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BOSTON  
BUSINESS JOURNAL

2026

# BOSTONCIO ORBIE<sup>®</sup> AWARDS

The annual BostonCIO ORBIE<sup>®</sup> Awards honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Super Global, Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate & Healthcare categories will be announced June 12 at Renaissance Boston Seaport District.



#### CHAIR

87 Boston CIOs beat executive isolation



#### LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT & KEYNOTE

Former Fidelity CIO Mihir Shah on leading with integrity through change

# CONGRATULATIONS 2026 BOSTON CIO ORBIE NOMINEES

<b>DAN ANTHONY</b> Federal Reserve Bank of Boston	<b>VINCE CAMPISI</b> RTX	<b>SAMANTHA EARP</b> Tufts University	<b>MATT GRIFFITHS</b> Stanley Black & Decker	<b>BRENDAN KIRBY</b> Plymouth Rock Assurance	<b>VIJAY MENTA</b> Worcester Polytechnic Institute	<b>GANESAN RAVISHANKER</b> Wellesley College	<b>PAUL STOCKER</b> Providence Equity Partners
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<b>PAUL BARBER</b> Planet Fitness	<b>HITESH CHAWDA</b> Charles River Associates International	<b>WESLEY ESSER</b> MIT Sloan School of Management	<b>GUY HADARI</b> Biogen	<b>BIJAY KUMAR</b> Mattel (fmr)	<b>JANE MORAN</b> Mass General Brigham	<b>MARK ROSA</b> Mohegan	<b>JASON THOMAS</b> Cole, Scott, & Kissane
<b>MONA BATES</b> Collins Aerospace	<b>BETH CLARK</b> Harvard Business School	<b>SELMA FERHATBEGOVIC-FEDE</b> Point32Health	<b>NEIL HAMPSHIRE</b> Ocean Spray Cranberries	<b>SANTHOSH KUMAR</b> Panera Bread	<b>MICHAEL MUN</b> The Boston Beer Company	<b>DAVID RUSSO</b> Corebridge Financial	<b>MIKE TIROZZI</b> Alynham Pharmaceuticals
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<b>JIM BILOTTA</b> Dyne Therapeutics	<b>PAUL DIMARINO</b> Shawmut Design and Construction	<b>JEFF GERSON</b> Leerink Partners	<b>SCOTT JOHNSON</b> EBSCO Information Services	<b>MARIO MAFFIE</b> UNFI	<b>PAUL PAK</b> Commonwealth of MA	<b>ROBIN SHAWVER</b> J. Jill	<b>DON WESTERMANN</b> Eastern Bank Corporation
<b>RAJ BIYANI</b> Analogic	<b>MATT DION</b> Locus Robotics	<b>DAVID GERSTLE</b> Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (fmr)	<b>SEAN JOHNSON</b> Locus Robotics	<b>PAUL MALAGRIFA</b> GZA GeoEnvironmental	<b>VISH PARADKAR</b> Wentworth Institute of Technology	<b>MARK SHERWOOD</b> Wolters Kluwer (fmr)	<b>FRANK WIGGINS</b> HP Hood LLC
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<b>NICK BOAKNIN</b> Group 1001	<b>DEBRA DULAC</b> SolutionHealth	<b>JASON GRANT</b> Robinson & Cole	<b>MICHAEL KAPLOWITZ</b> Arrowstreet Capital, Limited Partnership	<b>NATE MCBRIDE</b> Xilio Therapeutics	<b>KERRI-LYNN PRIMMER MORRIS</b> L.E.K. Consulting	<b>RYAN SNYDER</b> Thermo Fisher Scientific	<b>SHAUN WOOD</b> Sonesta International Hotels
<b>JENNIFER BRANT-GARGAN</b> Northeastern University	<b>BRAD DUTOT</b> Beam Therapeutics	<b>GERALD GREELEY</b> Shield Health	<b>SANTHOSH KESHAVAN</b> Voya Financial	<b>NATE MCBRIDE</b> Xilio Therapeutics	<b>KATE PROUTY</b> Akamai Technologies	<b>RYAN SNYDER</b> Thermo Fisher Scientific	<b>ALEX WU</b> Keolis North America
<b>JOY BROWN</b> Boston Medical Center	<b>BILL DZIURA</b> AAA Northeast		<b>SAADIA KHILJI</b> Coverys	<b>MICHAEL MCGOVERN</b> Mass State Auditor	<b>THOMAS MEIER</b> Mass State Auditor	<b>PREM SOMASUNDARAM</b> Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts	<b>FOUAD YATIM</b> Suffolk University
<b>ABBIE BROWN</b> CRICO				<b>THOMAS MEIER</b> Mass State Auditor	<b>SHAFIQ RAB</b> Tufts Medicine	<b>LORRAINE SPADARO</b> Global Partners LP	<b>PADMA YELAMANCHILI</b> Granite Telecommunications
<b>DR. KELLIE CAMPBELL</b> University of Vermont				<b>CHAFIC MENAYRJI</b> Charles River Development	<b>NAOMI RAPOZA LENANE</b> Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	<b>DON STEARNS</b> athenahealth	<b>MARK YUNGER</b> Servier Pharmaceuticals

## Congratulations to the 2026 Boston CIO of the Year® Award winners and nominees.

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2026 **BOSTONCIO ORBIE AWARDS** | FROM THE CHAIR

## 87 Boston CIOs beat executive isolation

Even the strongest executives can feel isolated at times. When chief information officers (CIOs) face challenges, connecting with trusted peers transforms isolation into clarity and confidence.

BostonCIO brings together top CIOs from Boston's leading organizations to build meaningful relationships, share what's working, and create real business value. While industries and organization sizes may differ, the challenges of leadership- and the power of connection- are universal.

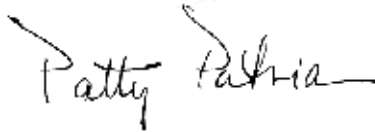
The Inspire Leadership Network connects CIOs with over 2,000 C-suite executives across more than 50 chapters, spanning public, private, and nonprofit organizations across North America. Beyond CIOs, Inspire also serves communities for chief information security officers (CISOs) and chief marketing officers (CMOs).

For more than 25 years, the ORBIE Awards have honored C-suite executives for leadership, innova-

tion, and excellence. I encourage you to attend the 2026 BostonCIO ORBIE Awards to meet and support these outstanding technology leaders.

On behalf of BostonCIO, congratulations to all nominees and finalists on these achievements. Special thanks to the awards partners, chapter underwriters, and staff whose support makes the BostonCIO ORBIE Awards possible.

Sincerely,



**Patty Patria**

2026 Chair, BostonCIO  
CIO, Babson College



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**BOSTONCIO  
ORBIE  
AWARDS**

Congratulations to the 2026  
Boston CIO of the Year  
Award Winners and Nominees



# Mihir Shah

Advisor in Residence | EY

## Former Fidelity CIO Mihir Shah on leading with integrity through change

By The Business Journals Content Studio

Mihir Shah is a veteran technology leader with over 30 years of experience in financial services and technology. He recently retired from Fidelity Investments, where he held several key leadership roles, including chief technology officer (CTO), CIO - enterprise head of data and analytics and head of enterprise architecture. His core area of expertise is developing and executing on large, complex data and platform initiatives.

As CTO, Shah led the modernization of Fidelity's Asset Management platform, which now enables \$5.6 trillion in assets under management. As chief data officer (CDO), he spearheaded the development of a firm-wide, cloud-based data warehouse, unifying all data products into a single analytics platform. Earlier in his career, he played a pivotal role in enhancing Fidelity's customer experience platforms, leading the rollout of CRM, Customer360 and Campaign Management by developing a unified data architecture for customer-facing channels.

In his post-retirement career, he serves as an advisor in residence to EY. He is a venture partner at F-Prime Capital, Eight roads Europe and India. Shah also serves on the advisory boards of numerous companies, including Snowflake, Writer, Reltio, Skyflow, Promethium and Finbourne. He remains engaged in academia as an industry fellow at MIT Sloan School of Management.

In recognition of these achievements, Shah will be presented with the Leadership Award as part of the BostonCIO ORBIE Awards live event on June 12 at Renaissance Boston Seaport District. The program honors CIOs who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. He provided insights below about the biggest challenges facing CIOs and advice for future generations.

### What does the Leadership Award honor mean to you?

This award means a great deal to me because it immediately brings to mind the people who have shaped my journey. Every role I've had, every milestone I've reached, has been because I was surrounded by teams who believed in the mission and in each other. When I think about this honor, I don't think about myself — I think about the late nights, the tough decisions, the shared wins and the trust we built along the way. It feels like a recognition of all of us, not just me.

### What are some of the biggest challenges facing CIOs?

#### 1. Making sense of the AI transition

AI is forcing CIOs to rethink everything, including architecture, operating models and value creation. The hardest part is deciding where to begin. Do you modernize legacy systems, knowing it may take years? Do you start fresh, knowing it may be disruptive and expensive? Most organizations need a thoughtful middle path: a clear short term plan, a realistic medium term roadmap and a bold long term vision. Getting that balance right is one of the defining challenges of our time.

#### 2. Building the right data foundation

AI is only as strong as the data behind it. Many organizations are now realizing their data strategy has lagged for years. Even with new investments, it will take time to mature. But that doesn't mean AI has to wait. There are real opportunities to apply AI to targeted business processes today — creating value now while building the foundation for tomorrow.

#### 3. Preparing people for the future

Perhaps the most personal challenge is the workforce. Who do we reskill? Where do we bring

in new talent? How do we evolve outsourced teams? These decisions affect people's careers, confidence and sense of belonging. Leading through that with empathy is just as important as the technology itself.

### How has the role of the CIO evolved in recent years?

The CIO role has grown from being the steward of systems to being a shaper of strategy. Today, CIOs are expected to influence how companies grow, how they serve customers and how they operate. We're no longer just running the business; we're helping reinvent it.

The shift is toward value creation, not just operational excellence. And the best organizations recognize this. I've seen CIOs step into CEO roles, especially in technology forward companies like Fidelity, because the role now sits at the intersection of product, operations, customer experience and innovation.

### Do you have any advice for future generations of CIOs?

AI may feel like a once in a generation shift, but in many ways, we've been here before. We navigated the internet wave, the mobile wave and the cloud wave. The pattern is familiar: Understand the impact, build a vision, assemble a great team and guide the organization through change.

What's different this time is the human dimension. AI touches ethics, trust and society in ways previous technologies didn't. Future CIOs will need not only technical judgment but emotional intelligence — the ability to lead with integrity, empathy and a deep sense of responsibility.

Technology will keep changing. What doesn't change is the need for leaders who can inspire people through that change.



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ORBIE Awards  
finalists and winners

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RECOGNIZED FOR A REASON

## Congratulations, David Vidoni

David Vidoni, Chief Information Officer at Pega, has been named a finalist for the 2026 BostonCIO ORBIE Awards – and we're not surprised. His strategic vision and drive to transform how technology serves people make him exactly the kind of leader this award was made for.

**Congratulations, David.**  
This nomination says everything.



# SUPER GLOBAL FINALISTS

OVER \$5 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE  
AND MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS



## Paul Beswick

Chief Information & Operations Officer, Marsh



Paul is Chief Information and Operations Officer at Marsh. He oversees Business and Client Services, uniting the Operations, Technology and Innovation and Data teams. Paul previously served as Global Head of Oliver Wyman Labs and the Digital Practice at Oliver Wyman. Over more than two decades at Oliver Wyman, he worked across financial services, retail, transportation, telecoms, and consumer goods. Paul holds an MA (first class) in Chemical Engineering from Cambridge University.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Since 2020, Paul has unified the technology teams of Marsh's four global businesses into a single organization of more than 5,000 colleagues. Under his leadership, the team has modernized infrastructure, built shared platforms, and strengthened in-house engineering capabilities while significantly improving colleague engagement and the perception of technology services across the firm. Paul also led Marsh's early and disciplined adoption of AI, including the creation of LenAI, now used by most colleagues and supporting more than one million queries each week, helping transform how the firm delivers technology and serves clients.



## Bijay Kumar

Global Technology VP, Mattel Inc. (former)



Digitalization and Enterprise Modernization expert driving transformation, building higher performing teams, and leading large-scale business transformation. Skilled in maximizing ROI for technology investments, contributing heavily to revenue growth, profitability and enhanced customer experience. Persuasive leader, building trusted client partnerships and alliances with key decision-makers and stakeholders. Significant leadership in complex business discussions in boardroom settings. Holds self and others accountable to deliver measurable results through a culture of inclusion, diversity, respect, integrity, growth mindset.

**SUCCESS STORY:** As a global technology leader at Mattel, I drive enterprise-wide product development and ERP transformation. Harnessing technology and innovation as catalysts for business transformation, I have strengthened operational performance, deepened strategic partnerships, and accelerated enterprise value creation. I have elevated organizational capability, attracting and developing high-caliber leadership talent, embedding critical domain expertise, and establishing a more agile, accountable operating model. Key accomplishments include scaling e-commerce revenue, reducing shipping costs, modernizing inbound transportation, and optimizing manufacturing through Industry 4.0 initiatives. Leveraging AI, we are advancing product quality and safety, optimizing inventory and productivity, and enhancing both software and product development processes.



## Sears Merritt

Head of Technology and Experience, MassMutual



Sears Merritt is a technology leader specializing in artificial intelligence, analytics, and enterprise technology across financial services, healthcare, and telecommunications. He leads MassMutual's enterprise technology and experience organization, advancing digital platforms, automation, data, and AI at global scale. His accomplishments include launching MassMutual's Health and Wellness program and the life insurance industry's first data and AI governance program. Sears holds degrees from MIT and the University of Colorado.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Under my leadership, ETX delivered three transformative outcomes for MassMutual. We built industry-leading Data & AI capabilities and scaled AI across the life insurance value chain, driving measurable business impact including a 7% improvement in mortality experience, 15% faster time-to-issue, 15% higher marketing conversion, and 5% improvement in pension risk transfer bidding. We completed a full digital transformation by migrating to the cloud and decommissioning legacy data centers, generating \$30M in cost savings while improving scalability and security. We also launched a policyholder wellness program with health-tech partners to improve longevity outcomes and customer satisfaction.



## Jacqui Nevils

Global CIO, Fresenius Medical Care



Jacqui Nevils is the Global CIO at Fresenius Medical Care, the global leader in kidney care serving 300,000 patients worldwide. She oversees a worldwide team supporting business and digital IT services, cybersecurity, AI & Data, infrastructure and transformation initiatives. Jacqui previously served as CIO at L3Harris Technologies and held leadership roles at RTX/Raytheon. She is an Air Force veteran. She holds a MSIS from Northeastern and a BSEE from Tufts, and a certificate from MIT.

**SUCCESS STORY:** In 2023, Fresenius Medical Care had a highly complex IT environment with legacy systems and fragmented regional architectures. Through teamwork and clear strategic direction, Jacqui restructured the global IT operating model while maintaining stability. By positioning IT as a key driver of company transformation, she ensures technology actively enables change. One of her major initiatives is the global SAP S/4 HANA transformation, which replaces multiple regionalized, customized, outdated ERP systems with a unified global solution. This program is central to FME's modernization journey, setting the stage for harmonized processes, greater financial transparency, and scalable growth across the enterprise.



## Mark Sherwood

EVP & CIO, Wolters Kluwer (former)



As EVP/CIO at Wolters Kluwer, Mark oversees the Global Technology Solutions team encompassing IT, Security and business relationships. They securely deliver next generation IT capabilities, transform operations with AI, and enhance workplace experiences. Prior to Wolters Kluwer, Mark led Infrastructure and Engineering Services at Microsoft. Before the Microsoft acquisition, Mark was SVP/CIO at Nuance. Prior to joining Nuance, he served as VP of IT at Symantec and held numerous leadership roles at Cisco Systems.

**SUCCESS STORY:** One of our most impressive achievements is the successful delivery of our Global Connectivity Strategy (GCS) program. We launched this a year ago and are nearing completion. GCS modernizes the company's global network by adopting Cloud-WAN and Software-Defined WAN technologies. The initiative simplifies connectivity, eliminates legacy MPLS infrastructure and physical peering points, and moves security services to the cloud. Offices gain independent internet access, Wi-Fi connectivity, and operations shift to a unified global network model. The program has been on schedule and on budget from the outset. The work in North America is complete, and international locations are nearing completion.

# GLOBAL FINALISTS

OVER \$1.5 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE  
AND MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS



**Saad Ayub**  
Chief Digital &  
Innovation Officer,  
Zones

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First Choice for IT®

Saad is Chief Digital and Innovation Officer at Zones, responsible for digital transformation, Global IT, and enterprise digital strategy. He leads innovative products development and drives business model transformation. Saad brings deep experience in emerging technologies and organizational change, with prior roles as CIO at Scholastic, Divisional CIO at Aetna and The Hartford, and advisor at McKinsey. Earlier, he conducted artificial intelligence research at GE and GTE Labs and holds a PhD, MBA, and BSc.

**SUCCESS STORY:** I led a multi-year digital transformation that modernized the customer experience, strengthened global operations, and established a scalable technology foundation for growth. The team mapped end-to-end journeys to prioritize high-impact improvements, then delivered an integrated customer platform, enterprise analytics capabilities, and global planning and operational systems. In parallel, we re-engineered core processes, improved cross-functional execution, and deployed a unified ERP backbone across regions. These initiatives increased transparency, accelerated delivery, improved decision-making, and enabled consistent service at scale.



**Amit Guliani**  
CTO,  
Insulet

**Insulet**

Amit Guliani is Chief Technology Officer at Insulet, where he leads the global technology organization supporting the company's mission to simplify life for people with diabetes. He oversees enterprise platforms, digital engineering, data and AI, and cybersecurity, enabling global growth and innovation across connected medical technologies. Amit is passionate about building high-performing teams and aligning technology strategy with business impact to improve patient outcomes worldwide.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Under my leadership, the technology organization has become a strategic growth engine for Insulet's global expansion. We built scalable digital platforms that accelerated international market launches from one country per year to more than ten, modernized engineering practices that delivered 100% successful software releases, and established a unified cloud and data foundation supporting hundreds of engineers globally. By improving developer productivity and operational reliability, technology now directly supports the company's rapid growth while enabling life-changing innovation for people living with diabetes.



**Mark Rosa**  
SVP & CIO,  
Mohegan

**Mohegan**  
LEGEND TO LEGENDARY

I started my career with Deloitte in the Enterprise Risk Services practice. I am a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor and Certified Information Systems Auditor and hold degrees from Stonehill College and Northeastern University (MBA). I transitioned into private industry (Internal Audit) in 2003 at Staples Inc. and later became the CAE for Altra Industrial Motion, Inc. and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. I joined Mohegan as the CAE and became the CIO in 2019.

**SUCCESS STORY:** My greatest success story at Mohegan is the advancement of our cyber security program over the past 7+ years. The gaming and hospitality industry has been under pressure with several high-profile ransomware attacks. We recruited a new cyber team, procured 'best of breed' tools, engaged security firms to monitor our assets and developed a robust incident response plan. We conduct regular cyber phishing campaigns, offer regular training to our team members and align to the CIS/NIST Frameworks. One mock cyber incident response test was conducted with real impact to IT resources and the learnings from that test were invaluable.



**Mike Tirozzi**  
Chief Information  
& Data Officer,  
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals

**Alnylam**  
PHARMACEUTICALS

Mike Tirozzi joined Alnylam Pharmaceuticals in 2024 as Senior Vice President and Chief Information and Data Officer, overseeing global IT, infrastructure, security, engineering, and data platforms. Previously, he was Chief Information and Data Officer at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, leading a major technology and data transformation that supported significant growth. Earlier, he served as CIO at iRobot and held senior technology roles at Keane and NTT Data. He holds a bachelor's degree from Northeastern University.

**SUCCESS STORY:** One Alnylam success story is our uniquely integrated team. We have combined the brilliance of world-class scientists with advanced technologists from the defense, finance, high-tech sectors, even MLB technologists. This melting pot of talent has broken down traditional silos to accelerate the delivery of Nobel Prize-winning science to the patients who need it most. Our IT organization leverages technology, data and AI to enable us to scale life-saving treatments globally. Seeing the direct impact on our patients' quality of life—watching people reclaim their health and spend more years with their families—is the ultimate metric of our success.



**David Vidoni**  
CIO,  
Pegasystems

**PEGA**

David leads Pegasystems' Global Technology team, driving IT strategy, digital transformation, and scalable efficiencies across enterprise systems, infrastructure, Agentic AI, analytics, and DevOps. He is currently the President of SIM Boston, serves on Gartner's Governing Board, and is a Market Advisory Council member for YearUp United. David holds an MBA from Bowling Green State University and a BS in Engineering from Clarkson University, complementing his extensive leadership in technology and talent innovation.

**SUCCESS STORY:** I have led Pega's transformation into an Agentic Enterprise, integrating cutting-edge AI tools and fostering deep collaboration across all departments. The IT team has become a strategic partner, enabling rapid innovation, cloud migration, and compliance expansion that unlocked new revenue streams and drove substantial cost savings. These efforts have positioned Pega at the forefront of organizations embracing AI, digital transformation with Agents and AI and earning industry recognition for both technology leadership, innovations, and workplace excellence.

# LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$3.5 BILLION  
ANNUAL REVENUE



## Robin Healey

CIO, Administration  
& Finance Secretariat,  
Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts



Robin Healey is Chief Information Officer for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Executive Office for Administration and Finance, where she leads a 300-person IT organization, supporting 17 agencies. Her work focuses on modernizing the technology that powers essential public services, ensuring that government works reliably for the people it serves. She previously served as CIO for the Massachusetts State Treasury and held roles at MIT Lincoln Laboratory, Hewlett-Packard, and Raytheon.

**SUCCESS STORY:** When I joined the Administration and Finance Secretariat at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, information technology was often viewed as a support function rather than a driver of services. I set out to change that by building a forward-thinking team focused on solving mission-critical challenges. Together, we accelerated modernization by implementing enterprise platforms, strengthening cybersecurity, and applying new technologies to improve how government operates. Today, technology is helping define how services are delivered. By fostering a culture of partnership between technologists and agency leaders, our team is helping make government more effective, innovative, and responsive to the citizens we serve.



## Michael Israel

Chief Information  
& Technology Officer,  
The Kraft Group



Michael Israel is an award-winning CIO and technology leader driving digital transformation, operational excellence, and innovation across global enterprises. He is Chief Information Officer of The Kraft Group and a recognized industry leader with deep experience in sports, entertainment, and diversified business environments. He is a recognized industry leader, honored as an (4x) ORBIE CIO of the Year Finalist and CIO Magazine CIO 100 honoree, and serves on customer advisory boards for leading technology firms.

**SUCCESS STORY:** The key to success remains relationships—building trust, delivering value, and staying adaptable. From selling Wang systems in the late '80s to witnessing today's AI-driven innovations, the foundation of success has always been understanding client needs and providing solutions that evolve with the times. Technology has changed dramatically, but strong partnerships, integrity, and a commitment to continuous learning remain timeless. I'm grateful for the colleagues, vendors, and industry peers who have shaped my journey. As we embrace the future, the core principle stays the same—people and innovation drive progress, and success follows those who prioritize both.



## Santhosh Kumar

CIO,  
Panera Bread



Santhosh Kumar is a seasoned IT executive with deep expertise in digital transformation, infrastructure modernization, and cybersecurity across complex enterprises. As CIO of Panera Bread, he drives enterprise technology strategy and guest-centric innovation. He previously served as CTO at UNFI, leading cloud migrations and modernization of core operational systems. Kumar spent two decades at Dunkin' Brands, where he served as SVP of IT and led nationwide POS modernization and the launch of Dunkin's loyalty program.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Panera's technology transformation delivered measurable impact by modernizing guest experiences, strengthening operations, and improving franchisee profitability. His leadership drove major initiatives such as next-generation kiosks, SmartSell upsell capabilities, and Smart Trigger operational alerts, which expanded digital revenue and improved in-café execution. He consolidated data centers, accelerated cloud adoption, and implemented performance-based managed services, resulting in a 55% OpEx reduction and a 30% decrease in major outages. He also elevated talent through calibration and upskilling, bringing in new expertise that strengthened delivery and reliability.



## Denise Reilly-Hughes

Agency of Digital Services  
Secretary & State CIO,  
State of Vermont



Denise Reilly-Hughes, Vermont's Secretary of the Agency of Digital Services and State CIO, appointed by Governor Phil Scott in 2023. With over 25 years in technology, including leadership roles at Microsoft, she has led large-scale digital transformations across public and private sectors. She played a key role in Vermont's cloud modernization, now driving its enterprise IT strategy, cybersecurity, and AI adoption. Known for her human-centered leadership, scalable, user-driven digital services that improve outcomes for Vermonters.

**SUCCESS STORY:** One of our team's most significant achievements has been transforming state IT from a transactional function into a service-based, performance-driven model through the creation of Core and Field Enterprise Services. These service driven frameworks introduce cost transparency, standardize delivery, and enable measurable outcomes aligned to user experience. By implementing shared performance metrics, we enable data-driven decisions and clear prioritization across Vermont's complex, multi-agency state government. The result is improved customer satisfaction, stronger accountability, and a more resilient, scalable digital foundation, positioning the Agency of Digital Services as a strategic partner delivering high-value services at enterprise scale; for all of Vermont.



## Frank Wiggins

Group VP, IT,  
HP Hood



Frank Wiggins is a veteran CIO with 25 years of experience leading IT organizations and driving technology-enabled transformation across food, beverage, and consumer products companies. At Hood, he oversees enterprise technology strategy, cybersecurity, and digital modernization. Recognized for building high-performing teams and a culture of transparency, Frank aligns technology investments with measurable business value. As part of Hood's executive leadership team, he champions innovation, operational excellence, and the development of strong future leaders.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Hood IT has transformed from a traditional service provider into a strategic business partner driving enterprise-wide innovation. We introduced RAPID, our Lean and Agile based methodology, to build credibility, improve alignment, and create radical transparency across all IT work. This enabled true collaboration, alignment and executive prioritization. As a result, we are successfully delivering simultaneous greenfield implementations of SAP S/4HANA, PLM, and CRM while maintaining IT spend below industry averages. Most importantly, we shifted the culture: departments now embrace simplification, data quality, and cross-functional partnership. Today, IT is a trusted leader enabling measurable business value and ongoing transformation.

# ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$1 BILLION  
ANNUAL REVENUE



**Paul DiMarino**  
CIO & Head of Technology,  
Shawmut Design and  
Construction



He serves as Chief Information Officer for a \$2+B national construction firm, where he leads technology strategy, data initiatives, and digital innovation across the enterprise. With a career that began in systems engineering, he combines deep technical expertise with a business-first mindset to improve project execution and client experience. Today, his team focuses on using AI, automation, and data-driven insights to modernize construction and turn technology into measurable business performance.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Assembling reliable estimates for multi-year, multimillion-dollar projects is critical, and mistakes can have major financial consequences in a low-margin industry. With no commercial solution available, we built a custom bid-building platform that replaced legacy spreadsheets with governed, standardized processes. This eliminated costly estimating risks while improving both profitability and client trust. We also developed a profitability tracking system that measures key financial metrics throughout the opportunity lifecycle, strengthening margin discipline and decision-making. Alongside these systems, we implemented data governance and automation initiatives that reduce administrative burden and lay the foundation for enterprise AI, enabling faster decisions and stronger project outcomes.



**Jennifer Doherty**  
CIO & CSO,  
Draper

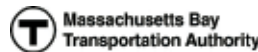


Jen has more than 18 years of diverse security/IT experience serving the DIB. She is responsible for providing strategic direction and operational oversight for corporate security, cyber security, classified information assurance, IT systems and networks and Corporate IT. Prior to joining Draper, Jen worked at MIT/LL in Security as a senior leader for over a decade. She received an M.A. degree in criminology from the UMass Lowell and a B.A. from Saint Anselm College.

**SUCCESS STORY:** The greatest accomplishments of my team are not defined solely by the technologies we deployed or the strategies we crafted, but by the culture of trust, purpose, and shared accountability that we continue to build together. When I stepped into the dual CIO and CSO role, I challenged myself and the organization to imagine something bigger: a unified IT and security ecosystem capable of anticipating threats, advancing innovation, and protecting the mission. What followed has been transformational. We continue to break down longstanding silos and replace them with genuine collaboration and transparency that cut across traditionally separate organizations.



**David Gerstle**  
CDO,  
Massachusetts Bay  
Transportation Authority  
(former)



A visionary technology executive with 15+ years' experience, David was Chief Digital Officer of the MBTA for six years. He structured and scaled the Technology Innovation Department, toward making the system easier for all riders to use. Prior, he was on the Booz Allen Hamilton leadership team that helped stabilize the Affordable Care Act's healthcare.gov. David has a B.S. in Physics from Yale University and an M.S. in Transportation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**SUCCESS STORY:** I am proud that we built the first-of-its-kind at-scale in-house state/local civictech team. The Technology Innovation Department was an innovation engine, delivering industry-leading solutions, including real time information screens, real-time bus crowding, the first party mobile app MBTA Go and income-eligible reduced fare program eligibility. I am particularly proud of the income-eligible program: with our online application, riders can apply and get eligibility determination in under 5 min. Through this innovative solution, the MBTA enrolled double expected number of riders in the first year.



**Alex Wu**  
CIO,  
Keolis North America



Alex Wu is a transformational technology executive with extensive leadership experience across transportation, government, healthcare, and enterprise environments. As Vice President, Digital Transformation & CIO, he leads modernization of enterprise systems, cybersecurity, data, and digital services in a complex, regulated organization. He is known for aligning technology with business strategy, driving large-scale transformation, and developing future leaders.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Led an enterprise transformation that strengthened resilience, efficiency, and growth in a complex, regulated transportation environment. Established a formal cybersecurity function, improved shared services, and modernized transit technologies supporting operations, customer experience, and retail capabilities. Also directed technology integration for a major business transition, delivering on time and on budget with minimal disruption. These efforts improved service quality, operational reliability, and organizational readiness while demonstrating technology's direct impact on business performance and customer outcomes.



**Padma Yelamanchili**  
SVP, IT,  
Granite Telecommunications



Padma Yelamanchili serves as Senior Vice President of IT at Granite Telecommunications, a privately held managed services company with \$1.8 billion in revenue. Facing challenges related to legacy technology and skill gaps, Padma spearheaded a four-year organizational transformation through coaching rather than directives. As a Gestalt-certified executive coach and practitioner, she successfully developed 120 technology professionals who collaborated closely with the business, building an application portfolio that drives both revenue growth and customer retention.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Four years ago, our technology organization was a "keep-the-lights-on" function. Transformation began not with technology but with people. Significant skillset gaps stood between our team and the strategy we needed to execute. Rather than mandate change, we coached it — developing 120 technology professionals into strategic business partners through coaching, certification pathways, and shared ownership. That investment became the foundation everything else was built upon. Predictive analytics now protect millions in recurring revenue. Intelligent automation created net-new revenue streams. Real-time intelligence serves thousands of employees daily. Leadership is not about what you build. It is about who you build it with.

## LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

OVER \$500 MILLION  
ANNUAL REVENUE

## Hitesh Chawda

VP & CIO,  
Charles River Associates



Hitesh Chawda has been with CRA's Information Technology team since 2002 and has designed and implemented the unified communications infrastructure and led the Global Service Delivery and Telecommunications team since 2010. While operating as a senior IT Leader, he also has helped to define the IT strategy, business continuity, and disaster recovery plans. Mr. Chawda is responsible for annual budgetary creation/control, procurement, vendor and project management, and the direction of technical services delivery including desktops, laptops, mobile communications, telecoms, and audio and visual conferencing. He is an active member of the Society for Information Management, Executive Regional Leadership Forum, and CIO Executive Council Pathways Leadership Development Program.



## Jeff Gerson

CIO,  
Leerink Partners



Jeffrey Gerson is Senior Managing Director and Chief Information Officer of Leerink Partners, where he has led technology strategy, infrastructure, application development, and cybersecurity since 2001. He founded the Sell-Side CIO Forum in 2008, now known as AITEC, a national peer network of CIOs at small to mid-sized financial firms. Mr. Gerson serves on the Babson College Board of Advisors and holds a B.S. from Babson in Finance, Investments, and Economics.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Following the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in 2023 and a management-led buyout, I led the technology separation that re-established Leerink Partners as an independent firm. My team successfully disentangled critical systems while launching a multi-year modernization of our technology platform. We implemented a firmwide CRM and other SaaS tools, built a governed data architecture, and introduced AI-enabled workflows while retiring decades of technical debt. The transition was completed without disruption to the business, creating a more agile, cloud-based technology foundation that positions Leerink to innovate and compete effectively with much larger institutions.



## Jim Kotarski

SVP & CIO,  
Imprivata



Jim Kotarski is CIO and Senior Vice President at Imprivata, where he leads global IT, cybersecurity, data, and enterprise AI strategy. Throughout his career, he has driven initiatives that modernize revenue platforms, advance Zero Trust security, and deploy generative and agentic AI to improve productivity and decision-making. He is known for aligning technology with business growth, scaling enterprise platforms, and building high-performing teams that deliver measurable operational and strategic impact.

**SUCCESS STORY:** I am honored to be nominated on behalf of my team. My philosophy is rooted in servant leadership, building teams, platforms, and operations that scale, while developing people. Over the past year, our team delivered foundational improvements across data, systems, and enterprise AI. We established a trusted data platform with 360 insights, modernized core revenue and service platforms, and strengthened our Zero Trust security. We also launched a company-wide AI transformation embedding generative and agentic AI to improve productivity. These initiatives strengthened operations and positioned IT as a strategic partner while elevating the growth and impact of our team.



## Jennifer Nava

CIO,  
The Broad Institute of MIT  
and Harvard



Jennifer Nava is Chief Information Officer at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, where she leads enterprise technology, data, and digital strategy in service of scientific discovery. A 2025 INSPIRE CIO of the Year finalist, she is recognized for aligning AI, cloud, cybersecurity, and operational transformation to mission outcomes, building high-performing teams, and creating scalable capabilities that strengthen research, institutional resilience, and long-term impact.

**SUCCESS STORY:** With Broad facing successive financial shocks tied to federal funding, including two major reductions, the IT team responded with extraordinary resolve. Driven by the mission and a shared commitment to protect as many jobs as possible, they partnered with vendors to renegotiate contracts, reduced technical debt, and re-architected core systems for greater efficiency. Those efforts delivered more than 30% of the savings required to help stabilize the institute and preserve continuity of critical scientific work. What makes this especially meaningful is that the team did it while navigating uncertainty themselves, demonstrating resilience, generosity, and mission-centered leadership under pressure.



## Kerri-Lynn Primmer Morris

Global CIO,  
L.E.K. Consulting



Kerri-Lynn Primmer Morris is a transformational technology executive and board director recognized for advancing digital innovation and operational excellence across professional services and healthcare. As the current Global CIO at L.E.K. Consulting, she leads enterprise-wide digital transformation. Prior experience includes serving as Chief Technology Officer for Microsoft's Healthcare and Life Sciences division and executive roles with Kaiser Permanente. Ms. Morris also currently is a board director for two companies, Ingenovis and S.i Systems.

**SUCCESS STORY:** In just over three years, my team has transformed from an operations-centric unit into a high-performing strategic partner. We replaced an insular IT mentality with a business-value-centric culture, empowering staff to automate tasks and drive innovation. This evolution is visible as we pivot from catching up to enabling the firm's next stage of growth, establishing a modern data platform as foundation for AI-enabled enterprise analytics, and standing up governance to ensure secure transformation. Beyond technology, I am most proud of our team dynamics: improved service levels, stronger morale, and a can-do culture that translates experimentation into firm-wide impact.

# CORPORATE FINALISTS

SPONSOR CONTENT

UP TO \$500 MILLION  
ANNUAL REVENUE



**Kevin Blanco**  
CIO,  
Avid Technology



Kevin Blanco is Chief Information Officer at Avid, leading IT, Cybersecurity, Data, Infrastructure, and Business Systems. He spearheaded a Lead-to-Cash transformation delivering Salesforce Revenue Cloud and NetSuite, modernized Avid's data platform with Snowflake and Power BI, and helped drive 53% recurring revenue growth and a five-point retention increase. Previously CIO at GLG and senior IT leader at SiriusDecisions, Smarsh, and Thomson Reuters, Kevin specializes in scaling technology to accelerate growth and enterprise value creation.

**SUCCESS STORY:** As CIO at Avid, I have led transformative initiatives to modernize our technology landscape, strengthen security, and build a scalable data foundation. I directed a company-wide digital transformation, migrating from legacy SAP to Salesforce CPQ, Salesforce Billing, and NetSuite, streamlining quote-to-cash and enabling future growth. I re-established our Information Security program, formalizing governance and advancing SOC 2 readiness. I also launched a Snowflake-based enterprise data platform with Power BI, enhancing data quality and decision-making. Through strong cross-functional partnership, these efforts have strengthened Avid's operational efficiency, compliance posture, and long-term strategic foundation.



**Wesley Esser**  
CIO & Executive Director  
of Technology Services,  
MIT Sloan School of  
Management



Wes Esser is Chief Information Officer at the MIT Sloan School of Management, where he works with colleagues across the School and Institute to improve technology in teaching, research, and administration. He has helped guide Sloan Technology Services toward a more strategic, collaborative approach, supporting initiatives such as SloanHub, expanded experiential learning platforms, and faculty engagement with AI. Wes partners closely with MIT leadership on modernization efforts that improve operational effectiveness.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Under my leadership, Sloan Technology Services has helped MIT Sloan redesign how technology supports students, faculty, and external partners. Together, we aligned program and administrative offices to create SloanHub, a unified student experience platform that strengthened collaboration and introduced Agile ways of working beyond IT. We also helped Sloan scale its Action Learning programs without increasing administrative staffing and partnered on advanced capabilities in a new Executive Education Center. These efforts improved operational effectiveness, supported financial sustainability, and strengthened Sloan's connection to MIT's broader modernization.



**Prabin Kanel**  
Chief Information  
& Digital Officer,  
Beacon Communities, LLC



Prabin Kanel is a transformational IT executive and the current Chief Information and Digital Officer at Beacon Communities LLC. With over 20 years of experience, he utilizes a human-centric framework to drive business outcomes and sustainable change. Prabin prioritizes leading with vulnerability, empathy, and compassion to empower teams and inspire the next generation of growth. He holds an MS in Management Information Systems from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**SUCCESS STORY:** As Beacon's inaugural CIO, I repositioned technology as a catalyst for strategic growth. By leading enterprise digital modernization—including cloud migration and data governance—we replaced fragmented systems with a unified, high-performance platform. Strategic vendor partnerships delivered meaningful cost savings and a more agile application landscape. Most importantly, we drove a cultural shift: IT is now a benchmark for service excellence, earning top corporate recognition. By dramatically reducing response times and prioritizing employee and resident experience, IT has become a core driver of operational efficiency and innovation.



**Ankit Mangal**  
VP of Data & Engineering,  
Cirkul



Ankit Mangal is a VP at Cirkul, where they lead E-Commerce, Software Engineering and Data teams to optimize customer experience, streamline operations and drive scalable growth. Previously, they held senior data and AI leadership roles at Wayfair, leading enterprise AI, customer experience, supply chain and operational initiatives. Across both organizations, they are recognized for combining innovation, technology leadership, and data-driven insights to deliver measurable business impact.

**SUCCESS STORY:** I drive business impact through innovation, data, and technology leadership. At Wayfair, I led AI and data initiatives that transformed customer experience, supply chain and operations. At Cirkul, I lead E-Commerce, engineering, data, and AI teams to drive revenue growth and build proprietary platforms that streamline operations and enhance customer experiences. Across both organizations, I focus on turning technology and insights into strategic solutions, empowering teams, and delivering measurable results that advance the business, fuel innovation, and strengthen organizational performance.



**Vijay Menta**  
VP & CIO,  
Worcester Polytechnic  
Institute



Vijay Menta is Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, leading enterprise technology strategy, cybersecurity, research computing, and infrastructure with an \$18M budget. He has driven ITS transformation, delivering multi-million-dollar savings, AI governance, data center consolidation, and operational efficiencies. With 27+ years in higher education, he builds high-performing, values-driven teams, advances strategic IT initiatives, and serves on the NERCOMP Board, shaping innovation and operational excellence in higher education technology.

**SUCCESS STORY:** At WPI, I led ITS transformation from a fragmented operational unit into a disciplined, values-driven enterprise partner. Guided by values of accountability, transparent governance, and financial stewardship, we reduced vacancy rates below 3%, delivered major capital projects, consolidated data centers, and generated over \$1 million in annual savings. Key initiatives included modernizing campus safety via WPI Safe, perimeter security project, migrating HPC workloads, transitioning Graduate Studies from Salesforce to Slate, eliminating Informatica with an in-house solution, and hosting WPI's inaugural Data Governance Day, establishing the university as a regional leader in analytics, governance, and AI readiness.

## HEALTHCARE FINALISTS

## HOSPITALS &amp; HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS



## Brian Blackman

CIO,  
Mass General Hospital



Brian Blackman is the Chief Information Officer and Senior Director of Digital Clinical Systems at Mass General Hospital, where he oversees digital operations and technology strategy supporting clinical care. Brian also serves as a Board Member/Secretary of SIM Boston and as a Board Member and President of the Parents Association at his children's school. Brian holds a Master of Science in Leadership from Northeastern University and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in health sciences.

**SUCCESS STORY:** One of my team's standout accomplishments occurred during the Crowdstrike incident in July 2024, which required the manual remediation of over 29,000 impacted devices. The incident temporarily closed the hospital, including satellite clinics, causing the cancellation of appointments/surgeries, placing immense pressure on our operations. In response, both the Hospital Incident Command and MGH Command Center were activated to coordinate efforts across the hospital. Remarkably, our task force of 300 employees (from across the enterprise) worked around the clock, successfully remediating 24,000 devices by Monday morning. This achievement minimized disruption to patient care and showcased our resilience and commitment to excellence.



## Jeannette Currie

Chief Information  
& Digital Officer,  
Cambridge Health Alliance



Jeannette Currie is the Chief Information and Digital Officer at Cambridge Health Alliance, where she oversees all aspects of Information Technology and Health Information Management. Since joining CHA, she has spearheaded key initiatives to drive innovation and leverage technology within this high reliability organization. She previously was Vice President of EHR Services for BILH Community Hospitals. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Currie serves as the current President of New England HIMSS.

**SUCCESS STORY:** I came into my CIO role at Cambridge Health Alliance role with a vision, recognizing the need to build trust and credibility within the team and organization-wide. My priority was forging strong relationships with team members and fostering a culture of accountability and empowerment. I identified talent, encouraged collaboration, and ensured everyone understood their value in driving success. Simultaneously, I focused on delivering results. Building on progress, we are executing on a comprehensive three-year strategic plan that aligns with organizational goals. Through relationship building, operational success, and strategic planning, the IT division has transformed into a high-performing, energized team.



## Selma Ferhatbegovic-Fede

SVP & CIO,  
Point32Health



Selma Ferhatbegovic-Fede is Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Point32Health. She leads enterprise technology strategy, IT operations, cybersecurity, data, and digital enablement across all lines of business. Known for building high-performing, diverse teams, Selma focuses on simplifying complexity, strengthening resilience, and using technology to drive measurable business value. Selma brings over 25 years of experience in technology enabled transformation, is a trusted executive partner and advocate for responsible innovation in healthcare.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Under my leadership, our IT team evolved from post-merger stabilization to becoming a key strategic partner focused on delivering measurable business value. By strengthening resilience, simplifying technology environments, and building robust data and digital foundations, IT now drives enterprise priorities in growth, efficiency, and experience. We have enhanced operational reliability, reduced complexity, and enabled scalable automation and AI. These efforts improved delivery predictability, streamlined processes, and empowered better outcomes for all stakeholders. Through disciplined investment and innovation, IT is now recognized as a catalyst for positive change, operational excellence, and sustainable organizational success.



## Joe Friedrichsen

CTO,  
Blue Cross & Blue Shield  
of RI



Joe Friedrichsen is a technology leader who brings people, purpose, and innovation together to solve meaningful business challenges. Before becoming CTO, he held senior engineering, architecture, product, and leadership roles across financial services, and insurance companies. His career reflects a steady commitment to modernizing technology, improving customer and employee experiences, and developing strong high performing teams. Joe focuses on practical innovation—using cloud, AI, and thoughtful governance—to deliver dependable, mission-driven outcomes.

**SUCCESS STORY:** As Joe Friedrichsen, Chief Technology Officer, I lead a team of talented, curious individuals who power transformation by turning technology into meaningful business outcomes. Together, we accelerate access to care, elevate member and provider experiences, and fuel innovation that strengthens our organization's mission. I champion a culture of learning, empowerment, and continuous improvement—where curiosity drives progress and diverse perspectives spark better solutions. I champion modern architectures, AI innovation, operational excellence, risk taking while ensuring secure, compliant, auditable technology ecosystems. By unifying teams around clear purpose and measurable outcomes, you transform technology into a strategic accelerator advancing the organization's mission.



## Naomi Lenane

SVP, Information  
Services & CIO,  
Dana-Farber Cancer  
Institute



Naomi Lenane became the Chief Information Officer and SVP of Information Services at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in 2017. She is responsible for digital strategy and solutions. She is a result-driven leader with demonstrated success promoting business collaboration, maintaining customer focus, and optimizing system performance, with high performing cross-functional teams in a highly matrixed environment. She is an active SIM Boston member, member of HIMSS and CHIME, achieving CHIME Certified Healthcare (CHCIO) certification in 2023.

**SUCCESS STORY:** My team accomplishes an extraordinary amount, and they do this work without me. They focus on the needs of our patients and the value to our end-user community. Their work is grounded in the Institute's mission. They develop realistic project timelines and budgets, while prioritizing organizational readiness. It is my greatest accomplishment to know that my team is trusted across the organization. We share a department vision to promote innovative solutions that enable our faculty and staff to effortlessly integrate technology into our clinical care and research. I may lead by example, but they execute this vision every day.



## Prem Somasundaram

CIO,  
Blue Cross & Blue Shield  
of MA



As Chief Information Officer at BCBSMA, Prem leads Engineering, AI, Data, Cybersecurity, and Operations. He excels in leveraging technology and innovation to drive business success and has extensive experience in technology-led transformation. A recognized thought leader, Prem is at the forefront of applying artificial intelligence to healthcare, driving digital transformation, consumer engagement, and affordability. He has held several key leadership roles, including Chief Technology Officer, Chief Digital Officer, and General Manager.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Prem Somasundaram drove a multi-faceted digital transformation that delivered unprecedented value. He converted technology initiatives into strategic assets, reducing data processing time by 99% to accelerate enterprise-wide decision-making and deliver near real-time data to members and providers. His foresight in launching one of the industry's first Generative AI voice agents is fundamentally reshaping the company's service model. The most visible result of his strategy is the company's mobile app, which he transformed from a 1.7-star rating to a top-rated 4.9, cementing the company's position as an industry innovator.

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As an innovative and gracious leader, you exemplify Mohegan's Spirit of Aquai in all you do. We are honored to celebrate you today as a finalist for  
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## Congratulations to Mike Tirozzi

On being named a finalist for the 2025 BostonCISO ORBIE Awards. We are honored to celebrate your contributions in technology and leadership!



**Mike Tirozzi**  
Alylam CIO & Chief Data Officer

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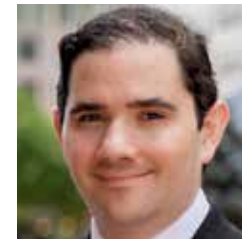
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