

— 2024 —  
FLORIDA  
**ORBIE**  
AWARDS

The annual Florida ORBIE® Awards honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate, & Education categories will be announced January 26 at Signia by Hilton Bonnet Creek.



**LEADERSHIP  
RECIPIENT**

Dale Johnston on  
mentorship and building  
an IT community. **PG 4**



**FROM THE CHAIRS**

Great CIOs know technology  
moves fast, and connected  
leaders move faster.  
**PG 3**



# CONGRATULATIONS 2024 FLORIDA ORBIE NOMINEES

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Guidewell & Florida Blue

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Ellucian

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Tampa General Hospital

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Ashley Furniture International

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**ERIC JOHNSON**  
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**DALE JOHNSTON**  
PGIM Real Estate

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BRP

**ANA KALMAN**  
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State University System of FL

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**KRISTEN LOWERS**  
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MIDFLORIDA

**SONNY MACKIC**  
Venus

**TANO MAENZA**  
National Air Cargo

**LANE MCCONNELL**  
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Dream Finders Homes

**BRAD WALTON**  
Crowley

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Mosaic

**GLENN ZIMMERMAN**  
Sarasota County, FL

**RYAN ZOU**  
PAX Global Technology



2024 ORBIE AWARDS



FROM THE CHAIRS

Great CIOs know technology moves fast,  
and connected leaders move faster.

CentralFloridaCIO and NorthFloridaCIO bring together the preeminent CIOs from Florida’s largest organizations to enhance leadership effectiveness, create value, mitigate risks, and share successes. Member-led, non-commercial programs foster meaningful professional relationships, enabling collaboration on shared challenges to gain leadership advantage.

There is no textbook for how to be a great CIO. Leaders sharpen professional acumen through peer collaboration with others facing similar challenges. While industries and organizations vary in CentralFloridaCIO and NorthFloridaCIO, successful leadership approaches are universal.

Members understand the “superpower” of trusted relationships. In any gathering of CIOs, the answer is in the room. Through regular member-led events and interactions, the collective power of executives working together generates immense value. Everyone wins when ideas, experiences, and best practices are shared in a collaborative

and secure group.


CentralFloridaCIO and NorthFloridaCIO connect CIOs to 1,300 lifelong learners across 30 chapters in the Inspire Leadership Network. From public and private companies to government, education, healthcare, and nonprofits, we exist to help members succeed in one of the most demanding C-suite executive roles.

The principles serving CIOs for over 25 years are now available to CISOs as the Inspire Leadership Network expands, with six chapters exclusively for CISOs launching in 2024.

The leadership of CIOs transforming organizations in Florida is recognized through the ORBIE® Awards. On behalf of CentralFloridaCIO and NorthFloridaCIO, we congratulate all the nominees and finalists for their remarkable achievements. A special thank you to the sponsors, underwriters, and staff for making the Florida ORBIE® Awards possible.



**Mike Schmidt**  
2024 Chair, CentralFloridaCIO  
Chief Information Officer, Audit & Insurance, Deloitte



**Craig Pichanick**  
2024 Chair, NorthFloridaCIO  
Chief Information Officer, Ventra Health





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## 2024 ORBIE AWARDS



## 2024 LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT

# Dale Johnston

Global Chief Information Officer | PGIM Real Estate

## Leadership Award recipient on mentorship and building an IT community

By The Business Journals Content Studio

For close to 25 years, Dale Johnston has performed IT services for commercial real estate companies. He currently serves as the global chief information officer for PGIM Real Estate, a position he's held for close to one year. Prior to that, Johnston was the CIO at Regency Centers for 10 years.

"I love technology," Johnston said, "and I love the complexity of commercial real estate — the different ways companies and tenants use the space and the ways landlords or investors have to position their space differently based on that use. It gives a real sophistication to the industry and you can never learn it all. It's a dynamic environment. The technology, with all its nuances, is constantly changing."

As the third-largest real estate investment manager in the world, PGIM Real Estate has 35 offices throughout the U.S. and in London, Tokyo and Mexico City. To manage the technology for this global organization, Johnston oversees an IT team of 43 full-time employees across the world.

"Long ago, I gave up the hands-on aspects of IT," Johnston said. "Over time, I've honed my skills as a leader. The most important part of my job is

growing people by effective coaching, delivering results with them and developing financial- or business-minded people."

Leading a global team across multiple time zones and a variety of cultures can be a challenge. But Johnston points out, despite the location, it comes down to caring. "The bottom line is, as a leader, if you reach out and personally care about people and show them you want the best for them, they'll respond in the same way. You can apply this principal globally."

For Johnston, making the real estate experience smoother through technology is about chipping away to make the environment a little better every day. There's no big bang for technology in real estate.

"Every day, when you issue a new release of software or install a new web page or make a new database that improves the reporting of business metrics, the employees get a little bit better at their jobs," Johnston said.

For the impact he has had over the course of his career, Johnston has been selected as the Leadership Award recipient as part of the 2024 Florida ORBIE Awards. The program honors current or former chief information officers who have a proven track record of successful technology

leadership, made significant contributions to the Florida technology and business community and inspired others through their personal, professional and civic contributions.

### How mentorship and building a community can help other IT professionals

A defining moment of Johnston's career centers on the mentorship role he plays. Johnston's passion for helping others started when he was on the receiving end. Early in his career, Johnston worked for the real estate division of a Toronto bank. One of the bank's finance leaders took Johnston under his wing, educating him about rent roles and their technology needs. Now, 25 years later, he is still a mentor to Johnston.

"It's important for me to do that for others," Johnston said.

In the last six years of Johnston's tenure at Regency Centers, the company developed a work experience program with the University of North Florida. During that time, he shepherded 70-80 people through the program, helping them determine what they wanted their career in technology to be.

"That was a big moment for me in my career and continues to be a passion I pursue at PGIM Real Estate. It

will be done in a different way, but I know I want to continue to give back."

In addition to serving as a mentor, Johnston makes contributions to the Jacksonville technology and business communities.

"It's important for me to share my knowledge with others in the community," Johnston said. "Keeping that knowledge to myself does not give my company a competitive advantage."

When Johnston arrived in Jacksonville in 2012, he joined the Jacksonville IT Council, helping with community events to showcase technology in the area. He's been a leader on the Jacksonville CIO Council and a member of InspireCIO. He's continued the practice of networking, sharing what's worked and what hasn't worked with others, asking questions of them and building a leadership community focused on sharing for the benefit of everyone.

Part of how Johnston became a successful leader was by leveraging friendships — legitimate, lifelong friends who do the same job in other areas of the country or the world.

"It's important getting to know people and networking with them and sharing," Johnston said. "When you build those connections, we can all help each other."



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Congratulations to the Florida  
2024 CIO of the Year  
Award Winners and Nominees



# GLOBAL FINALISTS

OVER \$1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS



2024  
ORBIE  
AWARDS



**Erika Graziuso**  
CIO, Crowley



Erika Graziuso is Crowley’s Chief Information Officer, leading the company’s Technology, Data and Digital agenda and developing transformative information technology across Crowley’s global enterprise. Prior to joining Crowley, Erika served as Global Chief Information Officer for LHH, and Group SVP, Digital and Technology, both under Adecco Group, leading the development and implementation of its digital transformation efforts. Erika holds a master’s degree in financial institutions from Bocconi University in Milan, Italy.

SUCCESS STORY

Creating an inclusive talented organization that empowers digital and technology transformation enabling business strategy by building foundations to create a legacy for next generations to come. My greatest accomplishment is to have made myself “almost” redundant, by spotting and promoting talents who have the attitude, frameworks, governance, best practices to execute the long term strategy.



**Jamie Jamieson**  
Global CIO,  
Primo Water Corporation



Management Executive with over 25 years experience in leadership, team development and information technology supporting the Retail, CPG and Manufacturing environments. Proactive approach to organizational development with track record of building successful, high performing organizations. Focused on ensuring alignment between Business Goals and Technology Services that deliver value, functionality and performance. Dedicated professional committed to meeting and exceeding goals and objectives with Board reporting experience and as a member of various Advisory Councils.

SUCCESS STORY

We have made significant progress in multiple areas. Our Customer Experience initiatives have delivered a new Mobile Application, New Websites and Salesforce enabled CRM and Marketing capabilities. In our Operational Excellence world we have delivered Advanced Route Optimization for our fleet of 2500+ vehicles reducing mileage while improving service, a new Demand Planning Platform to help with inventory and we are currently deploying a Supply Planning platform to help drive production needs. Through Foundational Architecture (FA) initiatives have delivered a UCaaS to all locations, deployed Data Visualization through Tableau, and several significant Information Security platforms to protect the environment.



**Matt Johnson**  
EVP & CIO,  
Ashley Furniture Industries



Innovative, strategic and influential technology executive with 25 years of experience leveraging technology to deliver organizational goals as a senior leader, combined with more than 30 years of experience in retail, manufacturing, supply chain and financial services. Currently, EVP and CIO for Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc., the world’s largest furniture manufacturer. Responsible for technology and services for all aspects of the enterprise globally. This includes manufacturing, supply chain, retail, corporate, analytics and I&O technologies.

SUCCESS STORY

I am tremendously honored to lead Ashley Information Technology. How fortunate am I to not only work for the world leader in the furniture industry, but also the amazing opportunity to collaborate with an amazing executive team lead by our CEO Todd Wanek and his father Chairman Ron Wanek. Rod and Todd are the best mentors I’ve ever had and can’t thank them enough. I look back on my career in technology, I am proud of my accomplishments, but most importantly are my friends and colleagues with which I’ve had the honor to work with.



**Tano Maenza**  
CIO, National Air Cargo



Tano is the CIO of National Air Cargo, a global cargo freight solution provider with a portfolio of supply chain services. Tano is leading a significant Digital Transformation for the business in order to modernize and digitize business processes and applications. Tano previously served as the Enterprise IT Digital Transformation Program Director at Lockheed Martin, a CIO at GE & Emerson Electric. Tano is married with two grown children living in Atlanta and New York City.

SUCCESS STORY

National Air Cargo has decided to reinvest in their overall IT strategy in an effort to become a preferred partner for our customers to deliver an “Amazon-like” experience with our logistics company. I as the CIO have set the vision and the IT team, working alongside with the business, has successfully migrated 95%+ of the business to the Cloud, including a 650,000 lines-of-code legacy application that runs critical operations for the business. This new Cloud-native ecosystem is now ready to be extended out to our customers, partners and suppliers in order to further extend the reach of our Digital Transformation.



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# LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2024  
ORBIE  
AWARDS



**Scott  
Arnold**

**EVP, CIO &  
Chief of Innovation,  
Tampa General Hospital**



Scott Arnold joined the senior leadership team of Tampa General Hospital in 2010 and currently serves as Executive Vice President – Chief Digital and Innovation Officer. Prior to Tampa General, Scott served as Vice President for Mercy Health and held leadership positions with Daleen Technologies, Boeing and McDonnell Douglas Aerospace. Scott serves on the Board of Directors for multiple entities under Florida Health Sciences Center, Inc. and a Board Member for the Tampa Bay Humane Society.

**SUCCESS STORY**

In the last 5 years, the IT team has laid the foundation to grow revenue by over \$2B through significant expansion of oncology services, urology, GI, surgery practices an imaging business and multiple partnerships. We recently acquired three hospitals north of Tampa and have been preparing to implement nearly forty-five systems in less than twelve months to support clinical expansion and growth. While our activity and growth has been accretive, the most satisfying part of the work is the sense of accomplishment felt by the team knowing they have expanded critical healthcare services to our community.



**Shawn  
Harrs**

**SVP & CIO,  
Red Lobster**



Shawn Harrs is a technology transformation and change leader with experience in Financial Services, Manufacturing, Consumer Packaged Goods, Retail, Supply Chain, Travel & Hospitality sectors. With 10 years of executive experience spanning from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies, Shawn Harrs is skilled at bridging the gap between business and technology strategy and solutions to drive revenue and growth initiatives. Shawn Harrs has a strong history of servant leadership in building, growing, and retaining high performing teams.

**SUCCESS STORY**

My success is centered on the great accomplishments and effort of my team. Under my leadership, my team has brought about the transformation of our digital guest and employee experiences through active collaboration with the business to drive a technology strategy that has brought innovation to our guest and employee experiences, operational efficiency, and profitability. Under my leadership, the IT function has shifted from simply being a business enabler to that of being a driving IT organization that enables growth for the company.



**Aaron  
Miri**

**SVP, CDO & CIO  
Baptist Health**



Aaron Miri is the Senior Vice President and Chief Digital and Information Officer of Baptist Health. He is responsible for creating the future of Baptist Health from an information technology perspective, with an emphasis on digital strategy. Miri has more than 20 years of health care and technology experience, including serving as CIO for health systems in Texas, most recently The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School and UT Health Austin.

**SUCCESS STORY**

In the two years since joining Baptist, our team’s accomplishments have been remarkable. Starting with the ethos of “listen, respect, engage,” the team has achieved incredible results, including Epic implementation and 10 Gold Stars recognition, CHIME Most Wired Level 10, opening new hospitals and facilities, piloting a private large language model through OpenAI, and deploying virtual desktop infrastructure to improve login speeds for physicians. This is all while being recognized as Computerworld Best Place to Work in IT and continuing to focus on improving DE&I and Employee Satisfaction goals.



**Joyce  
Oh**

**CIO, Moffitt Cancer  
Center**



Joyce Oh is CIO of Moffitt Cancer Center, Florida’s only NCI-designated cancer center and the 3rd largest academic cancer center in the country. Joyce oversees all aspects of technology including applications, infrastructure, strategy, cybersecurity, scientific computing, and application development. Bringing over twenty-five years of IT experience across multiple industries to the role, Joyce’s mission is to ensure that technology is a key enabler and contributor to Moffitt’s mission for the prevention and cure of cancer.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Moffitt Cancer Center has an incredible IT team I proudly lead. With Digital as an organizational strategy, IT has tremendous opportunity to impact both patient care and research discovery.

A recent IT success is the opening of Moffitt McKinley Hospital. This cutting-edge facility, designed for paperless operations, utilizes innovative technology to reduce clinician burden, create a patient-centric digital experience, and enable virtual care. Ironically, the most inspiring aspect of the project had nothing to do with technology. It was knowing that one of the first patients is a former Moffitt IT employee.

This is why we do what we do.



**Scott  
Walker**

**VP of Technology,  
Dream Finders Homes (fmr)**



Scott Walker began his career as an Infantry officer in the United States Army. After moving to Jacksonville with his wife in 2002, he began working with a technology company managing small businesses. From there he moved to Distribution, Commercial Construction, Mortgage, Enterprise Finance focusing on Identity Security at Deutsche Bank and Storage with Bank of America. He is back in construction as the technology lead for Dream Finders Homes – a top national residential homebuilder.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Scott Walker has taken management to heart throughout his career. He began leading soldiers in the United States Army and started his technology career while in the military. He has put his technology skills to work not only nationally but across four different continents over his career. Understanding technology and adapting to new industries, he has been able to scale from small bookstores to enterprise finance, with many other industries in between. He is currently the technology lead for Dream Finders Homes where he and his team are focusing on improving infrastructure, process and operational efficiencies wherever possible.





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# ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$550 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2024  
ORBIE  
AWARDS



**Brian Ellison**

CIO, Stellar



As CIO at Stellar, with a career foundation spanning from Help Desk to Architect, Brian brings a wealth of experience including his tenure as IT Director at The St. Joe Company. Brian has contributed to cloud management and mobile wellness startups, earning two patents. Beyond technology, Brian dedicates himself to community through prison ministry and men’s discipleship, supported by a strong family bond with his wife of thirty years and three sons.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Since 1985, Stellar has grown into a global solutions provider with over 750 professionals. Under my leadership, we champion innovations like BIM, VR, RPA and digital transformation, ranking top in the nation’s design-build firms.

My amazing team of compassionate capable individuals committed to each other, and our customers is central to our success. Our agility was evident when we seamlessly transitioned the business to a fully remote workforce in under a week during the pandemic.

Looking ahead, I target leveraging generative AI to optimize operations and adopt a zero-trust security framework to ensure Stellar’s enduring legacy in the digital age.



**Raj Kalahasthi**

CDO & CIO,  
Baldwin Risk Partners



Our biggest success lies in building a talented and passionate team; creating a thriving environment where they exceed their potential! We’ve transitioned technology to be a strategic function & embedded technology into the business positively impacting client, colleague experience, and business results. I am privileged to contribute to BRP’s exceptional culture by forging robust partnerships, implementing effective delivery methods for industry-leading performance & innovating to unlock value across the insurance value chain. The success is a true reflection of the team’s energy, commitment-together, we’ve celebrated wins, learned from setbacks, & excited for our continued pursuit to be the insurance brokerage of the future.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Raj Kalahasthi joined BRP as CDIO in 2021 after his role at Comerica Bank as CIO for Retail & Wealth Management. Prior to that, he led technology teams at HSBC, Citi and GE & navigated companies,teams through intense periods of transformational change & growth.

Raj servers on advisory boards of product firms and active role in the CIO community. He volunteers with non-profit organizations focused on education and talent development. He holds an MBA from Univ of Michigan.



**Christine Moffett**

CIO, Technology & Innovation,  
Kessler Collection



Christine Moffett, CIO Technology & Innovation, Kessler Collection Luxury Boutique Hotels. 36 year IT career, 4xCIO, VP/CIO for Arizona Coyotes NHL, Arizona Diamondbacks MLB and NASCAR; Founder/CEO of SEAT:Sports & Entertainment Alliance in Technology championing tech innovation and thought-leadership across global sports & entertainment industry. Recent honors: Top 10 CIO’s Across Hospitality Industry; Top 10 Most Influential Business Leaders to Watch in 2022; 10 Most Inspiring CIO’s of 2021 and Top 100 Women in Technology Across the World.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Under Christine’s leadership, the Kessler IT Team has realized over \$451K in savings and operational efficiencies by defining & executing a strategic technology roadmap, implementing innovative technology solutions across the enterprise. Defined and executed a technology modernization strategy with successfully retiring 32 applications across the Kessler enterprise, streamlining business operations. Implemented 243 IT projects completed on-time/on-budget within 13 months. Defined and implemented a Zero Trust Security Architecture-Framework completing 29 cyber security related projects placing security as #1 priority to protect corporate data, systems, infrastructure and employees. Implemented M365/Office365 in 90 days streamlining to single platform for document sharing, video/communication and collaboration.



**Dave Patel**

SVP & CIO,  
FCCI Insurance Group



A forward-thinking, business-minded, and results-driven INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL with comprehensive global experience in IT strategy & planning, digital, customer experience, AI and IT consulting focused on Insurance Industry technology and operations implementation.

A strong background in domestic and international P&C insurance in sales, distribution, underwriting (pricing, rating, and analytics), claims, and F&A systems. Excels at partnering with business leaders, negotiating with vendors, and interacting with C-level IT and the user community.

**SUCCESS STORY**

As CIO, Dave consistently demonstrates exceptional leadership & a business owner mindset to drive FCCI’s strategic business roadmap and innovation. He continuously aligns his holistic vision within our industry’s technology and information systems field by addressing skillset gaps and delivering business outcomes.

Dave has led the business, IT, system integrators, and commercially available off-the-shelf software vendor teams to deliver vital programs. The programs include continuous delivery of new products, and coverages, & the adoption of regulatory changes for our agents and policyholders.



**Tom Seeker**

CIO, Earl Enterprises



Tom Seeker is a senior executive with 23+ years in the private sector, boasts diverse expertise in hospitality, manufacturing, and AV sectors. A Desert Storm veteran, he served 10 years in the US Navy as an Electronic Warfare Technician. Tom led technology departments for 23+ restaurant brands, including Toojay’s, Brio, Planet Hollywood. Now, as CIO of Earl Enterprises, he guides a team of professionals to achieve excellence across numerous brands, companies, and specialties.

**SUCCESS STORY**

When I assumed leadership at Earl Enterprises, I was tasked to revamp the team to streamline operations. I have worked along a technician since my earlier days at Toojays. This technician had numerous years as a restaurant manager. From starting as an analyst to emerging four years later as a highly effective Senior Director of IT.

He has leveraged his combined restaurant and IT expertise to bridge critical gaps and drive innovation. His journey from an analyst to a senior leadership position exemplifies our commitment to identifying and nurturing talent. Being a leader required you to train more leaders.



Ambitious goals for IT?  
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# LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

OVER \$400 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



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**Mike  
Giuli**

CIO, Cherry Bekaert  
Advisory LLC



Accomplished professional highly regarded for progressive experience in incorporating cutting-edge technologies to solve key business problems. Respected as a motivational, influential leader and collaborator who guides team members successfully in realizing operational objectives through flawless project management. Builds and maintains lasting relationships; drives stakeholder management through a people-focused approach. Out-of-the-box thought leader who is committed to strategic business issues and ensuring clients enjoy the best possible results.

SUCCESS STORY

Fifteen months ago, I thought I'd retired after a long, meaningful technology career in the professional services industry. While I still dream of being a CrossFit coach or the voice of a cartoon character, becoming CIO at Cherry Bekaert was the perfect opportunity to drive strategic growth and accelerate business transformation that came along at the right time in my career journey. Today, I'm implementing a technology vision inspired by my unique blend of personal experience in this industry for an organization that aligns with my values, with people who inspire me every day.



**Charles  
Harris Jr.**

VP, IT, Tampa Bay  
Buccaneers



Dr. Charles Harris Jr., PhD is the VP of Information Technology for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, having over 24 years of IT leadership experience. He has held IT roles in various sectors, including communications, transportation, healthcare, education, and non-profits. Charles holds a master's in Technology from Purdue University and a PhD in Modeling & Simulation from UCF Charles is married to Lori Pampilo Harris and has three children: Dr. Charles III MD, Cameron, and Zoe.

SUCCESS STORY

At first glance, Dr. Charles Harris's story doesn't reveal his path from teenage fatherhood and once a college dropout to leading an NFL team's technology division. His journey is a tribute to persistence. Overcoming hardships and beating the odds, he pursued education vigorously, obtaining a master's and a PhD. He continues to have an unwavering commitment to the pursuit of joy and success. His story is an inspiration, proving that obstacles can be stepping stones to success. It's a reminder of the power of resilience, learning, and the unwavering pursuit of dreams.



**Namita  
Jindal**

CIO, CentralSquare  
Technologies



Namita Jindal is an accomplished, strategic, and results-oriented technology executive with over 20 years of experience in technology, with an emphasis on process optimization, innovation, and digital transformation. Namita currently serves as the CIO of CentralSquare Technologies, where she leads a service-oriented team that partners with the business to move at the speed of business, driving collaboration and innovation to shape CST's digital future. Previously, Namita was the CIO of the Honeywell automation business entity.

SUCCESS STORY

As the CentralSquare CIO, Namita leverages her expertise and well-earned trust to lead change and execute a cohesive IT strategy aligned to CST's business needs and mission. The vision for the CST Digital Team is to drive business goals via technical thought leadership, innovation, transformation, and collaborative partnership. Namita led the culture of collaboration where formerly siloed IT leaders and business teams collaborate, plan and function as one team to deliver the benefits. The CST digital team has standardized service delivery practices, simplified the complex technology landscape, and modernized the technology stack to continue to meet the growing demand.



**Larry  
Roos**

VP, IT, NuCO2



Larry Roos is VP IT at NuCO2, the beverage carbonation unit of Linde (\$33B). Previously Larry was an VP IT at Disney Parks & Resorts (\$38B), VP IT at Bloomin Brands (1500 restaurants \$4B), VP IT Avon Products (\$11B), CIO & SVP e-Commerce FreshDirect Online Grocery Delivery and CIO at Burger King's Purchasing Company - Restaurant Services Inc.

SUCCESS STORY

NuCO2 is implementing a new Field Service Management System to optimize deliveries and installation of new products & services to our 168,000 customer locations from our 150+ depot locations in the USA.



**Christos  
Ruci**

CIO, Limbach Company



With two decades of experience as a business and technology leader and a strong background in sales and marketing, I am a versatile business technology executive. My expertise spans software and product development, IT operations, and business development. I specialize in delivering innovative technology solutions that drive profitability. I am a member of the CIO Board of Florida and a recipient of the Tampa Bay Business Journal CIO of the Year award.

SUCCESS STORY

One of my proudest achievements is helping develop our first technology offering for our clients. Having a background not only in tech, but also in sales and marketing, I was able to lead the team to develop the G2M strategy, sales engineering and formation of a two-way channel partnership building the foundation to bring Limbach' boots on the ground offerings to our channel partners. This innovative solution harvests our customer's facility analytics into a centralized platform, providing our clients with a single platform to provide better visibility into system performance and uncover inefficiencies beyond the capabilities of a typical BAS.



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# CORPORATE FINALISTS

UP TO \$400 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2024  
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AWARDS



**Tom Hughes**

IT Bureau Chief, Southwest Florida Water Management District



I have served in both the private and public sectors as a technology leader for more than 25 years as the CIO for an environmental organization with the State of Florida, the Executive Vice President and the CEO of technology consulting organizations and as a technology educator. I have undergraduate degrees in Accounting, Business Administration and Human Resources Management, completing an MA in Executive Leadership and am a Certified Government Chief Information Officer.

**SUCCESS STORY**

My story is one of personal commitment, drive, determination and hard work. I was raised in an enlisted military family with very limited resources but instilled a dedication to service, a solid work ethic and a personal drive to succeed. I am committed to improve operational efficiency and the ongoing journey toward performance excellence. I invest in my team and have a strong desire to see them be successful and achieve beyond their own expectations as I lead, coach, mentor and encourage them. My success and their success are ultimately our success. The best is yet to come.



**Colin Murphy**

CIO, KnowBe4



As the current CIO of a prominent global cybersecurity firm, I lead with passion and innovation. My role as a senior engineer and researcher with Mitnick Security reinforces my dedication to the field. I'm also an enterprising force in the SaaS and deregulation sectors, driving change and growth. I'm a maker, a devoted father, and a steadfast leader who deeply values my team's success and well-being.

**SUCCESS STORY**

In a remarkably short period, amidst numerous challenges and distractions, my team at KnowBe4 achieved a series of remarkable milestones that truly showcases our commitment to excellence and growth. One of our most significant feats was expertly navigating the complex landscape of IT transitions during our company's transformation from private to public through a highly successful IPO and later transitioning back to private via a PE buyout. This transition was seamless and demonstrated our team's adaptability and resilience. Next year we will be tackling a new GTM strategy that impacts hundreds of systems and processes. Onwards and Upwards!



**Craig Pichanick**

CIO, Ventra Health



I am a highly energetic CIO who takes extreme pride in delivering premium business value to my organization. This includes both cost management, technology guidance and direction, as well as relentless positive collaboration with my business stakeholders and technology teams. Envisioning & executing on the Art-f-Possible is also a core focus in my everyday life, with the purpose of ensuring my business delivers the best possible services to our customers.

**SUCCESS STORY**

I have had the honor of leading many incredible teams and am appreciative for the opportunities. In 2018 I was asked to take over IT leadership for a very established company who had the need to transform itself. This offered the opportunity to form a fantastic group of teams to completely transform an enterprise. Our ability to bring cutting edge technology to our industry has been a game changer. While this has been very successful, one of my biggest accomplishments has been to see my teams flourish in terms of value and personal growth. Proud owner of many preeminent teams!



**Adam Scheinberg**

VP, IT, Massey Services, Inc.



Since 2003, Adam Scheinberg has overseen technology at Massey Services. As VP of IT, Adam's been recognized in OBJ's 40-Under-40, Orlando Family Magazine's 2020 Supermen, and named "One to Watch" in OBJ's "50 Most Powerful in Orlando." Adam serves on the board of directors at Orlando Family Stage, Orlando Tech Council, The Mockingbird Foundation, and recently, as Chair of Leadership Orlando. He lives in Winter Park with his wife Jennifer and children, Jillian and Jack.

**SUCCESS STORY**

With data security standards surrounding payment processing rapidly growing more complex, Adam spearheaded an effort to modernize information security at Massey Services. Given the diverse footprint of Massey Services, ~200 offices, spread throughout many states, with limited physical security and only a handful of team members in each field office, IT led a conversion to a hardware-encrypted solution for credit, debit, and ACH transactions. Despite a large network utilizing many carriers and LECs across many states, the Massey security posture is now dramatically improved, with all customer payments end-to-end encrypted, protecting and securing the company's most precious data.



**Marcus Session**

VP, IT, Tampa International Airport



Marcus Session is the Vice President of Information Technology Services for Tampa International Airport (TPA). He is responsible for implementing innovative IT strategies that align with TPA's mission and developing and executing technology-based strategies to meet organizational goals. With more than 23 years of experience in IT across several industries he previously held several technology leadership roles over a 16-year career at the University of South Florida and has led TPA's ITS team since 2016.

**SUCCESS STORY**

We transformed the IT organization at Tampa International Airport to be more of a business partner by focusing on aligning with strategic business objectives. Empowering the IT staff to creatively solve problems, and creating a culture of collaboration, listening, and focusing on finding the best solutions has helped us be successful. Being responsible for the technology at "America's favorite airport" has been extremely rewarding to see us accomplish a lot of firsts in the airport industry like becoming the first full 5G airport, and sharing success with my team who see the positive impact their work has on our passengers.



**Darlene Williams**

Global SVP & CIO, Rocket Software



Darlene Williams joined Rocket Software as a transformational CIO in 2022, bringing more than 20 years of IT experience to the organization. She specializes in optimizing business practices, managing digital innovation transformation projects, and bottom-line improvement. Darlene has provided executive leadership for Fortune 500 companies in IT consulting, business services, and more. She was the president of an American Water subsidiary and, most recently, Operational Excellence Principal at Arisma Solutions serving large private equity customers.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Since joining Rocket Software, Darlene Williams led the company through its largest merger and acquisition in its 33+ year history, in addition to integrating systems and products of four additional companies, while delivering technology improvements and financial benefits.

Darlene is a key advisor to the CEO and has reimagined the IT organization based on her years of experience strategizing and delivering large-scale business and technology transformations across multiple industries. She has a growth mindset and leads with the company's values of empathy, humanity, trust, and love empowering her teams to deliver creative innovative outcomes for Rocket Software employees and customers.





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SCAN TO VIEW  
INTERACTIVE  
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# EDUCATION FINALISTS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS & HIGHER EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS



2024  
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**Jose Bernier, Ed.D**

Senior Associate VP for Technology & CIO, Stetson University



Jose Bernier is currently serving as Stetson University's Senior Associate Vice President and CIO. Previously he worked at the University of Florida, Saint Leo University, University of Hawai'i Maui College, and SUNY Orange Community College. Dr. Bernier holds a doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Florida, a Master's Degree in Management Information Systems from Florida International University, and a B.S. in Computer Engineering from the University of Central Florida.

SUCCESS STORY

In the challenging world of education, with declining enrolment due to changes in demographics and socio-economic environment. My team was able to navigate the COVID challenges of providing a flexible work environment where the community of students, faculty, and staff still felt part of Stetson. In a very short period of time, we adapted from being a residential campus with 3000 students roaming the campus on a daily basis to a hybrid, lecture-capture-rich learning space. We minimized the disruption to students providing a robust online presence that helped students, faculty, and staff to continue our teaching and learning journey.



**James Culbert**

CIO, Duval County Public Schools



James Culbert is the Chief Information Officer of Duval County Public Schools, the 20th largest school district in the nation. He leads the Technology Services department, which provides world-class IT solutions for over 125,000 students and 8,000 teachers. He has over 26 years of experience in IT leadership, management, and innovation.

SUCCESS STORY

James Culbert is the Chief Information Officer of Duval County Public Schools (DCPS), the 20th largest school district in the nation, serving over 125,000 students and 8,000 teachers in Jacksonville, Florida. He leads the Technology Services department, which provides world-class customer service, support, and solutions for the district's information technology needs. He is responsible for developing and implementing IT strategies and plans that align with the district's vision, mission, and values, as well as delivering IT solutions that meet the needs and expectations of schools, teachers, students, parents, and community partners.



**Gwen Pechan**

VP, IT, Flagler College



Reporting to the President and seated on the Cabinet, Gwen is responsible for information technology at the college, including the IT strategic plan, data governance, and security programs. Gwen has over two decades of experience in IT, starting from the ground up, with an emphasis on software implementations, business intelligence solutions and systems implementations. She holds an MBA, an MS in Management of Information Systems and BS in Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

SUCCESS STORY

Migrating to Oracle Cloud has been, and continues to be, one of the largest projects, challenges, and ongoing accomplishments at Flagler College. Having successfully implemented ERP, HCM and EPM Cloud in 12 months, Flagler is now onto Phase 2, Oracle Student Management, one of the first colleges to do so. It is a privilege to drive the process: collaborating across campus with experts in their respective areas, and learning while working together towards a common goal: to ensure Flagler continues to provide the best possible classical and liberal education promoting a rich sense of civic virtue in a diverse democracy.



**Peter Thorne**

CIO & CTO, School District of Osceola County



Pete has extensive experience in information technology and executive management spanning industries such as healthcare, insurance, and K-12 education, with roles ranging from programmer analyst to senior level management. Management of application development teams including core information systems, ERP, data warehousing, and web services. Led the design, development, and support of numerous applications across multiple industries with a strong record of continuous education and improvement including Six Sigma certification, ITIL Foundation certification, and an MBA.

SUCCESS STORY

The implementation of the School District's One-To-One Readiness Plan, where every student in the district was assigned a laptop, or an iPad, depending on grade level was accomplished using the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, also known as ESSER, as well as American Rescue Plan funding known as ARP. The readiness plan encompassed school district infrastructure, data systems, broadband, and staffing. This initiative was, and still is, significant as it creates an environment of equality for all students, leading to digital equity. This initiative embodies the district's motto of "Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day".



**Brian Verkamp**

VP & CIO, University of North Florida



Brian Verkamp has over two decades of leadership and hands-on experience in educational technology, information security, information systems, information technologies, and shared services. As Vice President and Chief Information Officer at the University of North Florida, Brian is responsible to the President of the University and serves as a member of the President's cabinet. He leads and manages all aspects of the University's information technology strategy, vision, oversight, and operations.

SUCCESS STORY

In my time as VP/CIO, UNF IT has achieved significant milestones in selecting and implementing the Workday ERP system for Human Capital Management, Finance, and Student operations at the University of North Florida. We are working to ensure seamless integration with minimal disruptions, prioritizing data security and compliance. This unified platform is transforming our digital strategies, streamlining processes, and enabling data-driven decision-making, resulting in cost savings. Additionally, we leveraged CRM technology to enhance student success, providing seamless support and personalized learning plans. These achievements have improved student engagement, retention, and administrative efficiency, fostering a transformative educational experience at UNF.





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