

PHOENIX
BUSINESS JOURNAL

2025

ARIZONA ORBIE AWARDS

The annual Arizona ORBIE® Awards honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate & Healthcare categories will be announced October 30 at Westin Kierland Resort.



**FROM THE CHAIR
ANTHONY BOBOS**

Great CIOs Understand How
Connections Drive Transformation



SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ARIZONACIO

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		ARUN KUMAR BHASKARA- BABA Honeywell	ROBERT PRUETT New Freedom	STEPHEN SUMMERS Velera	
			TODD PUGH CSAA Insurance Group		



FROM THE CHAIR

Great CIOs Understand How Connections Drive Transformation

Connections with others facing similar challenges transform ideas into impact, plans into progress, and vision into reality.

ArizonaCIO brings together preeminent Chief Information Officers from Arizona's largest organizations to strengthen leadership effectiveness, drive innovation, and create business value. Member-led, non-commercial programs foster meaningful professional relationships, enabling collaboration on shared challenges to gain leadership advantage.

Whether you are leading a large corporation or a nonprofit, there is no textbook for how to be great in a role that changes as rapidly as technology. That is why relationships create superpowers, driving personal and organizational transformation.

The Inspire Leadership Network connects CIOs with over 1,700 lifelong learners across more than forty chapters. From public and private companies to

government, education, healthcare, and nonprofits, we exist to help members navigate and thrive in a uniquely challenging executive role.

The leadership principles that have served CIOs for over 25 years are now available to communities serving CISOs as the Inspire Leadership Network expands in 2025.

The ORBIE® Awards recognizes the great leadership of CIOs in Arizona. On behalf of ArizonaCIO, I congratulate the nominees and finalists on their remarkable achievements. A special thank you to the sponsors and underwriters for their foresight in making the Arizona ORBIE® Awards possible.

With the right connections and relationships, transformation is not only possible—it is happening today, as evidenced by the finalists you will meet throughout this special section.



Sincerely

Anthony Bobos

Anthony Bobos

2025 Chair, ArizonaCIO

Vitalant, EVP, CIO

CEO Perspectives: The Business Value of Technology Leadership

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION



**MIKE
GOODWIN**

SVP OF IT, CIO (RET)

MODERATOR



**DAVID
GREEN**

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**JIM
REAVEY**

PRESIDENT & CEO



**BRIAN
WALLER**

CEO & CO-FOUNDER



EXCLUSIVE **EXPERIENCES.**
LEGENDARY **LEADERS.**
LASTING **CONNECTIONS.**

AUGUST 4-6, 2026 | BAY AREA

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Fortify Your Network Through the Convergence of Networking and Security



Congratulations to the 2025 Arizona CIO of the Year Award Winners and Nominees

Bridging the gaps to cyber resilience: The C-suite playbook

Findings from the 2025 Global Digital Trust Insights

Achieving cyber resilience at an enterprise level is critical. Yet despite widespread awareness of the challenges, significant gaps persist—ranging from gaps in implementation to preparedness to measuring cyber risk.

To truly safeguard their organizations, executives must treat cybersecurity as a standing item on the business agenda, embedding it into every strategic decision—and closing the gaps.

Where are your gaps in cyber resilience? Get the full report at

pwc.com/us/dti

Want to hear more? Join PwC's Global Cybersecurity Summit on demand. Hear from industry leaders, cybersecurity executives and innovative thinkers from around the world, as they share their perspectives on emerging risks and threats, cyber regulation, cyber strategy, GenAI in cyber defense and more.

Watch today!



LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$1.8 BILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
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AWARDS



Michelle Ferrara

VP & CIO, Arizona Public Service Company



Michelle Ferrara is the Chief Information Officer for Arizona Public Service (APS), Arizona's largest energy provider serving over 1.4 million commercial and residential customers. She is responsible for IT infrastructure, applications, technology strategy and for the digital transformation for a major electric utility. Before joining APS, Ferrara had a 20-year+ career at Exelon in various IT leadership roles. She has extensive experience in leading large operational support teams, and delivering key business-enabling initiatives and transformations.

SUCCESS STORY

Our team successfully delivered a large-scale transformative program updating outdated systems with industry-standard technology and cloud solutions. This streamlined critical system architectures, enabling efficient and reliable operations for supply chain and asset management processes, while resulting in significant savings for the company. We also implemented a new Energy Management System (EMS) to support critical grid operations and enable renewable energy goals. Additional recent successes include developing an Enterprise AI Strategy, modernizing our data and digital core, and redesigning our customer bill to be more user-friendly, providing insights to help customers manage energy usage and costs.



Steen Hambric

CIO,
City of Phoenix



Steen Hambric is a seasoned IT executive with extensive experience in federal and local government. As the CIO of Phoenix, he manages a \$110M budget and 230+ staff, driving innovation and operational excellence. Steen excels in strategic planning, cybersecurity, and stakeholder relations. He leads the execution of the City of Phoenix Strategic Technology Plan and champions citywide initiatives to include Generative AI governance and improved resident access to city services.

SUCCESS STORY

My greatest success story is a living story, getting better every day. In my 8 years at the City of Phoenix, I have contributed greatly to the success of our cybersecurity program, by supporting increased cyber staffing by 500%, redirecting budget and resources to ensure dedicated 24x7 SOC operations, and fortifying the city's critical infrastructure and devices through cutting-edge tools, techniques, and improved processes. In addition, I've evangelized the role city staff play in protecting systems and data through mandatory security awareness training tailored to different city group types to include elected officials and executives, field workers, and office staff.



Bipin Jayaraj

Chief Digital & Information Officer,
Benchmark Electronics Inc



Global Business & Technology Executive with Board experience. Technology Advisor / Mentor for upcoming Executives. Enabled and executed strategic Business initiatives/ programs to drive Enterprise performance. Extensive experience in leading Business and Digital Transformation. Expert in IT Operations, managing business-critical, global, round-the-clock ERP and non-ERP technologies. Excel at Stakeholder / Business relationship management. Experience working in startups to multi-billion enterprises driving value and innovation. Strong viewpoint in using technology as an enabler for accelerating business outcomes.

SUCCESS STORY

My biggest success in the last one year has been to change the perception of IT to be more of a partner enabling the business functions - Listening more and understanding the business problem from their perspective. In many cases, I have received lot of positive feedback even when we haven't been able to provide the solution that the business functions asked for, but, we listened, explained the constraints and worked towards a middle ground. That is very much appreciated, and they acknowledge the effort and partnership. Enhanced Customer satisfaction has been a highlight.



Dr. Bianca Lochner

CIO,
City of Scottsdale



Bianca Lochner has 25 years of business and technology leadership across complex, high-impact environments. She has delivered enterprise-scale digital transformations, advanced AI adoption, and award-winning innovations that enhance operations, business value, and constituent experiences. Her recognitions include GoldenGov City Executive of the Year, HMG's Global Leadership Institute Award, Government Technology's Top 25 Doers, Dreamers & Drivers, Board Executive, and induction into the CIO100 Hall of Fame, honoring her as a globally recognized technology leader.

SUCCESS STORY

Scottsdale has been ranked #1 U.S. Digital City for the second consecutive year, a testament to our relentless pursuit of excellence. We launched a citywide Data and Intelligent Automation Platform, creating an ecosystem where decisions are insight-driven, services are seamless, and innovation is embedded into daily operations. We modernized our ERP, implemented a unified digital experience, expanded municipal fiber and the Real-Time Crime Center, elevated constituent engagement, streamlined operations, and advanced Zero Trust cybersecurity. These collective achievements delivered engaging and personalized services, strengthened resilience, and positioned Scottsdale as a national model for innovation, data-enabled decision-making, and constituent-centered public service.



Sandeep Uthra

EVP & CTO,
OneAZ Credit Union



Visionary global business technology executive with a strong record of aligning innovation with business strategy to drive transformation, growth, and competitive advantage. Brings deep expertise in digital transformation, AI, data engineering, FinTech, and global operations across financial services, banking, manufacturing, and logistics. Recognized for simplifying complex ecosystems and delivering measurable business impact. A collaborative leader who partners effectively across the enterprise, builds high-performing teams, and champions a people-first culture to accelerate sustainable, technology-enabled success.

SUCCESS STORY

A key achievement has been driving an enterprise-wide transformation across people, processes, and technology while setting a clear strategic direction aligned with evolving business objectives and customer needs. A core focus has been cultivating a culture of innovation - experimentation, embracing a "fail fast" philosophy, and taking calculated risks to accelerate the delivery of meaningful and customer-centric solutions. This mindset has improved agility and positioned us to respond proactively to market demands. Most importantly, we have elevated IT's role as a trusted advisor and strategic enabler focused not just on technology itself, but on creating exceptional experiences through its smart use.

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$700 MILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



Erik Jones

VP, Technology, Arizona Cardinals Football Club



Erik Jones is the Vice President of Technology for the Arizona Cardinals and oversees the technological vision, strategy, and delivery venue technology, team technology, and innovation for Cardinal's business verticals. His technical team plays a critical role in the advancement of innovation and cybersecurity programs. Erik also serves on the National Board of Directors for the College Success Foundation, to provide advisement to the CEO on a board to support organizational growth and technology strategy.

SUCCESS STORY

Our team delivers cutting-edge technologies to enhance the fan experience for over 2M fans annually. In 2 years, we modernized all facilities and overhauled infrastructure, processes, and systems ahead of the 3-year technology roadmap. We markedly improved our NFL Venue Technology ranking and delivered one of the most advanced 5G cellular systems in all of sports globally. This year our State Farm Stadium was selected as a contingency site for the LA Rams/Vikings playoff game that was displaced due to the Los Angeles fires earlier this year. We delivered a world class experience to fans on a grand stage.



Brad Lontz

SVP & CIO, CopperPoint Insurance Company (fmr)



Brad Lontz is Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer at CSAA Insurance Group. He leads technology strategy, driving digital transformation, cloud adoption, and data innovation to deliver seamless member experiences. With over 25 years of leadership, Brad has guided major system modernizations, integrations, and cloud migrations. He is passionate about talent development and aligning technology with business strategy to fuel growth, strengthen cybersecurity, and expand into new markets including the gig economy.

SUCCESS STORY

Over the past four years, my team successfully integrated two acquired companies into a unified, cloud-based technology platform. We streamlined operations by consolidating three claims, billing, and policy systems into one each, saving over \$4M annually. Standardized processes and a single IT organization improved efficiency, boosted profitability by 10 points, and increased cash surplus by 15%. Shared infrastructure enabled enterprise-wide collaboration and a single help desk for seamless support. Additionally, we established dedicated cybersecurity and architecture teams, strengthening our foundation and positioning CopperPoint for sustainable growth and innovation.



Beth McCormick

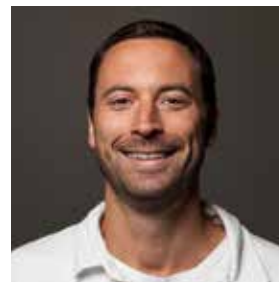
CIO, CAVA



Since 2023, Beth McCormick has served as CIO at CAVA, leading technology strategies that contributed to the company surpassing \$1 billion in revenue. With over 20 years of experience in digital and data transformation, she previously held senior IT leadership roles at PetSmart and American Eagle Outfitters. Recognized for building strong teams, aligning IT with business priorities, and enhancing experiences for team members and guests, She earned her BA from Wake Forest University.

SUCCESS STORY

Over the past two years, Beth McCormick has led a comprehensive transformation of CAVA's technology function, evolving it from a reactive support team into a strategic, innovation-focused organization. She has attracted exceptional talent, developed strong leaders, and implemented solutions that deliver measurable business impact. Through her vision, technology now aligns seamlessly with CAVA's strategic priorities, enabling sustained growth and operational excellence. Beth has earned deep trust and respect across the company, redefining technology's role as a critical driver of innovation and competitive advantage, and positioning CAVA for continued success in a dynamic and rapidly evolving business environment.



David Montz

CTO, Sunstate Equipment Co., LLC (fmr)



David Montz is CTO at Sunstate Equipment, leading 110+ member technology team with a \$28M annual budget. With 28+ years of experience in B2B, B2C, and cybersecurity, he focuses on digital transformation and data modernization. As CTO of Tracer.ai, he drove 225% revenue growth. David and his wife appeared on Shark Tank, landing a deal with Robert Herjavec. He holds a patent in threat mapping and earned his B.S. from the University of Idaho.

SUCCESS STORY

Our team modernized Sunstate's enterprise data foundation, unifying legacy systems into a governed cloud platform with automated pipelines and models. We created a single source of truth, elevated quality, and cut analysis from weeks to hours. With clean, connected data across 103+ locations, we unlocked AI at scale—powering agents, predictive insights, intelligent automation, and faster decisions across operations, finance, and customer experience. This foundation turns data into a product the business can use daily and multiplies innovation velocity, opening a pipeline of AI use cases that drive growth, efficiency, and a better customer experience.



Frank Sweeney

CIO, Arizona Department of Child Safety



Frank Sweeney is a transformational technology leader with experience spanning startups to public service. As CIO, he's modernized legacy systems, led cloud adoption, and applied AI to improve outcomes for vulnerable communities. Known for bridging business and technology, Frank inspires cross-functional teams to deliver measurable impact. He leads with empathy, strategy, and innovation, making systems smarter and organizations more human. His work turns bold ideas into scalable, real-world results that serve both mission and people.

SUCCESS STORY

We rebuilt trust, between IT and the frontlines, and between government and the people it serves. My team modernized decades-old systems, moved to the cloud, and implemented tools that made caseworkers faster and more effective. But the real win? Watching a once-burned-out team come alive, collaborating, innovating, and believing in the mission again. We didn't just upgrade software. We upgraded hope.



Robin Villareal

CIO, Gila River Resorts and Casinos



Robin Villareal holds the distinction of being the first Native American female CIO for Gila River Resorts & Casinos. Since 1995, Robin has opened seven casinos and supported three major hotel expansions. Robin's leadership philosophy is grounded in a people-first approach. Her loyalty to her community, team, and family is at the heart of everything she does. Robin is a member of the Gila River Indian Community and is Hopi from the Village of Shungopovi.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2021, BetMGM and Gila River Resorts & Casinos announced a partnership with the Arizona Cardinals to bring Sports Betting to Arizona. During this time, we constructed an 11-story hotel expansion, with rooftop dining featuring a 10-story tall video display. As the project was completed in 2022, the construction of our newest property began. This included innovative technologies with AV over IP, auto-leveling sound, and smart glass technology that automatically adjusts light transmittance with changes in outside lighting conditions, home to the largest LED Sport Book in Arizona, and 129-foot-long custom-built circular halo LED display, this was completed in 2023.

LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

OVER \$340 MILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



David Hopkins

SVP & CIO,
Mesa Airlines



David W. Hopkins is Senior Vice President & CIO of Mesa Airlines, leading IT strategy, cybersecurity, and digital transformation. With over 30 years in aviation, he has also held executive roles in insurance and technology consulting. A licensed pilot and co-inventor of patented RFID technology, David is a cybersecurity and AI thought leader. He has chaired a national nonprofit board and was named ITSMF Mentor of the Year for developing the next generation of leaders.

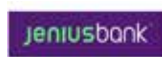
SUCCESS STORY

At Mesa Airlines, we repositioned IT as a strategic enabler of stability, security, and performance. We implemented a modern cybersecurity program tailored to our high-risk environment, improving audit outcomes, reducing risk, and building a culture of shared accountability. Simultaneously, we created an enterprise data warehouse that democratized access to operational insights across departments, accelerating decision-making and improving reliability. These initiatives transformed IT from a support function into a proactive business partner. Despite resource constraints, our team has delivered measurable value—enhancing operational performance, strengthening regulatory posture, and proving that well-led IT can drive transformational outcomes at any scale.



Anish Jacob

CIO & Head of FinTech,
Jenius Bank



Anish Jacob is the CIO and Head of FinTech at Jenius Bank, the retail banking division of SMBC MANUBANK, a SMBC group company in the USA. As a founding force behind Jenius Bank, he played a crucial role in launching a new retail banking division for SMBC. Formerly, as CIO at SMBC MANUBANK, he spearheaded enhancements in technology capabilities and led transformative initiatives. Previously worked at various leadership roles at American Express, Start-ups, and IBM.

SUCCESS STORY

I co-led the launch of Jenius Bank, a next-generation digital retail bank built in the U.S. for SMBC MANUBANK, part of the SMBC Group. Starting from scratch, we designed a fully modern, user-centric banking platform. In just two years, we introduced savings and loan products, with more innovation on the way. Our technology team scaled rapidly, and we built a powerful data and AI backbone that now drives enterprise-wide transformation. This effort laid the groundwork for an AI-powered digital bank and elevated our role in shaping SMBC's AI strategy across the Americas.



Alan McIntosh

CTO

Alan has 29 years of global leadership experience with a proven record of developing and operating high-value, revenue generating solutions across myriad industries. An industry leader with a unique view of technology innovation and deep understanding of strategy, Alan has developed and operated highly scalable cloud, e-commerce, payments, and enterprise applications. An accomplished leader and world-class team builder, Alan brings innovative solutions and frictionless processes that significantly raise the bar for operational excellence.

SUCCESS STORY

Success is a team effort, and I am humbled, grateful, and most importantly blessed by the opportunities God has given me. Integrity, accountability, responsibility, grit, and perseverance are not optional on this journey, and I'm thankful to have learned from some of the best and continue to aspire to be 1% better every day.



Chris Nielsen

EVP & CIO,
Troon



Chris Nielsen is EVP, CIO at Troon, where he leads enterprise technology strategy across infrastructure, security, applications, analytics, and transformation, with P&L ownership for technology-driven commercial products. With over two decades of leadership experience at Dell, CVS Health, Tenet Healthcare, and Axon, he has delivered innovative capabilities and large-scale digital transformations across industries. Chris holds an B.B.A. in MIS from the University of Iowa and an M.B.A. from Duke University.

SUCCESS STORY

In early 2024, I joined Troon to lead a bold digital transformation. In just over a year, our IT team renegotiated software agreements, consolidated 13 networks and ERP systems, cut our security vulnerabilities in half, launched a unified CRM and analytics platform, and integrated helpdesks—all together yielding seven-figure savings. At the same time, we've grown IT-sourced revenues 24% YoY with new and expanding services. More than metrics, we built a scalable, secure, data-driven foundation for Troon's bold future. Our culture of grit, agility, and shared purpose has empowered rapid execution through complexity. And we're only getting started.



Bill Serva

CTO,
Moon Valley Nurseries



Bill Serva has been working in IT for over 25 years across several different industries including foodservice distribution, retail, and not-for-profit companies. Currently he is the Chief Technology Officer at Moon Valley Nurseries, the largest grower of box trees and palms in North America. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Arizona and an MBA from the University of Phoenix.

SUCCESS STORY

Over the last year, the team implemented a fully integrated POS and Field Service solution for our retail team. This solution fully integrates tree sales with the scheduling of planting jobs as well as logging all customer interactions, including sales and planting jobs, in our CRM system. For the first time in the thirty year history of the organization, we have a true 360 degree view of our customers.



Steve Sharkey

CIO,
Sunland Asphalt



A seasoned CIO/EVP with 30+ years of experience driving innovation across IT, fleet, HR, and training. A servant leader, he leads by example—removing obstacles, empowering teams, and fostering a culture of growth, collaboration, and humor. With deep M&A experience and a talent for aligning tech with business goals, Steve has scaled operations, modernized systems, and built high-performing teams that feel valued, supported, and part of something bigger.

SUCCESS STORY

We transformed our IT and BI teams from “just keeping the lights on” to an agile, skilled powerhouse—cutting vendor costs and boosting in-house talent. We modernized infrastructure by moving key systems to the cloud and tightening cybersecurity with a five-layer defense strategy and added extensive employee training (because hackers don't take coffee breaks). Our disaster recovery went from wishful thinking to rock-solid with a cloud DR site and 3-2-1 backup strategy. With cleaned-up data, upgraded apps, and a unified project platform, we turned chaos into clarity—and made IT a true business partner, not just the “printer fixers.”

CORPORATE FINALISTS

UP TO \$325 MILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



Suzie Eden

CIO, Allstate Identity Protection



Suzie Eden is CIO of Allstate Identity Protection, serving 4 million subscribers with best-in-class identity and privacy monitoring solutions. With 15 years of experience leading technology teams in organizations of all sizes, she brings deep technical expertise and sharp business insight. Her leadership emphasizes clarity, alignment, and outcome-driven execution, empowering teams to move quickly and purposefully. She combines digital acumen with a business leader's mindset, viewing technology as a strategic enabler that delivers measurable results.

SUCCESS STORY

Suzie led a pivotal transformation that energized our organization and redefined our future. She leveraged her technical expertise and leadership influence to spark change and provide steady leadership throughout. Allstate Identity Protection launched multiple new market offerings, transitioned to a product-centric model focused on clear business outcomes, adopted agile methodologies, significantly reduced technical debt, eliminated costs, and executed a seamless integration with Allstate. Suzie didn't just stabilize the business; she accelerated it, with measurable results and lasting momentum. She's honored to be a finalist for this award, which reflects the drive and determination of the entire Allstate Identity Protection organization.



Chris Grebisz

CIO,
Welocalize, Inc



Chris Grebisz is the Chief Information Officer at a leading global services company, where he heads technology and product strategy across AI, engineering, and platforms. He has spearheaded digital transformation, cloud modernization, and more recently AI frameworks through the development of OPAL, an AI-enabled service delivery platform. Under his leadership, the company has double revenue, improved profitability, and become an industry leader in tech-enabled services AI Patents, customer innovation and value generation.

SUCCESS STORY

Our biggest accomplishment at Welocalize has been laying the foundation to scale from cloud adoption to enterprise AI. We digitized all major functions, migrated core apps to the cloud, and grew our AI team from 5 to 30+ and our tech org to 225+. This enabled a pivot from traditional services to tech-enabled delivery. We launched an AI-powered platform supporting global content production and earned our first patent for AIQE, our proprietary translation quality estimation tool—with three more patents pending. At Welocalize, IT has evolved from a support function to a key driver of innovation, growth, and enterprise value.



Troy Hector

VP, Information Systems,
NexMetro Development,
LLC



Troy Hector is Vice President of Information Systems at NexMetro Development, leading IT strategy, operations, and cybersecurity to support the company's expansion. With 33 years of experience, he holds a B.S. in Management Information Systems and Economics from the University of Arizona, and certifications including Wharton's Management Development Program and Harvard's GSD AI & Machine Learning. A CTIA member, Troy applies data-driven solutions and secure practices that align technology with business objectives.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, NexMetro transformed IT from a reactive function into a proactive partner supporting business growth. We centralized reporting, cutting reporting time by over 50% and improving decision-making. We strengthened cybersecurity, saving over \$60,000 while enhancing protection and audit readiness. We also modernized IT support, improving service quality as the company expanded. These initiatives helped build a secure, data-driven, scalable IT foundation, enabling NexMetro to grow confidently and efficiently.



Dana Kline

VP, IT & CIO,
Cordia



Dana is a seasoned technology executive with deep IT experience across multiple industries. Known for driving IT strategies that reduce costs, enhance security, and improve service delivery, Dana has led complex digital transformations, multiple M&A integrations, and implemented Lean IT to boost efficiency. His decisive problem-solving and resiliency ensure timely project delivery. Dana's leadership consistently transforms IT into a strategic enabler, delivering measurable value and operational excellence across the organizations he serves.

SUCCESS STORY

Starting as Cordia's sole IT employee, I built the entire IT function from the ground up, transitioning off TSA services and implementing full infrastructure, ERP, and sales systems. Within two years, my team achieved full CIS 18 cybersecurity compliance, reducing insurance premiums by 24%. We launched project cost tracking in NetSuite, redesigned Salesforce for lead management, and delivered company-wide training in project management and remote work engagement. These efforts reduced costs, increased operational efficiency, improved customer satisfaction (Net Promoter Score improved from -45 to 53), and positioned IT as a strategic enabler of Cordia's growth and transformation.



Benito Ralph

EVP, IT & Security,
arrivia



A seasoned IT and security leader, I excel in driving digital transformation, infrastructure and architecture modernization, and driving enterprise cybersecurity operations across global organizations. Benito brings deep expertise in AI integration, automation, and data analytics to deliver measurable business outcomes. Passionate about building high-performing teams and optimizing IT investments, Benito aligns technology strategy with business goals to enable growth, resilience, and sustained competitive advantage through innovation, operational excellence, and a forward-looking approach to digital leadership.

SUCCESS STORY

I led a strategic IT modernization program that accelerated cloud adoption using AI-powered technologies, enabling faster, more reliable code and automated Infrastructure delivery. This initiative migrated 65% of services to cloud and modernizing applications, cutting operational costs by 55%. By integrating AI-driven technologies with our contact center, we boosted customer satisfaction by 12% enhancing the end-user experience and reduced QA efforts by 40%. Deployed CoPilot technologies improving team productivity through automations and accelerated data-driven decision-making. Together, these innovations increased productivity, improved end-user experience coupled with enhanced cybersecurity and positioned IT as a key driver of business growth and operational excellence.



Carla Way

CTO & CIO,
Charter One



Carla Way serves as Chief Technology Officer at Charter One, bringing over 30 years of IT leadership in financial services, consulting, and education. She has led high-impact technology transformations at organizations like USAA, JLL, BMO Harris Bank, and HSBC. Known for aligning technology with strategic goals, Carla specializes in organizational turnarounds, vendor management, and talent development. She holds an MBA, PMP, and CSM, and is passionate about empowering teams and driving mission-aligned innovation.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, we transformed IT from a reactive support function into a proactive, strategic partner aligned with our educational mission. By establishing governance and reorganizing the team, we balanced tactical execution with long-term innovation—earning IT a permanent seat at the executive table. We modernized infrastructure, embraced scalable cloud solutions, and implemented secure, adaptable systems to support evolving educational models. We also redefined vendor relationships, saving over \$500K annually while improving service quality and scalability. Today, IT is not just solving problems—we're anticipating needs, driving transformation, and delivering measurable value as a core enabler of institutional success.

HEALTHCARE FINALISTS

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2025
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Dr. Marc Chasin

SVP & CIO,
Onvida Health



Dr. Marc Chasin, Chief Information Officer at Onvida Health, leads strategic technology initiatives to improve patient care and operational efficiency. He focuses on optimizing EHR workflows, advancing digital health, integrating AI, and modernizing ERP systems. Renowned for his innovative leadership, Dr. Chasin reduces clinician burden, enhances performance, and supports financial sustainability. His work directly contributes to Onvida Health's mission of delivering compassionate, high-quality care to diverse communities through the thoughtful use of technology.

SUCCESS STORY

I lead transformative, enterprise-wide initiatives that re-defined how our health system delivers care, collaborates, and advances operational excellence. More than technology upgrades, these programs emphasize inclusive design, clinician well-being, and cultural transformation across clinical, ancillary, and revenue cycle domains. Through targeted training, best-practice workflows, and transparent communication we foster strong engagement and adoption. Our initiatives elevate system usability, improved provider satisfaction, and align our technology strategy with the organization's mission.



John Delorimier

EVP & Chief Information
and Technology Officer,
Concentra



A senior executive with deep experience leading all facets of enterprise growth and management—including strategy, operations, marketing, sales, and technology. Mr. deLorimier played a pivotal role in elevating Concentra's national position by modernizing the company's mission, vision, values, and brand to reposition it as a leader in the workers' compensation industry. Key accomplishments include: Introduced Net Promoter Score (NPS), Launched an industry-leading Telemedicine offering, Developed a customer-focused technology roadmap, balancing innovation with operational stability

SUCCESS STORY

At the board's request, I was tasked with envisioning the next-generation Concentra Medical Center, with a focus on optimizing patient workflow, enhancing customer experience, and enabling digital connectivity with customers/payers. This ask is what led to our greatest success. In leveraging my multi-disciplinary background in strategy, product, and technology and leading my team to the development of a unified digital workflow and connectivity framework across Concentra's medical centers. This transformation not only enhanced internal effectiveness but also positioned Concentra to expand market share through improved service delivery and stronger digital integration with our payor partners.



Alana Podwika

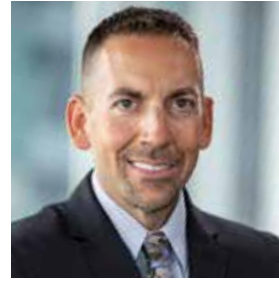
CIO, Mountain Park Health
Center



Alana Podwika is the Chief Information Officer at Mountain Park Health Center, guiding a 60-person team across informatics, applications, infrastructure, operations, and cybersecurity. With over 20 years of experience in healthcare delivery—including seven focused on clinical applications, she leads with a clinician's perspective shaped by her pharmacy background. Her leadership drives innovation enhances patient and staff experiences, and fosters strategic data analysis, championing a collaborative "One IT" model for organizational excellence and equity.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, the IT team at Mountain Park Health Center has achieved several significant accomplishments that have greatly contributed to the organization's success. I have developed a team with a patient-first mentality. Providing care to the community and ensuring reliable systems is of paramount importance to my team and me. By prioritizing the needs and well-being of those we serve, I have cultivated a culture of compassion and excellence. This approach not only enhances patient outcomes but also strengthens our commitment to service, fostering an IT environment where trust and reliability are at the core of our operations.



Mike Shanko

CIO,
NASM, Ascend Learning



With broad experience across various industries, including technology, supply chain, financial services, utilities, and healthcare, Mike's leadership extends beyond just strategic initiatives. It embodies a deep commitment to building a culture of empowerment, mentorship, and operational excellence. A proponent of Servant Leadership, Mike's approach is distinguished by his dedication to his team's growth and development while focusing heavily on instilling a culture of innovation, set to drive business outcomes.

SUCCESS STORY

NASM's mission allows me to fulfill a personal passion for health, wellness and improving the lives of others. The rare opportunity to establish a new IT function has been incredibly rewarding, and due our team's success, we are entrusted to deliver on several key objectives which are each directly impacting our top and bottom-line growth. Further, the empowerment to innovate in our core product offerings, positions this technology organization as a catalyst for NASM's success.



Kevin Smith

Kevin L. Smith is Vice President of Information Technology at Sun Health, leading enterprise IT, cybersecurity, and Data & AI strategy across a multi-site healthcare organization. With two decades of experience including CIO roles supporting federal agencies he specializes in digital transformation and enterprise cybersecurity. He holds a CISSP and a B.S. in Information Technology from Purdue University. Kevin is known for building high-trust teams and delivering innovative solutions that drive operational insight and scale.

SUCCESS STORY

Under Kevin's leadership, Sun Health transitioned from legacy systems to a secure, scalable, and data-driven enterprise. In under two years, the organization implemented hyperconverged infrastructure, completed full migration to Microsoft 365 and Azure, and launched its first enterprise Data and AI strategies. A unified Data Lake now connects core systems, enabling real-time insight and improved decision-making. The creation of Sonny, a GPT-powered AI assistant, brought intuitive data access and automation to daily operations. Beyond the technology, this transformation reflects a cultural shift that is grounded in trust, aligned to mission and supports meaningful innovation in healthcare.



Alex Waddell

CIO,
Adobe Population Health



Alex Waddell is the Chief Information Officer of Adobe Population Health and a certified Salesforce Application Architect. Over his 8 years in the software development space, Alex has found a niche in designing innovative solutions for healthcare challenges. Alex strives to design a technology landscape within his organization enabled by AI, integrations, and seamless user experience, that enables clinicians to focus on the patient, their goals, and achieving positive real world outcomes.

SUCCESS STORY

Our greatest accomplishment has been in our ability to reinvent the way healthcare companies utilize technology. From building our own electronic medical record on the Salesforce platform, meeting the unique needs of our members and payers to being at the forefront of AI technology, streamlining documentation and breaking down data silos, our cloud first and low code approach has allowed us to consistently meet the needs of our rapidly growing organization. Without the flexibility of our systems and ingenuity of our incredible IT staff we would not be one of the fastest growing healthcare companies in the nation.



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NASM proudly congratulates Mike Shanko, CIO and finalist for the 2025 Arizona ORBIE Awards.

His leadership and vision fuel innovation across NASM, supporting our mission to transform lives.

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GILA RIVER RESORTS & CASINOS

proudly congratulates Robin Villareal, Chief Information Officer, on her nomination for the 2025 Arizona ORBIE Awards.

This honor recognizes Arizona's top CIOs for outstanding leadership and innovation in technology.






CONGRATULATIONS, ROBIN

— your leadership inspires us all






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