 Collective Impact Strategic Plan and the UCF Downtown campus, which opened in 2019. Thad's contributions to UCF's growth and his impact on our community will be felt for many years to come, making him an exemplary candidate for the honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service from the University of Central Florida.

Some of Thad's most significant contributions to the university came from his service as Interim President. In February 2019, he agreed to serve and lead UCF during a time of challenge and transition for the institution. Thad's leadership was critical in organizing an interim leadership team, working closely with the legislature to rebuild trust both internally and externally, and conducting comprehensive reviews of core administrative functions under the guidance of the Board of Trustees.

Prior to his service as Interim President, Thad served as Vice President for Partnerships and Chief Innovation Officer at UCF — a new role that brought together key functions focused on expanding the university's work in the community and enhancing its ability to build the talent needed to strengthen and diversify Central Florida's economy. Immediately before that, he led the efforts to bring UCF Downtown to life, positioning the campus as an innovative model of 21st-century higher education with a core team of UCF and community leaders.

Thad's business career included senior executive roles with large healthcare and technology companies as well as multiple early-stage businesses. As senior vice president of Tavistock Development Company, he led strategy and business development for Lake Nona Medical City. For seven years, he helped bring more than \$3 million in health and life sciences investment to the fast-growing innovation cluster. Thad also led the recruitment of the United States Tennis Association to Orlando to build the nation's largest tennis complex and founded and served as president of the Lake Nona Institute, which hosts the widely acclaimed annual Lake Nona Impact Forum.

Thad earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Dartmouth College and a Master of Arts and doctorate, both in History, from the University of Wisconsin. He also holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.