Richard B. Brown earned an EE Ph.D. from the University of Utah. His dissertation produced one of the first smart sensors, an array of miniature ion-selective electrodes with integrated electronics.

He started his academic career at the University of Michigan, where he developed the VLSI program and conducted research on microprocessor design, silicon-based chemical sensors, and brain probes. At Michigan he held an Arthur F. Thurnau Endowed Professorship and a Distinguished Faculty Award from the Michigan Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

In 2004, he was appointed Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Utah. The College has since grown engineering degrees granted from 484 to 1,287, and research expenditures from $30M to $106M/yr. Since 2006, the College has spun out more than 100 companies. In 2022 the Kahlert School of Computing was named, and in 2023, a generous endowment named the John and Marcia Price College of Engineering.

Prof. Brown has 22 patents and has authored more than 225 peer-reviewed publications. He is a founder of i-SENS (glucose sensors), Sensicore (chemical sensors), Mobius Microsystems (all-silicon clock generators), and e-SENS (water chemistry sensors). He is a Life Fellow of the IEEE and a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. He was awarded the Utah Governor’s Medal for Excellence in Science and Technology and was the 2018 University of Utah Rosenblatt Prize recipient. A 2020 investiture made him the first H. E. Thomas Presidential Endowed Dean of Engineering at the University of Utah.