

TRIANGLE
BUSINESS JOURNAL

CHARLOTTE
BUSINESS JOURNAL

2025

CAROLINA CIO **ORBIE** AWARDS

The annual Carolina CIO ORBIE® Awards program honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Super Global, Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, & Corporate categories will be announced September 19 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Raleigh-Durham/Research Triangle.



 **TRIANGLE**CIO
 **CHARLOTTE**CIO



FROM THE CHAIRS

Great CIOs Understand
How Connections Drive
Transformation
PG A3



LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT

Seemantini Godbole, Executive
Vice President and Chief Digital
and Information Officer, Lowe's
PG A4

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHARLOTTECIO AND TRIANGLECIO

CONGRATULATIONS 2025 CAROLINA CIO ORBIE NOMINEES					
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ERIC CHRISTIAN Advocate Health (Atrium Health)	HUSSEIN GHNAIMEH Purdue Pharma	BEN JORGENSEN Victra	DR. PETE MARKS WakeMed Health & Hospitals	ANNA SHALKHAM Lexington Medical Center	JOSH VAN DYKE Trane Technologies
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STEVE HAGERMAN Truist Financial Corp	MURSHID KHAN Coastal Federal Credit Union	MICHAEL KINCAID Partners Health Management	KIRBY MINER SCN BestCO	MANEET SINGH Odyssey Logistics	SUSHMA WALKER Nucor
JIM CLENDENEN The Kroger Co.	JASON HANCOCK Octopharma Plasma	BRENT LAMM UNC Healthcare System	DANIEL MINTO Investors Title Company and Affiliats	PAWANJIT SINGH Centria Autism	MIKE WARE NC Department of Environmental Quality
LORI COLE Wayne UNC	CHRIS HARDING Meduit	GWEN MOILANEN Impuls	SANDEEP SINGH Hunter Douglas	JESSICA WATERS Choate Construction Co	



FROM THE CHAIRS

Great CIOs Understand How Connections Drive Transformation

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

CharlotteCIO and TriangleCIO bring together preeminent Chief Information Officers from Carolina'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're leading a large corporation or a nonprofit, there's

no textbook for how to be great in a role that changes as rapidly as technology. That's why relationships create superpowers, driving personal and organizational transformation.

The Inspire Leadership Network connects CIOs with over 1,700 lifelong learners across more than 40 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 Carolina. On behalf of CharlotteCIO and TriangleCIO, we congratulate the nominees and finalists for their remarkable achievements. A special thank you to the sponsors and underwriters for their foresight in making the Carolina ORBIE® Awards possible.

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

Sincerely,



Joshua Bomba

Josh Bomba

2025 Chair, TriangleCIO
Chief Technology Officer, Blue
Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina



Jaimee Robles

Jaimee Robles

2025 Chair, CharlotteCIO
SVP, Enterprise Business
Platforms, Gainwell Technologies



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2025 CAROLINA CIO ORBIE
LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT:

Seemantini Godbole

Executive Vice President, Chief Digital and Information Officer
Lowe's Companies, Inc.

Lowe's executive vice president receives prominent Carolina tech leadership award

By The Business Journals Content Studio

As chief digital and information officer at Lowe's, Seemantini Godbole leads the enterprise-wide global technology team focused on engineering, product, data and analytics, online, and innovation to enable Lowe's technology transformation. She is responsible for technology strategy, product road maps and development, and technology operations across all channels, including digital, while also overseeing the customer experience on Lowes.com. She oversees the delivery of all capabilities across these functions to serve Lowe's customers wherever and whenever they choose to shop. She joined Lowe's in 2018.

Godbole is the recipient of this year's Leadership Award as part of the Carolina CIO ORBIE Awards held Sept. 19 at Embassy Suites by Hilton Raleigh-Durham/Research Triangle. The ORBIE Awards honors CIOs who drive innovation and transformation at leading organizations.

Godbole has more than 25 years of global technology experience. Before joining Lowe's, she served as senior vice president, digital and marketing technology at Target Corp., where she oversaw the company's global e-commerce, enterprise marketing and loyalty technology strategy and operations. Prior to Target, Godbole held multiple senior technology leadership roles at Sabre and Travelocity.

Godbole earned a bachelor's degree in electrical and electronics engineering from the National Institute of Technology in Nagpur, India, and a master's degree in computer science from Texas Tech University. In 2020, she was recognized by Industry Dive as the CIO of the Year and was selected to the Adweek 50 honoring the year's standout leaders in media, marketing and tech. Additionally, in 2023 Seemantini was named CIO of the Year by Retail Info Systems and included on the Forbes CIO Next List.

Godbole serves on the Kenvue Inc. Board of Directors.



Congratulations, Carolina ORBIE Award Winners and Nominees

Today's pace of business is changing rapidly. Your people, processes, and technologies should adapt. Burwood Group meets you where you are on your path to change and helps you unlock your digital potential and achieve long-term growth.

Burwood Group is proud to be an Underwriter Sponsor for the InspireCIO Carolina Chapter.

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Congratulations to the 2025 Carolina CIO of the Year® Award winners and nominees.

Comcast Business has been a proud sponsor of the ORBIE® Awards for 9 years, and is now supporting businesses in the Carolinas with advanced connectivity and secure networking solutions.

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ORBIE
AWARDS

SUPER GLOBAL FINALISTS

OVER \$5 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE AND MULTINATIONAL OPERATIONS



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



Arx Gabrenas

CIO
Elevate Textiles



Arx Gabrenas is the Global Chief Information Officer at Elevate Textiles, where he leads enterprise-wide technology strategy across 100+ global locations. Known for unifying complex systems and enabling real-time data insights, Arx has built a high-performing IT team rooted in collaboration, innovation, and trust. His leadership has driven digital transformation, strengthened cybersecurity, and delivered scalable solutions that power global manufacturing and supply-chain operations, proving that empowered teams can achieve extraordinary results on a global scale.

SUCCESS STORY

A significant accomplishment for our team is in supporting business's growth and evolution by unifying data from 20 global ERP systems into a centralized data warehouse, enabling real-time reporting and data-driven decision-making across all levels of the organization. This transformation streamlined operations, improved product quality, and enhanced supply chain responsiveness. The team also deployed automation bots to accelerate workflows, simplified customer ordering, and strengthened cybersecurity in complex manufacturing environments. Despite being a lean team, our success stems from a culture of collaboration, psychological safety, and shared purpose. We deliver measurable business value through innovation and operational excellence.



Shamyla Lando

SVP & CTO (fmr)
Labcorp



Shamyla Lando, former CTO/SVP at Labcorp, is known as a transformation leader. She collaborates with and leads large enterprise teams to define technology strategies and foster business growth through partnerships. Her goal is to improve healthcare and well-being for current and future generations. Before Labcorp, Shamyla was AVP/CTO at Duke University Health Systems, where she oversaw Enterprise Architecture, infrastructure platforms, IT/Ops support, Applications, and technology teams for Research/School of Medicine.

SUCCESS STORY

I don't have a success story; I have more of a growth story. Most of my successes are due to the fantastic teams that reported to me and the challenging opportunities I said "yes" to. Balancing all successes and failures with a career and family keep things in perspective, but at the end of the day, it is all about growth, workshoping small ideas not just big ones, moving forward, and giving it your all.



Mike Laurenti

CTO, Group Enterprise
Platforms
Ahold Delhaize



Mike Laurenti is CTO for Ahold Delhaize Group Enterprise Platforms team that supports 17 brands, and 393,000 associates serving 72 million customers across the globe. With over 30 years in IT, he was previously CIO of Delhaize America and EVP and CIO at Belk Department Stores. Mike holds a degree in Applied Economics and Business Administration from Cornell University. He served six years on Apparo Solutions' board and currently serves on the Charlotte Ballet board.

SUCCESS STORY

Mike Laurenti, CTO of Ahold Delhaize Enterprise Platforms has led transformative change across one of the world's largest grocery enterprises. Mike's team is a globally recognized organization known for excellence; implementing enterprise-wide deployments of Microsoft 365, SAP SuccessFactors, and SAP S/4HANA, some of the largest deployments in the industry that have improved analytics, operations, and the employee experience while achieving cost savings. Mike is a champion of talent development by fostering high engagement and inclusivity. Mike serves on the board of Apparo and the Charlotte Ballet, reflecting his dedication to civic impact beyond the enterprise.



Amish Patel

CTO
Elevance Health



Amish Patel is Chief Technology Officer at Elevance Health, where he leads enterprise-wide initiatives in AI transformation, platform modernization, and cloud enablement. With over 20 years of experience across healthcare, insurance, and financial services, he has delivered large-scale, high-impact transformations focused on digital innovation and operational agility. Amish is passionate about empowering high-performing teams and driving human-centered innovation that expands access, enhances experiences, and delivers measurable value at scale.

SUCCESS STORY

Under Amish Patel's leadership, Elevance Health modernized one of the largest claims platforms in healthcare — increasing accuracy, accelerating claims processing, and improving provider/member experience with zero disruption. His team also launched the Engagement Data Platform, powering personalized, real-time engagement for over 50 million consumers through our various engagement channels like the Sydney Mobile app, our call center platforms. These innovations, along with industry-first benefit digitization and a \$1B cloud migration, delivered measurable affordability and increased agility. Patel's people-first leadership has fostered a culture of empowerment, innovation, and purpose, transforming how Elevance Health delivers smarter, more human-centered care.



Congratulations to **Arx Gabrenas!**

Elevate is proud to celebrate your recognition as a finalist for the **2025 Carolina ORBIE Award**. Thank you for your outstanding global leadership and commitment to driving excellence and technology innovation across our textile manufacturing platforms.

elevatetextiles.com



*Chief Information Officer
Elevate Textiles*



Congratulations to all Inspire Leadership Network nominees and winners!

As CIOs take the spotlight and honor the teams that drive their success, Associate Staffing is proud to be the trusted solutions partner behind the scenes—building the high-performing teams that turn vision into reality.

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OVER \$1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE AND MULTINATIONAL OPERATIONS



2025
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AWARDS



Sean Gallagher

VP, Global IT
Hayward Holdings



Sean Gallagher is VP of IT at Hayward Holdings, leading global technology and cybersecurity. With 20+ years' experience, he has previously transformed IT operations at Sealed Air, Carlisle, EY, and UnitedHealth. Sean holds a BS in Industrial Engineering (Penn State), MBA (South Carolina), and LL.M. in Cybersecurity Law & Policy (Texas A&M). He serves on the boards of Apparo and ISSA, driving technology education and community impact in the Charlotte region.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, Hayward's IT team delivered two transformative achievements. We implemented Europe's first Microsoft Dynamics 365 deployment, standardizing operations across multiple countries through a collaborative hybrid model combining internal expertise with strategic partners - establishing our global digital foundation. Simultaneously, we executed a cybersecurity transformation deploying AI-powered threat detection that maintained critical protections despite industry threats. These successes demonstrate how strategic technology leadership and exceptional teamwork can fundamentally elevate operations while future-proofing the business. Our team's dedication has transformed IT from a support function into a true strategic enabler, harmonizing processes across regions while protecting critical assets.



Jonathan Shough

CIO
Parexel



Jonathan is Chief Information Officer for Parexel. In this role he provides global leadership for the company's Information Technology (IT) strategic plan, including the development of innovative technologies and solutions to accelerate drug development initiatives in a constantly evolving and growing clinical trial landscape. Jonathan brings more than 30 years of experience in IT to Parexel with deep expertise in both the strategic planning, development and commercialization of innovative, award-winning technology solutions for clinical development.

SUCCESS STORY

The past 25 years I'm proud of the work we did at Quintiles to produce two revolutionary capabilities: Infosario and CNADS (Consolidated Network Access Devices and Systems) infrastructure architecture, that were 'firsts' in our industry. During COVID leading a team to create FORGE, a product that improved manual kit building to support the massive surge in COVID. The development of a first of its kind analytics dashboard supporting INC Research's (SYNH) Trusted Process and Parexel's first fully converged Digital Platform supporting consolidated standardized Project Analytics. Each eliminating the time it takes to bring breakthrough therapies to patients who require them.



Maneet Singh

CIO
Odyssey Logistics



Maneet Singh has over 20 years of IT experience and focuses on strategy, project delivery, M&A, risk management and global team leadership. He is responsible for Odyssey's technology and cybersecurity strategy, managing Global IT operations, and leading IT transformation. Maneet has held leadership roles at Snap One, Delek USA, XPO Logistics, and more. Maneet earned a B.T. degree from the Indian Institute of Technology and an MBA from Washington University's Olin Business School.

SUCCESS STORY

During the past year, Odyssey has embraced technology as a core driver of operational excellence and customer success. As CIO & CDO, I'm proud of our IT team's achievement completing over 100 strategic initiatives since 2024, including a data lake project that unified systems across 17 acquisitions. This effort enabled predictive insights, supported AI tools like chatbots, and improved visibility and decision-making. These advances align with our One Odyssey initiative, creating a seamless digital ecosystem. Importantly, we've built a culture where tech empowers people — and invested in leadership that blends deep industry and digital expertise to sustain momentum into 2025.



Reena Tiwari

CIO
LexisNexis Legal & Professional



Reena Tiwari is an award-winning CIO and technology executive with over 20 years of experience leading digital transformation, AI strategy, and enterprise modernization across global public companies and high-growth SaaS firms. She has held leadership roles at LexisNexis, ServiceTitan, American Express, Symantec, and Cisco. Reena is recognized for embedding GenAI into business workflows, building inclusive, high-performing global teams, and aligning technology strategy with business goals to drive innovation, operational excellence, and growth.

SUCCESS STORY

At LexisNexis, I lead a global technology transformation focused on unifying a fragmented enterprise architecture and elevating the company's digital capabilities. My team has consolidated multiple legacy systems into modern platforms, launched a new eCommerce channel, and embedded AI-driven solutions across customer support, sales, and developer workflows. These efforts are improving customer experience, streamlining operations, and positioning the organization for future growth. By aligning technology strategy with business goals, we're creating an agile foundation that supports innovation and scale, while fostering a collaborative, high-performing global team culture.

Do You
Know
we're proud
to have

Maneet
Singh
on our team?



Chief Information Officer
& Chief Digital Officer

Congratulations on being named as a finalist for the
2025 Carolina ORBIE Awards.

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new
way
to
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Discover what's new at
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LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$1.6 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



Eric Christian

SVP & CTO
Advocate Health



Eric Christian is SVP & CTO for Advocate Health, large enterprise healthcare system in the US. He is responsible for overseeing an enterprise technology organization, focused on technology strategy & delivery, operations and support. Previous role was CTO for Cummings where he provided leadership and strategy for global IT operations. Eric's background includes executive leadership at IBM, Marriott, GM, GMAC, and Bank of America. Eric earned a BS in Technology Management and an MBA from Michigan State.

SUCCESS STORY

Enterprise Technology is a vital division that manages the critical systems and enterprise platforms that support Advocate Health's mission and vision. The department has demonstrated excellence and value by successfully executing the OneCloud Transformation Program, which lowered the bottom-line hosting cost by \$20+ million, eliminated the need for several data centers, and established robust cloud environments. The program also improved the security, reliability, scalability, and performance of the systems and platforms, and enabled the organization to leverage the benefits of cloud computing and adopt new technologies and solutions. Enterprise Technology is a key contributor to the organization's growth.



Sastry Durvasula

Chief Operating, Information &
Digital Officer
TIAA



Sastry Durvasula is the Chief Operating, Information and Digital Officer at TIAA, responsible for powering the enterprise's business growth, scaling innovation and client impact, driving operational excellence, and accelerating TIAA's transformation. In his role, Sastry drives operating strategies and enterprise-wide capabilities through the company's four connected pillars he oversees globally: Technology, Digital & Client Experience, Operations and Shared Services. He is a member of the company's Executive Committee and Board Member of TIAA Global Capabilities.

SUCCESS STORY

Over my 30-year career, I have spent most of my time transforming and reimagining hundred-year-old, iconic companies with the power of technology, digital, AI, and next-gen business & client-facing operations. I currently serve as TIAA's Chief Operating, Information & Digital Officer. In this role, I lead the four connected pillars of the company globally: Technology, Digital & Client Experience, Operations and Shared Services. I bring a breadth of global leadership experience in the technology, financial services, payments and insurance domains, and a proven track record in shaping innovative digital strategies, driving enterprise-wide transformation, managing global P&Ls and more.



Will Johnson

CIO
Tidelands Health



Will Johnson is the Chief Information and Digital Officer (CIDO) at Tidelands Health, with over 25 years of technology leadership, including leadership roles at several Fortune 100 companies. He holds degrees from Texas A&M and Johns Hopkins and is recognized as a thought leader by several healthcare IT organization. Will loves writing, playing golf, and spending time with family. Will lives in Apex, NC, with his wife Shelby, son Caleb, and their dog Theodore.

SUCCESS STORY

Tidelands Health recently completed one of the most ambitious digital transformations in its history, successfully implementing Epic and Workday concurrently. This dual deployment was part of a broader modernization strategy that reduced on-premise infrastructure, expanded digital health services, and cut operating costs by 15.6%. Crucially, the initiatives delivered measurable clinical impact—reducing physician “pajama time” and improving patient satisfaction. These outcomes empowered providers to focus more on patient care while enhancing work-life balance. This transformation underscores our commitment to positioning IT as a strategic enabler of operational efficiency and clinical excellence.



Art McCann

SVP, IT
Bell Partners Inc



Art McCann is SVP of Information Technology at Bell Partners, where he has led IT strategy since 2021. With over 30 years of experience, including 20 as CIO at Highwoods Properties, he specializes in aligning data and technology to drive operational excellence. He has served on boards including the Society for Information Management and the Real Estate Cyber Consortium. Art holds a BS from Elon University and an MBA from UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School.

SUCCESS STORY

As SVP of IT, I led a full-scale digital transformation—migrating our entire infrastructure to the cloud, enhancing cybersecurity, and streamlining systems for agility. We're now among the few mid-size firms that are 100% cloud based. Our 2024 RIA filing introduced robust cybersecurity controls, reinforcing compliance and trust. We also made customer satisfaction a core IT metric, achieving a 20% YoY CSAT increase. Most notably, we redefined IT's role—from support to strategic partner—by delivering people-first, business-aligned solutions that empower teams and elevate resident experiences. This transformation reflects the future of IT leadership: secure, scalable, and deeply collaborative.



Sushma Walker

President, Business Technology
Nucor Corporation



Sushma Walker is the Vice President and President of Nucor Business Technology. A strategic leader within NBT, Sushma is known for driving organizational transformation, fostering innovation, and aligning technology with business outcomes. As part of the executive leadership team, she plays a key role in shaping Nucor's digital future and empowering teams across the enterprise.

SUCCESS STORY

Nucor has achieved significant milestones. Within the IT sector we have successfully aligned multiple IT sectors across the enterprise to streamline technological advancements while deploying custom enterprise software solutions which integrates with existing systems like ERP, MES, and HRIS, helping divisions meet safety, business, and compliance objectives.

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
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AWARDS



Chris Beasley

VP, IT & CIO
FirstHealth of the Carolinas



Chris Beasley is Vice President of Information Systems and CIO at FirstHealth of the Carolinas, where he leads strategic technology initiatives that enhance care delivery, operational efficiency, and innovation. He holds an MBA and multiple certifications, including CHCIO, CDH-E, CISSP, and CPHIMS, and is a HIMSS Fellow. Beasley is recognized for aligning IT and biomedical systems with organizational strategy to drive transformation, elevate clinical outcomes, and advance FirstHealth's purpose.

SUCCESS STORY

Implementation of an IT governance program to ensure clinical and business alignment. This has resulted in organizational focus and prioritization of those projects that have the most impact on the health system's goals and objectives. Direct cost savings and cost avoidance of several millions of dollars annually through contract management, consolidation and reduction of duplicative applications, and elimination of contract labor. 3rd party cybersecurity risk assessments show year-over-year improvement and consistently higher scores across all categories compared to healthcare peers. Recognized multiple consecutive years by Epic Systems as a top performer among all of its customers in its recognition programs.



Shelley Chandler

CIO
NC Rate Bureau, NC Reinsurance
Facility, NC Insurance Guaranty
Association



Shelley Chandler is the Chief Information Officer at the NC Rate Bureau, NC Reinsurance Facility, and NC Insurance Guaranty Association. Since 2008, she's led numerous IT modernization and strategic initiatives. A UNC Chapel Hill graduate, she formerly directed IT Initiatives at Investors Title Insurance Company. Shelley rescued a critical outsourced project handling 26% of North Carolina's auto policies, built a 29-member IT team, and now leads modernization efforts to position her organizations as industry leaders.

SUCCESS STORY

Success is subjective, but one project embodies the values I champion. When I joined our IT team 15 years ago, there were seven of us. We began building a reinsurance application that today processes \$1.6+ billion in premiums serving 26% of our state's auto market. Since then, we've refined our practices, delivered 30+ web applications, and grown into a 29-person team. We've evolved into a strategic partner, driving efficiency and innovation enterprise wide. Today, we're launching a comprehensive multi-year modernization to further automate processes, foster data-driven insights, and ensure agility while energizing our teams and positioning us for future success.



Dr. Robin Lang

VP, IT & CIO
CaroMont Health



Since 2017, Dr. Lang has served as Vice President & CIO providing inspiring strategic leadership combining clinical and professional perspectives. With over 35 years in healthcare, Robin started her career as a Registered Nurse later earning her MBA and Doctorate from Gardner-Webb University where she serves as Adjunct Professor. She is an instrumental leader and clinical partner recognized for leading teams not only supporting technology but transforming lives through technology integration and innovation.

SUCCESS STORY

Despite being a technology-laden department, the IT Team's overarching greatest accomplishment is the team's recognition of their role in direct patient care providing purpose for the work they do supporting patients and care providers alike. This year they delivered with foresight and execution to launch a new critical care tower and second hospital campus with future-proof technologies and live operational support. From mobilizing during the Covid crisis to enabling seamless clinical communications platforms, the team is directly amplifying care delivery. The mission-critical projects they support through advanced technology and innovation is more than operational, it's both lifechanging and lifesaving.



Chris Smith

CIO
Enact Mortgage Insurance



Chris Smith is Chief Information Officer at Enact Mortgage Insurance. Chris began his career at Enact (then GE Capital Mortgage Insurance) as a Junior Applications Specialist in 1998. In his time at the company, Chris has held roles of increasing responsibilities in areas such as enterprise architecture, loss mitigation technology, enterprise analytics and Chief Technology Officer. Chris graduated from Radford University's College of Business and Economics with a bachelor's in Business Administration and Information Systems.

SUCCESS STORY

I believe my greatest accomplishment is leading the team through a significant transformation of our operating model, which has required coaching team members through the change curve, and rebuilding and revitalizing the team culture in the wake of turnover. Great change can bring uncertainty and weaken trust in leadership, and I'm really proud of the strides my leadership team and I have made in rebuilding a sense of stability, strengthening trust, and fostering a team culture of unity and inclusivity.



Jessica Waters

CIO
Choate Construction



Jessica Waters is the Chief Information Officer at Choate Construction, a leading commercial general contractor, where she has built a 21-year career. Beginning in construction, Jessica later transitioned to application support and steadily advanced through leadership positions. As CIO, she leads the company's information technology department, aligning technology strategy with business objectives. Her deep industry knowledge and hands-on experience empower her to drive user-focused solutions, enhance operational efficiency, and lead digital transformation across the organization.

SUCCESS STORY

Jessica spent six years in construction before the recession provided an unexpected opportunity in technology. Pivoting to application support, she leveraged her grit and passion for helping others to fuel a steady rise through the ranks—from Application Support to IT Manager, IT Director, and ultimately Chief Information Officer. Her unconventional path is proof that where you begin does not define the impact you can make. Today, Jessica leads a high-performing IT team and drives companywide strategy with a unique, cross-functional perspective. Her journey is a powerful testament to adaptability, resilience, and building success from the ground up.

LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

OVER \$500 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



Dr. Andy Hartung

AVP & CIO
Self Regional Healthcare



Andy Hartung is Assistant Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Self Regional Healthcare and believes technology should improve patient care and operations versus implementing technology for the sake of new technology. Andy earned a Doctor of Health Administration, Medical University of South Carolina, Master of Science and Bachelor of Science, Western Carolina University. Andy is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA).

SUCCESS STORY

Under Andy's leadership as the CIO the IT team has converted 20+ EMR's simplifying access to a single medical record, implemented a Cyber Security program following CISSP/CISA certification standards, awarded IT Healthcare Top IT departments celebrating the long tenure and success of the IT team, successfully converted the health system to Epic, developed and implemented an Enterprise Analytics team for the health system, expanded IT operations across critical access hospitals and multiple medical offices developing a "health system" information technology department all while minimizing FTE and budget growth.



Markus Hill

CIO
Rodgers Builders, Inc



Markus Hill is Chief Information Officer at Rodgers Builders, where he leads IT modernization, cybersecurity, and digital strategy. With over 30 years of experience across construction and manufacturing, he specializes in aligning technology with operational efficiency and long-term scalability. Markus also teaches business at Catawba College and holds an MBA from Wake Forest University. He is an active industry speaker and has served as Chair of the NC Leadership Board for the American Lung Association.

SUCCESS STORY

We rebuilt our corporate network to create a simpler, more reliable foundation for the business. The old infrastructure was fragmented and expensive, limiting our ability to scale and support a growing number of remote offices. Moving to a zero trust architecture improved security and performance while making the environment easier to manage. This effort wasn't just about technology. It allowed us to reduce complexity, respond faster to new demands, and redirect time and resources to areas that drive greater business value. The team's deep experience and focus helped create an environment that scales cleanly and supports the pace of operations.



Jon Meyer

CTO
CAPTRUST



Jon Meyer is the Chief Technology Officer for CAPTRUST, an independent registered investment advisor headquartered in Raleigh, NC. Jon leads Information Technology, with teams dedicated to application development, infrastructure, network, telecommunications, and information security. He ensures effective and secure technology operations, manages the development and support of proprietary applications, and implements strategies that position the firm for sustained and scalable growth. Jon led CAPTRUST's transition to a cloud-forward architecture leveraging the public cloud / cloud-native solutions.

SUCCESS STORY

CAPTRUST IT designs, builds, and supports a technology platform which allows the firm to scale, both organically and through M&A. While systems are only part of the growth equation, a flexible and resilient infrastructure has helped propel revenue sevenfold in nine years and enterprise value fourfold in just the last five years. Technology changes include harnessing the public cloud, redevelopment of applications to be cloud-native, transition of networking to modern, commodity-based solutions, and an intense focus on information security as a value-generator / business enabler for both clients and M&A prospects.



Pawanjit Singh

CIO
Centria Healthcare



Pawanjit Singh is the CIO and CISO of Centria Autism, a seasoned technology leader with 27+ years of experience driving AI-powered transformation, scalable innovation, security, and growth across healthcare, retail, and e-commerce. He serves on the board of Centria Autism and nonprofits supporting education, technology advancement, and interfaith collaboration. As a mentor and advocate, he coaches robotics teams, leads AI workshops, and helps students develop skills for a future-ready, equitable world.

SUCCESS STORY

When I joined Centria Autism, technology was a reactive tool. I focused on building a curious, mission-driven team that aligned innovation with our purpose: improving care and access for children with autism. By embedding AI across intake, scheduling, and clinical workflows, we reduced waitlists, improved clinician efficiency, and saved millions annually, enabling more families to receive life-changing therapy sooner. Beyond the results, I'm proud that we've built a culture of innovation that empowers not just our own team, but also shares best practices across the industry to improve lives for children and families everywhere.



Kirk Wroblewski

CIO
ProPharma Group



Kirk Wroblewski is an innovative IT executive with global experience in enterprise transformation, cloud data strategy, and GenAI deployment. He's built top-tier Data, AI, Engineering, and Security teams while aligning IT investments to business outcomes. Kirk holds three AI-related patents, is a published author in Applied Clinical Trials, and speaks regularly at Bio International and NC CRO summits—known for delivering scalable, AI-driven solutions that fuel growth and modernize the enterprise.

SUCCESS STORY

As CIO, I spearheaded a transformation of IT, from a reactive organization to a proactive, business-enabling function. Leveraging my experience as a CDAO, I prioritized data, analytics, and AI—partnering with a trusted boutique firm to accelerate our modern Lakehouse data platform, now delivering measurable business value. To fuel innovation, I automated routine IT tasks and migrated legacy data centers to serverless cloud infrastructure. Additionally, I serve as acting CISO, leading a security roadmap that includes SSO/MFA, a hybrid SOC/MDR model, and red team testing, ultimately positioning IT as a strategic driver of agility, insight, and enterprise resilience.



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Chris Butts

CIO
Town of Chapel Hill



Chris Butts is a strategic and innovative local government leader with 16 years of experience in driving digital transformation and delivering business value through technology. Chris has a proven track record of leading high-performing IT teams, managing complex projects, and implementing cutting-edge solutions to meet organizational goals. Chris excels at working with government leaders and stakeholders to create and implement technology strategies that meet business goals and deliver value to visitors and residents.

SUCCESS STORY

Our team has achieved significant milestones for the Town of Chapel Hill by enhancing community service, reducing costs, and ensuring data security. We recently established an IT Governance process — forming a Technology Steering Committee to align technology initiatives with strategic goals, ensure informed decision-making, and reducing costs by consolidating systems. We also formalized a Security Program and established a Security Steering Committee to align our risk appetite with security enhancements. Focusing on innovation, we are utilizing generative AI for plain-language communication efforts and making significant strides in GIS data analysis enhancing our data-driven decision-making.



Brian Claspell

SVP & CIO
Bassett Furniture Industries



Brian Claspell (SVP/CIO/CTO Bassett Furniture) is an innovative leader who is focused on delivering value to the business, building for the future, and developing his team. Brian has been with Bassett (manufacturer and retailer of custom furniture) for over 5 years. He brings a diverse set of experiences across multiple industries including GNC (Manufacturing Division IT executive), Lowe's Home Improvement, Kraft Foods, and Discover Card.

SUCCESS STORY

Bassett, focusing on a superior customer experience, has transformed its adoption in the digital world over the last couple of years. Bassett implemented a new consumer website with the ability to customize/configure complex furniture and place it in a 3D room planner so the customer can fully visualize their living space. This experience is extended to the retail (Bassett owned) and the Open Market (independent sellers of furniture) so the Bassett customer experience is world class in all instances. To ensure Bassett was obtaining the benefit a modern BI solution was deployed (measure results and adjust business direction).



Mark Lawler

CIO
Fayetteville Public Works
Commission



Mark O. Lawler is Chief Information Officer at Fayetteville Public Works Commission, where he leads enterprise technology strategy, cybersecurity, and innovation. With a focus on cloud, SaaS, AI, and process improvement, Mark has driven operational efficiencies, cost savings, and customer-focused service delivery. A U.S. Army veteran, he is passionate about building high-performing teams and fostering a culture of continuous improvement, collaboration, and long-term value that supports the organization's mission and the community it serves.

SUCCESS STORY

By embracing cloud, SaaS, and AI, we've reduced operational costs, increased agility, and improved the customer experience—accelerating deployments from months to weeks and streamlining operations across the board. Generative AI now powers our grant response process, significantly shortening turnaround times and helping secure critical funding that supports key initiatives and keeps costs manageable for our customers. Our greatest success, however, is building a high-performing, high-retention team that leads with purpose. Through a strong culture of process improvement and continuous learning, we've empowered employees to drive innovation that delivers lasting impact for the organization and those we serve.



Albert Manoim

VP, IT
Diamonds Direct USA Inc.



Albert Manoim is an accomplished IT leader with over 25 years of experience driving technology strategy, digital transformation, and operational excellence. He leads enterprise initiatives across infrastructure, cybersecurity, application development, and retail systems. Albert is passionate about building high-performing teams, aligning IT with business objectives, and delivering scalable solutions that enable growth. His leadership has consistently resulted in increased efficiency, enhanced customer engagement, and meaningful impact on the bottom line.

SUCCESS STORY

We built an internal IT team by developing entry-level talent, allowing us to transition from a third-party provider and significantly reduce costs. We improved security, accelerated new store setups, and now complete network deployments without relying on senior-level engineers. On the application side, we enhanced CRM integration with POS, enabling text, email, and chat communication to improve customer engagement and drive sales. We also developed a custom business system that supports expanded volume. These innovations demonstrate how IT can drive growth, efficiency, and measurable impact across the business.



Sherri Yerk-Zwickl

VP & CIO
Campbell University



Sherri Yerk-Zwickl is the Vice President for IT and inaugural CIO at Campbell University. Ms. Yerk-Zwickl has served in higher education for over 35 years in various technology and leadership roles. Currently, as a member of the university executive leadership team, she oversees information security, academic and enterprise technology, client support services, infrastructure and operations, and the strategic direction of an institution dedicated to helping prepare students for lives of purpose and meaning.

SUCCESS STORY

Our team has achieved several significant milestones that have positively impacted the university community. One notable accomplishment was the IT organizational realignment. By centralizing IT functions that were previously decentralized across multiple geographic locations and departmental areas, we streamlined operations and improved teamwork resulting in more effective outcomes and communication, clarified position responsibilities, provided professional skills improvement and growth opportunities for staff, and enhanced our ability to address technology needs more effectively. This process also provided the ability to focus on identifying and promoting talented individuals into leadership positions, ensuring that our team is led by capable and visionary leaders.

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CONGRATULATIONS Mark Lawler

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This prestigious honor represents the highest standard of achievement in the technology, security, and marketing industries. His nomination is in recognition of Mark's commitment to innovation, management effectiveness and outstanding service.



Mark Lawler

Chief Information Officer
Fayetteville Public Works Commission

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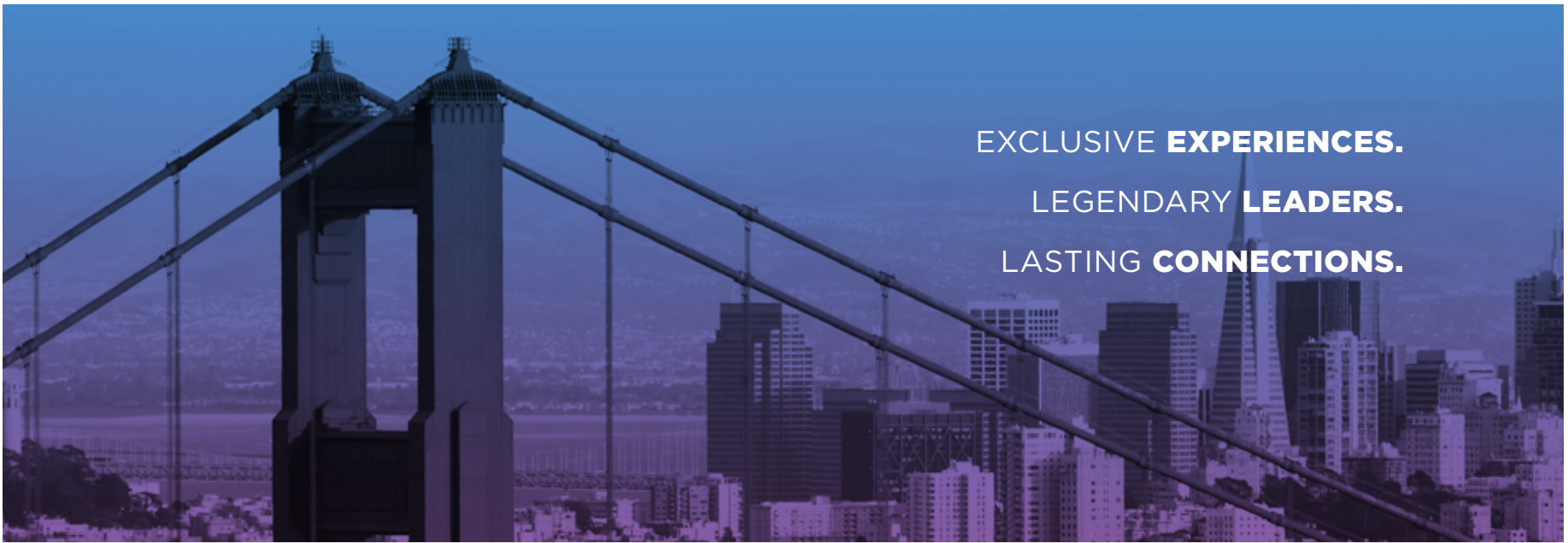
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