

BAM KANSAS

Brian “BAM” McClendon is a University of Kansas Research Professor, former Google Vice President of Engineering, and candidate for Kansas Secretary of State.

BAM is Kansas educated - from grade school through college. He's a successful engineer, innovator and business executive. He co-founded the company that developed Google Earth - used by over a billion people to help find their way, improve businesses, tell stories, and discover the world. It changed mapping worldwide and is still the gold standard today. He famously made his hometown of Lawrence, Kansas – in fact, the apartment he grew up in – the center of Google Earth.

Brian has built startup companies and led teams of over 2,000 professionals. As a vice-president of Google, he led the team that built Google Maps, Local Search, and the entire Google Geo suite, helping grow Google from a Fortune 1000 company to a Fortune 5 company.

More recently, he led the development of KVotes – a nonpartisan online voter registration tool with mobile capability that has already allowed more than 10,000 eligible Kansas citizens to register to vote in under five minutes online.

In the last year Brian's given over 80 tech talks, free of charge, to over 8,000 Kansans statewide in schools, companies and nonprofits, advocating for science and technology education, jobs and innovation and encouraging young Kansans - especially young women - to enter those fields. He supports more robust investment in STEM education. Leading by example, Brian, with his wife Beth Ellyn McClendon, established the McClendon Engineering Scholarship at the University of Kansas.

He tirelessly advocates for the value that entrepreneurs and innovating companies can bring to the Kansas economy, advising entrepreneurs and Kansas companies, many started by Kansas high school and college graduates.

McClendon has been honored for his work by the National Academy of Engineering, The American Geographical Society, and The United Nations. He was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in 2016 by The University of Kansas and was inducted into the Hall of Honor at his alma mater, Lawrence High School.

Brian and Beth Ellyn live in Lawrence.