

CIO

OF THE YEAR

AWARDS

The annual Chicago CIO of the Year® 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 May 13 at the Marriott Marquis Chicago.



CHICAGO CIO OF THE YEAR
ORBIE
AWARDS

INSIDE



LISA DYKSTRA
CHAIR

Lisa Dykstra talks about technology, which is at the center of modern business transformation. Leadership is the X-factor between surviving and thriving in today's digital economy.



DAVE HOAG
VICE CHAIR

Dave Hoag discusses how to leverage leadership skills and take technology to the next level. CIOs don't just run an IT team, but operate and execute to contribute to business outcomes.

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CIO
OF THE YEAR
AWARDS

Technology
Leaders are
the X-Factor



LISA DYKSTRA
2022 Chair, ChicagoCIO
SVP & CIO, Ann & Robert H.
Lurie Children's Hospital of
Chicago

Technology is at the center of modern business transformation and leadership is the X-factor between surviving and thriving in today's digital economy.

ChicagoCIO engages CIOs across Chicagoland to maximize their leadership effectiveness, create value driven organizations, reduce risk and share leading practices. Through member-led, non-commercial programs, CIOs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges, solving problems and avoiding pitfalls.

ChicagoCIO members collaborate locally and nationally with CIOs across industries because, successful CIOs understand the 'superpower' of trusted relationships. In any gathering of CIOs, the answer is in the room. The challenge one CIO is facing has likely been solved by another CIO.

We have seen a continued evolution of the CIO role for

many years. With the onslaught of emerging business needs, the CIO has taken on greater leadership responsibilities and often been a direct catalyst in advancing those business needs. Through the collective talent of ChicagoCIO members, we focus on organizational engagement, collaboration on complex, cross industry challenges and winning approaches to effective leadership. Every leader's perspective is valuable and contributes to the conversation - and everyone wins when leaders engage, share ideas, experiences and best practices.

For over twenty years, InspireCIO has helped CIOs succeed in today's most challenging C-suite executive role. By joining ChicagoCIO, technology executives take their leadership to the next level through year-round, member-led programs and interaction. The power of CIOs working together – across public and private business, government, education, healthcare and nonprofit organizations – creates enormous value for everyone.

Together, we are transforming our economy using technology and enriching our region and our world. On behalf of ChicagoCIO, congratulations to the nominees and finalists on their accomplishments and thank you to the sponsors, underwriters, and staff who make the ORBIE Awards possible.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dykstra

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Culture

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Congratulations to Brad Bodell for being named a Chicago CIO of the Year® ORBIE® Award finalist!

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KEVIN LOWELL,
2022 CHICAGO CIO OF THE YEAR®
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Your continued steadfast leadership in all areas of information technology has paved the way for a more connected future. We thank you for the contributions you've made to developing reliable, secure service for our company and our customers.



"Most Interesting CIOs" of ChicagoCIO

The most exclusive event in the CIO of the Year program is the Finalist Dinner. This themed event, "The Most Interesting CIOs in the World", is a multi-course experience, with a chef-introduced menu and sommelier-selected wine pairings, led by CIO finalists and attended by CIO members and select sponsor executives. The collegial format of this dinner is often the most highly-rated event of the year, creating a unique opportunity for strengthening existing relationships and establishing new connections. This year, the event took place on April 13, 2022 at the University Club of Chicago.



The "Most Interesting CIOs" of ChicagoCIO at the Finalist Reception & Dinner at the University Club of Chicago.



2022 ChicagoCIO ORBIE Award Finalists at the ChicagoCIO Finalist Reception & Dinner.



ChicagoCIO Members Raj Sampooram of Byline Bank and Kevin Boyd of University of Chicago.



2022 ChicagoCIO ORBIE Finalists Sabina Ewing of Abbott, Amir Arooni of Discover Financial Services, and Mindy Simon of Conagra Brands.



2022 ChicagoCIO Chapter Chair Lisa Dykstra of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

CONGRATULATIONS

Vava Dimond



Hub Group congratulates Vava Dimond on being named a Chicago CIO of the Year® ORBIE® Award finalist. As a true leader in every sense of the word, Vava helped make technology a true differentiator for our employees, drivers, customers, and the supply chain industry.



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DAVE HOAG TAKES FINANCIAL TECH TO NEXT LEVEL:

ChicagoCIO vice chair discusses successful leadership style



Dave Hoag got an early start on his tech career at age 11. That's when his uncle introduced him to an Apple IIc, and he was instantly hooked. He discovered that he could write code and make images dance on a screen. And he never looked back.

Hoag has spent the majority of his career in financial technology, directly involved in the transformation of the derivatives market infrastructure. He is currently chief information officer at Chicago-based OCC (Options Clearing Corporation). Hoag was a winner of the 2019 CIO of Year ORBIE Award.

As vice chair of ChicagoCIO and incoming chair of the organization, Hoag recently talked with Crain's about his

plans for the growth of the peer-based organization and his leadership style. Here is a recap of the conversation.

Q: What are you working on at OCC?

Hoag: As options trading volume exploded during the pandemic, I've been involved with modernizing OCC's clearing and risk system to provide greater resiliency, capacity and security for the industry. Our large transformation project is called the Renaissance Initiative, and pending regulatory approval we plan to adopt a new purpose-built cloud system to better serve our stakeholders and the users of the U.S. equity options and futures markets.

Q: How has the role of CIO evolved over the years?

Hoag: While technology is at the core of the role, CIOs are now involved in the overall strategy of a company. We're not just setting up a help desk. Technology is a critical part of every business at all levels. CIOs enable companies to grow and contribute to business outcomes by leading on execution and strategy.

Q: What is your leadership style?

Hoag: I'm a very hands-off leader. I try to empower my direct reports to set goals and outcomes and trust they will deliver. I like to talk to the staff at all levels to understand what they're seeing and the problems they're encountering. By engaging and seeking out information, I have a more holistic picture of where I might contribute and help my direct reports achieve their goals.

Q: What's your advice to CIOs?

Hoag: It's important to network within your peer community and in your organization. You don't just run an IT team. As a CIO, you have to operate and execute as a business leader. There's no problem that's not yours because it's a problem with the business.

Q: How long have you been involved with the ChicagoCIO network?

Hoag: I got involved in 2018. ChicagoCIO is really a community driven by and for the CIO in Chicagoland area. The organization also connects members to other chapters and national events.

Q: As vice chair, how have you grown the peer network?

Hoag: I've worked together with our current board chair Lisa Dykstra to create value for members. If we focus on creating value, we will gain participants. My main contribution is to make sure our programs are a good use of our time. CIOs are very busy.

Q: For example?

Hoag: ChicagoCIO recently facilitated a virtual discussion where we broke into small groups to discuss a project or problem, such as how we're handling remote work and what it means for talent recruitment and retention. We're able to share ideas and find out what other companies are doing. We all end

up in a better place because of those interactions. It's really purposeful.

Q: Why is the ChicagoCIO peer network important to the industry, and important to Chicago?

Hoag: Technology is a key growth driver in many cities and Chicago over the last decade has done a good job at developing the technology industry. For the health of Chicago, we need well run IT organizations. We need to apply technology to create value for our business and customers and not just as a cost center necessary to run a business at scale. Instead, technology actually allows companies to create value for their customers. The long-term health of Chicago depends on a vibrant technology community and organizations like ChicagoCIO.

Q: As the incoming ChicagoCIO chair, what are your plans for the organization?

Hoag: We need to lean into our strengths. We do a decent job of bringing CIOs together. We need to do more problem solving and help facilitate people to develop a personal board of directors, peers they can call and talk to on an informal basis. We'll do more to foster peer collaboration. We'll have more in-person events, such as behind-the-scenes tours of technology operations. But we'll also continue our virtual events. A mix of event formats allows the members to come together where and when they have availability.

Q: What else would you like to add?

Hoag: ChicagoCIO is hosting the ORBIE Awards program in person on May 13 at the Marriott Marquis Chicago. We're excited about that.

We're recruiting new members. We ask our members to invite other CIOs to check out ChicagoCIO. When CIOs come to one of our events and meet our members, we have a good conversion rate because they see the value in what we do.

DAVE HOAG
CIO, Options Clearing Corporation
Vice Chair, ChicagoCIO

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CIO
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AWARDS

SUPER GLOBAL FINALISTS



AMIR AROONI
EVP & CIO
Discover Financial
Services

As executive vice president and CIO, **Amir Arooni** oversees Discover Financial Services' business technology organization, using innovative technology solutions to create a superior customer experience. He joined Discover in 2020 with more than 30 years of IT experience in the financial services industry, including his most recent role at NN Group—a spinoff of ING—as global CIO of its insurance, asset management and banking business units. Prior to that, he spent over 15 years with ING in different roles of increasing scope, culminating as CIO and head of global digital channels and payments services for ING Global Commercial Banking.



SUCCESS STORY

I'm proud of our thought leadership within business technology and our company-wide vision and implementation of the Runway program. Runway brings together smaller, self-empowered engineering teams, focused on technology development through a single, agile approach and manual function automation, while also placing a strong emphasis on technology simplification. The outcome is a unique employee experience that empowers employees to build their skills and craft, better technology that improves customers' experiences and increased speed of deploying solutions to market. Also, the resulting business value has been impressive—with quality going up, cost going down and overall productivity increasing by 30 percent.



SABINA EWING
VP, Business &
Technology Services
Abbott

As Abbott's vice president, business and technology services, **Sabina Ewing** oversees an IT portfolio worth more than \$1 billion, while also providing executive leadership on technology strategy, policy and capabilities across the company's enterprise. Prior to joining Abbott, she served as the global head, business technology (BT) for Pfizer Upjohn, headquartered in Shanghai, China. Beforehand, she held several IT leadership roles at Pfizer, including vice president, corporate functions and business services BT, and vice president, specialty care, vaccines and oncology BT. She has also previously held management roles at Arthur Andersen Business Consulting, BearingPoint and American Express.



SUCCESS STORY

I established a bold strategy to aggressively modernize our technology landscape. Abbott is more than 130 years old. I'm proud that we have alignment and full engagement from our IT organization and executive management team. As a result, we've enabled our ongoing sustainability by radically simplifying and modernizing the environment, supercharging our revenue generating IT capabilities and bolstering our enterprise and product resilience.



MIKE PARISI
VP & CIO
ITW

Upon joining IWT (Illinois Tool Works) in November 2007, **Mike Parisi** brought an array of technical and leadership experience from various businesses. For example, during his previous, 21-year career with Honeywell, he served in a variety of roles within service, sales support, field operations and IT. He earned his master's degree in communication systems strategy and management from Northwestern University and his bachelor's degree in telecommunications management from Roosevelt University. Additionally, he was acknowledged by Computerworld as a "2006 Premier 100 IT Leader" and recognized with a Global CIO Breakaway Leadership Award by his CIO peer group in 2015.



SUCCESS STORY

ITW is a global, diversified, multi-industrial manufacturing company that's highly decentralized. When I first joined ITW, we were decentralized with over 800 business units, more than 600 ERP systems, over 100 ERP OEMs and no formal corporate IT organization. IT teams worked in silos, lacking communication and collaboration. I led a team to design and apply an organizational structure to meet this very decentralized business's IT needs. We developed and implemented frameworks that aligned to both the business strategy and culture. Many of those frameworks are still in use, and the team and structure successfully partners across the enterprise.



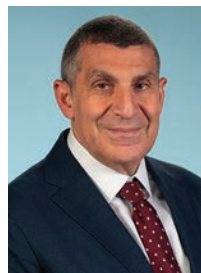
MINDY SIMON
SVP & CIO Global
Business and IS
Conagra Brands

As senior vice president and CIO for Conagra Brands, **Mindy Simon** has enterprise responsibility for global business services, IT, cybersecurity and leadership in modernizing the enterprise across various business processes and technology. The company's business processes and technology include, but aren't limited to, digital transformation applying capabilities like advanced analytics and robotics. Since joining Conagra in 2000, she has held a variety of roles in business transformation, finance and IT. Her responsibilities have included analyzing economic indicators, tracking major commodity markets and auditing in finance, and leading business and technology transformation across the organization, in support of multiple businesses.



SUCCESS STORY

As Conagra's CIO, I've had the opportunity to lead the transformation of our global business and information services organization into a strategic business partner that enables the company's growth and service to customers and consumers. We built a high-performing team by recruiting and developing talented people, embracing diversity and inclusion, and working together to achieve our goals. Today, we are managing innovative technical solutions that support our end-to-end enterprise, e-commerce, digital marketing, data analytics, manufacturing and distribution centers, customer order management, cybersecurity and data management. I'm proud of what we've built and the many ways we contribute to Conagra's success.



FRANCESCO TINTO
SVP & Global CIO
Walgreens Boots Alliance

As global CIO of Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA), **Francesco Tinto** oversees the company's divisions' IT strategy, along with the implementation of its technology and digital innovation, in order to support and enable its health care strategy. He is responsible for delivering best-in-class solutions to customers, team members and other constituencies, including the execution of projects with key partners, such as Microsoft, Adobe and Tata Consultancy Services. Since joining WBA in September 2019, he has delivered and optimized the next generation of IT infrastructure and solutions. For example, he helped reinvent the United States' largest health and well-being-centered loyalty program: myWalgreens.



SUCCESS STORY

COVID-19 forced us to accelerate WBA's digitalization agenda as we put a strategic focus on health care and mass personalization. We advanced our most important investments, while developing new care delivery models, along with technology and retail innovations—all while remaining true to our commitment of protecting customer data. As an output of that work, digital sales were up 88 percent in the United States in the last quarter, driven by 3.6 million same-day pick-up orders. We are now focused on building a platform of consumer-centric health care solutions with Walgreens Health, which will fuel our next phase of growth.

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What leadership is made of

Congratulations to the 2022 CIO of the Year
ORBIE Awards winners on being recognized for
excellence in technology leadership.

TheNewEquation.com

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"Twilio is ranked #1 for market share in Customer Data Platforms."

- IDC, "Worldwide Customer Data Platform Market Shares, 2020"*

*IDC "Worldwide Customer Data Platform Market Shares, 2020: The Flight to First-Party Data Is On, and CDPs Win Big," published July 2021 - ID #US48052920e



SHAWN ELLIS
International CIO
TransUnion



As International CIO, **Shawn Ellis** is responsible for overseeing most of TransUnion's internal IT systems, inclusive of custom applications development and engineering, infrastructure and agile delivery organizations. He has been with TransUnion since 2013 and has held a number of different leadership roles, including US CIO and engineering, and senior vice president of global technology strategy and planning. Prior to joining TransUnion, he held leadership roles at Capital One, HSBC and Sears. He earned his bachelor's degree in business from the University of Georgia, Terry College of Business.

SUCCESS STORY

Over the past year, we created a franchise stack model to streamline information sharing across regions—a unique situation created by our growth in numerous markets simultaneously (APAC, Africa, Europe, Canada, Brazil and LATAM). I developed a strategy that brought new technology and processes (agile, DevSecOps, API architecture and data center operations) to all regions to unleash our talents' power and enable further business growth. This strategy was executed, using an engineering mindset, to deliver highly performant, secure and available applications—while also upskilling our associates on the latest engineering and security practices—and provide our customers innovative solutions.



LAURA KOHL
CIO
Morningstar



Laura Kohl is a recognized technology leader with extensive global business experience across multiple industries, including financial services, travel and transportation, retail, supply chain and quick service restaurants. She is the CIO for Morningstar, a global financial services firm providing an array of investment research and investment management, including software and data platforms for investment professionals. Most recently, she joined Morningstar to lead its technology efforts by transforming employee experience and tools. Her responsibilities include deploying a new content management platform, along with managing and upgrading global corporate systems, infrastructure, cloud services, security and operations.

SUCCESS STORY

I have built a technology strategy for Morningstar to be growth ready, which is anchored on people, process, technology and foundation. I bring my large-scale global business and technology experience and provide a fresh perspective to not only deliver and be accountable, but to foster better partnerships with strategic vendors and fellow business leaders to build upon their trust. Together, we are transforming our employee experience with better tools and technologies to be frictionless. This translates into more scalable operational and process efficiencies, so our colleagues have more time to spend on our clients.



JOHN MOHR
CIO
John D. and Catherine T.
MacArthur Foundation



As CIO, **John Mohr** oversees Foundation-wide technology services and planning. He is also responsible for developing a strong and sustainable IT infrastructure. As a leader of the department (and within the Foundation management team), he provides oversight, vision, planning, development and strategy for the Foundation too. Prior to joining the MacArthur Foundation in 2012, he was the director of academic systems at the University of Chicago. He earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business and a Bachelor of Science degree in management information systems and operations management from Northern Illinois University.

SUCCESS STORY

I am proud to be a trusted business partner for my peers, our global team and networks. Building strong relationships is fundamental to moving from service provider, to a reliable leader and trusted partner in innovation. This trust is built by supplying reliable systems and execution with 99.9-plus percent availability and 98 percent on-time delivery. Such trust develops from a commitment to building high performing teams and developing real relationships and delivering results. There has been no greater moment for me than knowing that, with my team, we enabled mission continuity on a global level when it was needed most.



SAMIR SHAH
CIO
Fortune Brands
Home & Security



Samir Shah has a 25-year track record of driving the execution of IT strategy and business partnerships. As a technology leader, he is focused on business transformation, holding additional responsibility as CDO and CISO. In his role, he develops technology-driven strategy and solutions focused on digital, analytics and cybersecurity, enabling customers and consumers to shop, design and buy products and services more easily. He has earned a Master of Business Administration and also holds a Bachelor of Science in engineering.

SUCCESS STORY

I developed a digital business strategy based on SaaS First principles. We moved infrastructure, replaced applications with SaaS and built cybersecurity. We created a solid digital foundation, living the "Secure Anywhere Digital" paradigm before it was coined. Associates collaborated on the cloud, and sourcing and supply chains were provided SaaS tools. Customers could design cabinets using a cloud-based 3D application and buy from home—an industry first. Online sales were driven by SaaS e-commerce and marketing technologies. Associate engagement was also simplified with SaaS tools, data allowed insights-driven decisions and automation platforms drove cost avoidance/reduction—all secured with cybersecurity tools.



KARRIEM SHAKOOR
SVP & CIO
UL LLC



As senior vice president and CIO, **Karriem Shakoor** holds global responsibility for the strategy, development and management of UL LLC's technology and information assets, including enterprise architecture, data/analytics and technology operations. He has over 18 years of IT management experience in various industries. Before joining UL, he was vice president, IT for Ameriprise Financial with responsibilities for IT service delivery for its property and casualty insurance division. Before joining Ameriprise, he was CTO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of MI. Additionally, he holds a Bachelor of Science in business IT and a Master of Business Administration from Walsh College.

SUCCESS STORY

Our greatest accomplishment is creating the OneUL IT strategy, which drives our operating model's ongoing evolution and enables our commercial transformation through development of best-in-class sales, quoting, pricing and analytic capabilities. We have already seen improved rates of opportunity conversion and margin expansion, which drive revenue growth. Our integration of 50-plus acquisitions has resulted in a 50-plus percent reduction in our monthly accounting-to-close processes and driven our function's perception as a strong enterprise partner and valued strategic advisor. Lastly, we led an intensive colleague satisfaction improvement program, resulting in IT achieving the highest employee engagement scores ever recorded at UL.

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LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

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**MARYANN
BYRDAK**
CIO
Feeding America

As CIO of Feeding America, **Maryann Byrdak** serves as senior technology strategist and is responsible for guiding the organization's vision for the emerging technologies, digital trends and infrastructure advances that will help the company fulfill its mission. Her passion to serve—and experience leading technology transformations—influence the optimization efforts for a more connected Feeding America network. Prior to joining Feeding America, she was senior vice president/CIO at Potbelly Sandwich Works, Inc., where she led its entire technology footprint, including corporate headquarters and over 500 restaurants. Beforehand, she spent nine years with the Office Depot/Office Max organization in various roles.



SUCCESS STORY

When I joined Feeding America in 2019, we launched a multi-year data and digital journey to support the unique and underserved needs of the food banking community. 2021 was a transformational year for us. Through the applications we built—MealConnect and OrderAhead—we were able to serve hundreds of millions of meals. We also saved the network over \$37 million and built connections with Food Bank systems to provide unprecedented insights into food distribution operations. I'm humbled to have overseen this transformation, and deeply appreciative of the generosity of our donors and the public; without them, we wouldn't be successful.



VAVA DIMOND
EVP & CIO
Hub Group, Inc.

In 2015, **Vava Dimond** was named executive vice president/CIO of Hub Group, Inc.—one of North America's largest transportation, logistics and supply chain management companies—after serving as interim CIO. As a result of her role, she is responsible for as many as 250 technology professionals, holding full departmental strategy and profit and loss responsibility with operating and capital budgets of over \$100 million. In addition, she has successfully established herself across business units, stakeholders and the board of directors as a strategic business partner. And she's offered innovative solutions to enable business transformation and deliver top-line and bottom-line benefits.



SUCCESS STORY

I think of my greatest accomplishment as two-fold. First, setting the vision for the role technology can play to enhance our business and second, building a world-class technology team to carry out that vision. Since joining Hub Group in 2013, I'm proud to have built the team that led the technology transformation across all aspects of our company. This included foundational IT infrastructure and security, HR, finance, operations and industry leading mobile solutions, including mobile apps and customer solutions for visibility and connectivity. Together, we executed a multi-year transformation where technology is a differentiator for Hub Group and our customers.



ANSON JOHNSON
VP & CIO
United States Gypsum

As vice president and CIO for USG Corporation, **Anson Johnson** is responsible for the development and execution of the company's IT strategy. He oversees a team of more than 170 with accountability for USG's IT architecture and risk management, IT program management, digital innovation, customer-facing systems and end-user support. Prior to joining USG in 2013 as director, IT, he held leadership roles with Stericycle and Waste Management. He also has a master's degree in strategic communication from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree in business from North Central College.



SUCCESS STORY

I'm proud that through all the challenges 2021 brought, USG's IT team helped lead our employees, customers and business to success. We're proud of our seat at the leadership table because it demonstrates how we've earned trust, developed leaders with grit, shown a commitment to our employees and delivered business value. I believe we have a truly great IT team who are not just technical experts, but also strong communicators, strategic partners and business leaders solving real problems and driving the future of our company.



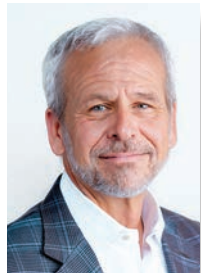
ANUPAM KHARE
SVP & CIO
Oshkosh Corporation

By serving as Oshkosh Corporation's senior vice president and CIO, a position he was appointed to in April 2018, **Anupam Khare** has responsibility for all digital technology efforts, in order to support the company's business growth and innovation efforts. In this role, he leads Oshkosh's Intelligent enterprise agenda, which includes data science and A.I. practice, digital manufacturing, cybersecurity and technology shared services to drive technology-enabled business transformation. Prior to joining Oshkosh, he served as the executive director of United Technologies Corporation, and also held various positions at DuPont and Koch Industries within the United States and Asia.



SUCCESS STORY

My greatest accomplishment has been to transform IT into a customer obsessive, agile, business-impacting and entrepreneurial organization by increasing our operating income and productivity. When I joined Oshkosh, IT was seen as a support function and a cost to manage. With my leadership, we proved that IT can solve real business challenges and provides a competitive advantage. To execute, I built an inclusive IT culture, modernized systems and optimized spending to invest in innovative digital capabilities, such as Advanced Analytics, Intelligent Automation and Digital Manufacturing. Today, these capabilities are unlocking significant value and underpinning the company's top strategic business initiatives.



**DR. KEVIN
LOWELL**
SVP, IT
U.S. Cellular

As senior vice president of IT, **Kevin Lowell** ensures that UScellular's information systems support a first-class wireless experience for customers, as he oversees all areas of IT, including application development and delivery, infrastructure, enterprise analytics and cybersecurity. Prior to his current position, he served as vice president of engineering and network operations. In that role, he was responsible for ensuring the superior quality of UScellular's high-speed network so that customers have an excellent wireless experience. Before joining UScellular in 2003, he also held various leadership positions for Sprint PCS, including director of network field operations.



SUCCESS STORY

My greatest accomplishment is in creating and sustaining an inclusive and diverse culture where people can do great work in service of something bigger than themselves. Here's what we did: We created a program for aspiring leaders, and the results have been outstanding. To date, almost half of our graduates are BIPOC, and one-third are female. And more than 20 percent have been promoted to leadership roles. I'm very proud that we've created an environment where folks are respected, included, valued and empowered to make a positive difference every day.



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BRAD BODELL
SVP & CIO
Trustmark

When **Bradley Bodell** joined Trustmark as CIO in May 2018, he brought a transformation focus that has helped it prosper throughout major shifts in the IT landscape. His priority was to bring the 108-year-old company forward by focusing on data and digital transformation, risk reduction, operational excellence, cost optimization and IT talent excellence. Among his priorities for 2022 are the individual development of IT associates, along with further improving Trustmark's security and stability. He earned a Master of Management from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, and a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering from Northwestern University.



SUCCESS STORY

My greatest accomplishment has been to increase the professionalism of the IT organization at Trustmark. Prior to my joining, we had a series of large project failures and were perceived as order takers. Since then, I have hired strong leaders in information security and software engineering, and restructured the role of others. We have focused on taking accountability for our work, measuring our performance and empowering our team. We have seen success along several factors. Most importantly, we are now delivering on our commitments. In addition, we are now providing technology thought leadership and improving IT associate engagement.



HEATHER BUNYARD
CIO
Cision

Heather Bunyard joined Cision in 2021 as CIO, where she brings more than 25 years of IT leadership experience. She is responsible for company-wide technology, while leveraging innovative digital solutions to create outstanding experiences for employees and customers. In addition, she is the executive sponsor of Empower, the women's employee resource group at Cision. Prior to Cision, she was the CIO at Global Experience Specialists, where she defined and led the company's technology vision and digital transformation efforts. Beforehand, she served as portfolio manager, as part of Amgen's Full Potential Program.



SUCCESS STORY

Cision helps brands tell their story and understand the impact they make in the world. This year, to help us succeed, I have concentrated on building an IT team that is able to accelerate business transformation for our commercial organization. As part of this effort, I have promoted our top technologists to leadership roles, hired amazing new talent and engaged trusted strategic partners. My IT team is better positioned than ever to partner with the wider business to create value and deliver solutions that delight our employees and advance our customers' objectives.



MICHELLE KASSON
VP & CIO
The AZEK Company

Michelle Kasson joined The AZEK Company as CIO in December 2019 and is based at the company's Chicago headquarters. Her primary responsibility is in regards to the IT strategy, services and operations across the entire AZEK portfolio of companies and brands. She will lead the development of IT solutions to further drive efficiencies, accelerate innovation and promote operational excellence. Additionally, she has more than 25 years of corporate IT experience, spanning the consumer product goods, food and pharmaceutical industries. Most recently, she served as IT director at the J.M. Smucker Company for 11 years.



SUCCESS STORY

A senior officer said, "You must be proud of what your team has accomplished." Before my arrival, leadership discussed IT frequently, not positively. Now, they don't account for IT blocking corporate plans. The maturity, stability and teamwork of IT is my proudest accomplishment. The technology and process discipline has become an enabler to the growth strategy. IT Controls removed a material weakness, strengthening shareholder confidence in financial records. Infrastructure enabled remote work and capitalized on consumer demand for outdoor living, delivering record sales. Production lines were installed, despite global supply chain disruption. I look forward to the innovation to come!



CHRIS WALTER
SVP & CIO
Central Garden & Pet Company

In his role, **Chris Walter** oversees Central Garden & Pet Company's digital and technical operations, information services, thereby ensuring alignment across the company's technology platforms. A data-driven and innovative leader, he is committed to driving transformative change and unlocking revenue potential across Central's portfolio of brands and businesses. Over his 16-year tenure, he has led many of Central's strategic technology initiatives, including retiring over 30 ERP systems across the company's businesses and launching its B2B e-commerce platform. Prior to joining Central, Chris spent nine years in the Price Waterhouse/PricewaterhouseCoopers management consulting practice, where he served several global clients.



SUCCESS STORY

Central Garden & Pet has grown through 80-plus acquisitions of all sizes. In 2005, I was hired to consolidate the back-end systems across the company. Over my 16 years at Central, we have deployed SAP 17 times and Central has never missed an order. This has positioned Central to standardize their supply chain footprint, reduce risk and consolidate technology support instead of managing 43 different ERP systems. I attribute our success to the single team atmosphere we have created and our philosophy to use work to get people done instead of using people to get work done.



JANET ZELENKA
EVP, CFO & CIO
Stericycle Inc.

Janet Zelenka was named executive vice president and CFO of Stericycle Inc. on June 1, 2019, and assumed the additional responsibilities of CIO on June 28, 2020. She is responsible for the financial management of Stericycle, while also advancing its technology-enabled transformation. Additionally, she has a strong breadth of expertise across corporate finance, accounting, IT and operations. Before joining Stericycle, she spent 15 years with Essendant Inc., most recently serving as CFO until the company's acquisition by Sycamore Partners. While at Essendant, she also served five years in the roles of CIO and senior vice president of business integration.



SUCCESS STORY

My success story is grounded in a commitment to service. I am proud to work at Stericycle, where, as a regulated medical waste services provider, we protect health and well-being by helping our customers safely dispose of potentially infectious medical waste. I have achieved professional success as both a CFO and CIO of two public companies, but what matters most is making the world a better place. As a trustee of Rockford University, I have worked to advance technology's positive impact on education and sponsored the establishment of an Esports team and technology sports center on campus.



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Raj Sampooram
Chief Information Officer

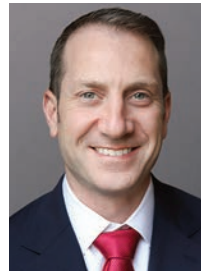
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ERIC LEVIN
Managing Director & CTO
GCM Grosvenor

GCM GROSVENOR

As managing director and CTO, **Eric Levin** is responsible for overseeing the strategic implementation of technology and information systems for the firm. Prior to joining GCM Grosvenor, he spent 13 years at PEAK6 Investments, most recently serving as CIO of Apex Clearing, PEAK6's clearing, custody and execution business. He was also an operating principal on the firm's strategic capital team and served on the investment committee, which was responsible for strategic investments made across financial services, technology services and FinTech. In addition, he received his Bachelor of Science in management information systems from Miami University.

SUCCESS STORY

My greatest accomplishment since joining GCM Grosvenor in February 2020 has been redefining what is possible and opening eyes to rapid innovation. With the sudden onset of the global pandemic just weeks after I joined, we were forced to change our approach to problem definition and solutioning to achieve agility and improved velocity. We needed to implement change faster than we were accustomed to. In our response to the pandemic, we redefined how teams throughout the organization partnered with technology. This evolved operating model led to rapid decision making, rapid innovation, rapid change and a culture of high trust.



BROCK MORRISON
CIO
Sasser Family Companies

SASSER
FAMILY COMPANIES

Brock Morrison is the CIO for Sasser Family Companies (Sasser), a fourth-generation, family-owned transportation asset services and management company headquartered in Schaumburg, Ill. Sasser's subsidiary business units include Falcon Lease, Chicago Freight Car Leasing, Union Leasing, Express 4x4 Truck Rental, CF Rail Services, Xc d Aviation Services and NxGen Rail. As an award-winning digital business leader who brings over 20 years of technology experience to Sasser's leadership team, he has full leadership responsibility for the company's IT services, systems and resources, and reports directly to Sasser's CEO, Jeff Walsh. Before joining Sasser, he was vice president, IT for FreightCar America.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2021, Sasser subsidiary Chicago Freight Car Leasing (CFCL) and Sasser IT won the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association's Operations and Technology Excellence Award for replacing their legacy operating systems with an in-house cloud-based system. Rail360. CFCL can now serve its customers in real-time, having all necessary information easily accessible within one system. The efficiency improvements enable substantial growth in business without the need for additional headcount. CFCL's Rail360 is an excellent representation of Sasser IT's strategic mission of providing our businesses with best-in-class products and services that deliver strategic value and enable growth opportunities and competitive advantages.



BECKY NELSON
CIO
RPS

RPS RISK PLACEMENT SERVICES

Becky Nelson is the CIO of RPS (Risk Placement Services), a Gallagher Corporation division. She joined RPS in January 2020. Since that time, she has taken on leadership roles of increasing importance in technology. She has been a champion and self-starter of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). In addition, she is responsible for leading RPS's technology team, which implements key initiatives, while also running business projects and Insurtech endeavors. She also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University and a Master of Business Administration from The Keller Graduate School of Management.

SUCCESS STORY

Revitalizing the culture of the RPS IT organization to deliver business value to our primary customers more effectively has been key. When I became the CIO, I made changes to become more than just "the sum of our parts". The RPS IT team supports an unusually broad and diverse set of applications, especially with M&A as a key driver of growth. The changes aligned IT to be more effective internally, and to partner more effectively externally, with the business through aligned outcomes.



AUGUSTUS OAKES
CIO
ATI Physical Therapy

ATI
PHYSICAL THERAPY

Augustus Oakes serves as ATI's CIO, a role he assumed in August 2020. Prior to that, he served as interim CIO and was also the company's vice president of business technology, a role he assumed in 2018 when he first joined ATI. As CIO, he oversees all critical IT functions, including business applications, technology services, interoperability, IT security, and cloud and digital technologies. Along with his team, he has also worked diligently over the last two years to modernize and re-tool ATI's IT capability and infrastructure, utilizing novel cloud and digital technologies to help support ATI's growth and operational efficiencies.

SUCCESS STORY

My biggest accomplishment was delivering a total technology transformation for ATI, which has positioned us to now focus on digital capabilities to drive revenue, reduce cost and enable an exceptional customer experience for our providers, partners and patients. Our transformation success resulted from a well-defined strategy to deliver incremental value, followed by focused execution from a highly engaged and dedicated team—all while reducing operating budgets and going public. This a huge win for ATI, all external stakeholders and our IT team. I am very proud of this accomplishment and so thankful for a winning, high-performing team!



MICHAEL PEGUES
CIO
City of Aurora,
Illinois Government

AURORA
ILLINOIS

In 2018, CIO **Michael Pegues** led the charge to have the City of Aurora (Illinois) named as a finalist for the Smart Cities Council Readiness Challenge 2018 and Top 100 Finalist for the Chicago Innovation Awards 2018, in partnership with Smart Cities Connect, Smart Cities Connect Foundation and US Ignite. The partnership annually recognizes global smart cities projects, honoring the most innovative and influential work that occurs in the United States. Additionally, in 2019, he was nationally nominated IoT World Series Smart Cities Summit Leader of the Year, while also receiving two distinct Smart 50 Awards.



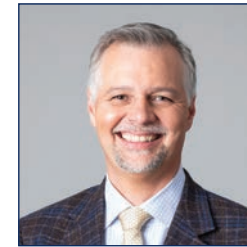
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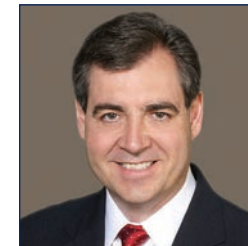
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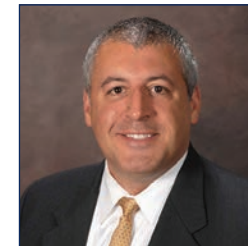
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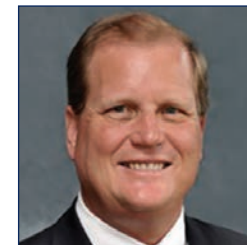
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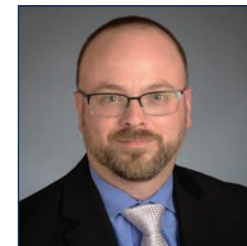
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KIRAN ACHEN
SVP & CIO
Tokio Marine
Highland

As CIO, **Kiran Achen** is responsible for defining and implementing a technology strategic vision aligned to Tokio Marine Highland's growth and performance goals. He has oversight of the company's technology organization, along with all technology initiatives. Prior to joining Tokio Marine Highland, he was assistant vice president in the IT organization of CNA, as he focused on strategy, roadmaps, IT modernization and simplification, digital innovation, customer experience and cloud computing. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a master's degree in computer science from Northern Illinois University.



SUCCESS STORY

I joined Tokio Marine Highland (TMH) in 2018 with the challenge of transforming a family-run business that had traditionally under invested in technology to a data- and analytics-driven digital insurer. To date, our IT organization has been instrumental in delivering solutions that have grown TMH from \$165 million in gross written premium (GWP) in 2017 to \$322 million GWP in 2021. Our transformative efforts to modernize our infrastructure have also paid dividends, enabling all of TMH to shift to remote work within 24 hours of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic with zero impact to business operations.



SUNITHA CHAMARTI
CIO,
ReedGroup,
Guardian

As a highly versatile senior executive with experience and enthusiasm to be a catalyst for a strategic agenda, **Sunitha Chamarti** has a proven track record in aligning business strategy, innovation and technology, while also balancing the assessment of IT's effectiveness to deliver business benefits. With extensive experience in managing cross-functional teams, she is a champion of people-first culture, as she also promotes innovation, transparency and accountability. In addition, she has broad industry experience in transportation, utilities, retail, insurance and banking, along with a wide range of international experience across Asia Pacific, Europe, Canada and South America.



SUCCESS STORY

2021 was a challenging year with COVID-19 surge claim volumes, heightened cybersecurity and ransomware challenges, work-life balance and the Great Resignation. In the midst of these challenges, my technology teams rose to the occasion and delivered to several key business mandates. Digital transformation and automation, building resilient and secure solutions to protect client data, developing additional revenue growth capabilities and providing stable customer service delivery were amongst the key highlights.



JOLANTA POMIOTLO
Sr. Director of
Technology
PRA

Jolanta Pomiotlo is an accomplished IT executive with many years of distinguished performance in a multitude of industries. Her portfolio of achievements includes managing innovative million-dollar technology initiatives aimed at reducing operating costs, improving profit and growing revenue. She also helps organizations manage their technology departments and has focused her professional career on assisting companies to leverage technology to meet their ever-changing business demands. Additionally, she has extensive experience optimizing technology projects for cost, quality and timely delivery. Throughout her career in technology, she has also had the opportunity to work at many companies, including Gateway, Cardinal Health and Kaplan.



SUCCESS STORY

I joined PRA in 2018 to transform the technology department and implement IT best practices, enabling PRA to scale successfully and properly integrate our many acquisitions. Over the past 3.5 years, my team and I have worked hard to select top-tier cloud systems and to standardize our IT solutions and processes across our 29 offices. We implemented best-in-class systems, QA environments, DR solutions and improved security measures. We have built a service-oriented department, which now has an overall internal satisfaction rate of 98.2 percent. All the improvements were a team effort and I am thankful for my PRA colleagues.



MARCIO RIBEIRO
Chief Digital &
Information Officer
Dom's Kitchen & Market

An accomplished business and technology executive, **Marcio Ribeiro** has 25-plus years of experience leading change and digital transformation in various companies. His versatile career includes two decades in the fast-paced spirits and wine industry, along with seven years in the gold and silver mining industry. Furthermore, since 2020, he has served as chief digital and information officer in a food retail startup, which is creating a new standard for the meal shopping experience. A native of Brazil, he also has a vast international background and deep understanding of the significance of geographic and cultural diversity, leading to successful business operations.



SUCCESS STORY

My greatest accomplishment as chief digital and information officer was to successfully expand the CIO role beyond providing reliable technology infrastructure and system to support the business operation, taking the responsibility to drive revenue generation through digital channels, including e-commerce, Loyalty Program and digital customer experience. The significance of this accomplishment is to show the transformation of the technology leadership (CIO) role into a strategic "revenue generating" business role, which requires a completely new mindset and attitude, but is extremely rewarding. Nowadays, technology is the business.



KADER SAKKARIA
Chief Digital &
Technology Officer
Ruffalo Noel Levitz

Prior to joining RNL, **Kader Sakkaria** oversaw strategic technology and digital transformation initiatives across Cartus/Realogy. Previously, he was the head of business, technology and portfolio management at BMO Harris Bank. He has also led large-scale technology transformation initiatives for Fortune 500 companies like Deloitte and Accenture. Additionally, he was the country head for TransUnion in South Asia, and has led PMO and offshore delivery centers at organizations like State Farm. He earned his master's in computer science from the University of Madras (India) and Master of Business Administration in global management from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



SUCCESS STORY By leading digital transformation at RNL, I've enabled the company (and the higher education institutions it serves) to be more agile, efficient and effective. I've also moved RNL from a project- to a product-centered organization, following a Plan-Build-Run technology model. This change has fostered new ideas, brought innovation to market faster and instilled a fail-fast mindset for staff. Additionally, I've implemented an Agile Transformation Office to coach and manage SCRUM-based delivery and measure IT productivity. And I've implemented changes in design thinking and vendor consolidation along with cloud migration to Azure—positively impacting product strategy, ROI and next-generation analytics establishment.



RAJ SAMPOORNAM
SVP & CIO
Byline Bank

Raj Sampooranam has more than 25 years of leadership experience in IT. His expertise spans multiple industries, including financial services, manufacturing, market research and legal. Additionally, his professional passion stems from applying technology and data solutions to improve business efficiency, solve enterprise issues, enhance competitive differentiation, improve team collaboration and increase overall revenues. He joined Byline Bank in 2017 as director of enterprise applications and analytics and was promoted to senior vice president and CIO in 2018. In his current role, he is responsible for setting Byline's IT vision and strategy, as well as its digital strategy.



SUCCESS STORY

I was incredibly proud when my team developed an innovative and automated solution to rapidly process Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan applications during the pandemic. This solution helped the timely processing of more than 6,600 customer applications that resulted in the approval of over \$965 million in loans, which helped save more than 56,000 jobs across numerous industries in our communities. My team collaborated with business units across the organization to provide our customers access to PPP loans at a time when people needed it the most, exemplifying our Bank's vision—"Be the bank our customers deserve."

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CONGRATULATIONS, GUS!



ATI Physical Therapy would like to congratulate Chief Information Officer Augustus "Gus" Oakes for being named a CIO of the Year finalist for the second consecutive year.

The ATI team recognizes Oakes' leadership in technology, innovation and vision and his invaluable role in helping us deliver exceptional patient outcomes every day.

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