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GEORGIA CIO^{OF}THE YEAR[®]
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AWARDS

The 2021 Georgia CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards program honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate, and Public Sector categories will be announced at an event on November 5 at the Cobb Galleria.



October 29- November 4, 2021

2021 CIO OF THE YEAR

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Pandemic elevates CIOs' strategic role

Technology has helped people adapt, adjust and survive during challenges

Since last March, chief information officers everywhere have supported the largest work-from-home experiment in the history of the world. Thanks to these innovative technology leaders, most organizations have managed to continue operating through this pandemic disruption.

Technology has enabled our new virtual lives, provided access to entertainment, food and products delivered to our homes, and connected us with colleagues, friends and loved ones. Technology has helped us adapt, adjust and survive our new abnormal. Without the leadership, planning and foresight of CIOs, conducting business would be impossible under these circumstances.

GeorgiaCIO brings together leading CIOs of Georgia's largest organizations to help CIOs maximize their leader-



ship effectiveness, create value, reduce risk and share success. Through member-led, non-commercial programs, CIOs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges, solving problems and avoiding pitfalls.

Throughout this crisis, Georgia-

"Throughout this crisis, GeorgiaCIO members have collaborated locally and nationally across industries."

CIO members have collaborated locally and nationally with CIOs from across industries. In any gathering of CIOs, the answer is in the room. The challenge one CIO is facing has likely been solved by another CIO. What was their experience? What did they learn? What would they do differently? How could other CIOs benefit from sharing their experiences?

There is no textbook for how to be a great CIO. The best way to sharpen your leadership acumen is to join a peer leadership network with other leaders working on solving similar challenges. The industries and sizes may be different, but winning approaches to effective leadership and problem solving are transferrable. Every leader's perspective is valuable and contributes to the conversation, and everyone wins when leaders engage, and share ideas, experiences and best practices.

For over 20 years, InspireCIO has been inspiring CIO success through the annual CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards, but this is just the tip of the iceberg. By joining GeorgiaCIO, 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 organizations with technology and enriching our region and our world. On behalf of GeorgiaCIO, 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,

Vish Narendra

2021 Chair, GeorgiaCIO

CIO & SVP, Global Business Services, Graphic Packaging International Inc.

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2021 CIO OF THE YEAR

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jed Yueh says lead with strength and speed

Though tech giants have an advantage, small companies can compete

BY RANDY SOUTHERLAND | CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you want to run a great company, or even a great IT division, you have to move fast, according to Jedidiah “Jed” Yueh, CEO and founder of Delphix.

“One of the questions that all leaders need to ask themselves is, ‘Do you know what great looks like?’” said Yueh, also author of the book, “Disrupt or Die.” Tech giants are rapidly releasing new software, and executives must keep up.

“That is what ‘great’ looks like today,” he said.

CIOs must challenge themselves and their organizations to move faster in developing and deploying technology. For most companies, “innovation velocity is just too slow,” he said. “They’re really falling farther behind the technology leaders in the world and in their industry.”

The tech challenges and opportunities confronting CIOs are the theme of Yueh’s keynote address at the 2021 Georgia CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards Nov. 5 at the Cobb Galleria.

Yueh has led two waves of disruption in data management. As founding CEO of Avamar, he pioneered data de-duplication and generated over \$4 billion in cumulative sales. After selling the company to EMC in 2006 for \$165 million, Yueh founded Delphix. Since then, the company has reached more than \$100 million in sales by accelerating enterprise data delivery for over 30% of the Global 100. He also has accumulated more than 30 patents in data management.

CIOs must build strong teams and develop plans to reach their companies’ goals, he said.

“It’s easier than ever to build a technology product, or an application that can change an industry,” he said.

Developers have access now to a wide array of “technology primitives,” or basic interfaces or segments of code used to build more sophisticated program elements or interfaces, he said.

“You have all this open-source code, you have all the new products



Author Jed Yueh, founder and CEO of Delphix, is the keynote speaker of the Georgia CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards.

TURVILLE PHOTOGRAPHY

“Today, you can be anyone...and if you have the will, you can learn just about any domain and learn it all the way down to how the technology works.”

that are available in public clouds, you have lots of these services that you can layer on,” he said.

“As you add them together, you can really do extraordinary things and build extraordinary applications by standing on the shoulders of giants.”

Once apps are built, they can be distributed on mega-platforms such as the Apple and Android app stores.

“These platforms already have billions of users on them so it can be a very powerful way to reach the market,” he said. “And of course, with the internet, you have this zero-friction world so you can access anybody, anywhere.”

With fewer barriers to development and distribution, companies must be able to match the speed of innovation that is currently driving the market, he said.

“You need to be able to deliver

innovation and product applications at the rate of change occurring competitively within the market today,” he said.

The great divide in technology today is the gap between how quickly the tech giants release products compared to smaller players. For example, he explained, Delphix has “many of the world’s largest companies as our customers,” Yueh said.

“If you look at the tech giants who use our platform, some of our customers are releasing software at the rate of a million CI/CD pipeline runs a month.”

This has been made possible by developing software using CI/CD, or continuous integration, continuous deployment and continuous delivery.

“They’re constantly pushing out new code that can benefit their users and their customers,” he said. “They’re doing it at a rate of millions of times a month, an outstanding rate.”

Even as the big companies are setting new records for speed of distribution, most smaller companies are still “shipping software once a year, maybe once a quarter,” Yueh said.

“That different rate of innovation is why the tech giants are worth trillions of dollars in market cap today and everybody else is where they are in their respective industries.”

After graduating magna cum laude with a degree in English from Harvard University, Yueh became a high school teacher. During a summer, he interned with a tech company, which paid him more than his yearly salary as a teacher, he said.

“Today, you can be anyone from any kind of background and if you have the will, you can learn just about any domain and learn it all the way down to how the technology works,” he said.

To lead, CIOs also must stay aware of change driven by external factors, such as the turn to work-from-home due to Covid-19 restrictions. “The pandemic really challenged our preconceived notions of what we could do digitally,” Yueh said.

A portrait of Rich Gilbert, a middle-aged man with short brown hair and a slight smile, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a patterned tie. The background is a solid blue color.

PAVING THE WAY

Aflac congratulates Rich Gilbert for being named a 2021 Georgia CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards finalist.

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2021 CIO OF THE YEAR

GLOBAL FINALISTS

Multinational organizations with over \$2.5 billion annual revenue



SCOTT DUFOUR

Global CIO, FleetCor Technologies

Scott duFour joined FleetCor in Feb. 2019. Prior to FleetCor, he held technology leadership roles at McKesson and was most recently the CIO for McKesson Europe. DuFour held positions at Ingram Micro from 2006 to 2013, and at Elemica Ltd. from 2001 to 2006. His early career includes roles at Accenture, Sun Chemical and Covalex.com Inc.

SUCCESS STORY:

"During my first 90 days at FLEETCOR, I analyzed the company's existing digital strategy and developed a digital transformation plan. Then Covid struck and accelerated everything. Digital transformation was no longer a nice-to-have, it was essential. Our IT leadership deployed a remote work model that opened the door for new ways of serving current and prospective customers, and recruiting and retaining employees. We also improved digital payment processes for our customers by eliminating manual steps and friction when issuing a physical card and how to leverage digital wallets. Through this acceleration, FLEETCOR is giving customers a better way to pay."



RICH GILBERT

SVP, CIO & CDO - Aflac US, Aflac

Rich Gilbert joined Aflac in Jan. 2019. He most recently served as VP of business enablement and IT service management at DXC Technology. He has held positions at Hewlett Packard Enterprises and SunTrust Bank. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Auburn and an MBA from the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the UNC Chapel Hill.

SUCCESS STORY:

"Digital innovation continues to shape our world and influence consumer expectations, raising the bar across industries and the demand for digital solutions. As Aflac's CDIO, my team developed One Digital Aflac, centered on using technology to make things easier for our customers, distribution team and employees to fulfill Aflac's promise to policyholders: be there when needed most. Establishing the vision in partnership with Aflac's C-suite, board of directors, and my peers in combination with fundamental shifts needed to realize that vision put Aflac's technology organization at the forefront of its business strategy and ensures Aflac stays ahead of the curve."



AMIR KAZMI

CIO & CDO, WestRock

Amir Kazmi is responsible for developing and executing the global information systems and tech strategy. Previously, he was CEO for an startup in the San Francisco Bay area. He has held leadership positions at Lockheed Martin. He serves on the innovation and entrepreneurship council of Metro Atlanta Chamber, and on the board for Sight Machine. Kazmi earned a bachelor of science degree in computer science from Mount Saint Mary's University and a master of science degree in systems engineering from Johns Hopkins. He also completed the Strategic Leadership of Technology and Innovation course from Harvard Business School.

SUCCESS STORY:

"I have the privilege of leading a resilient and highly engaged global technology team. We celebrate our diverse talent, innovative spirit and the privilege to serve our customers with packaging solutions. Digital capabilities provide our customers ways to engage the consumer with solutions such as brand activation and sustainability awareness."



BATES TURPEN

Global CIO, Travelport

Prior to joining Travelport, Turpen held numerous technical and senior management roles at Intercontinental Hotel Group, Staples and First Data. He has over 20 years of experience in IT. Turpen holds a bachelor's degree in engineering tech from Memphis State University and completed Harvard Business School's Strategic Leadership Program.

SUCCESS STORY:

"Travelport fulfills a central role within the travel ecosystem, connecting travel suppliers and buyers. My role has evolved significantly in the last year to provide stability, protection and support while also remaining agile enough to innovate and adapting to evolving needs. For example, the pandemic accelerated some of the problems that already existed in travel, and priorities shifted for many of our customers. To support travel retailers challenged with a lack of systems in place and provide them a fundamental technology upgrade, we're prioritizing features like automated exchanges and optimized search since we've launched our Travelport+ platform earlier this year."



VISHAL VENKATRAM

VP & CIO Digital Enterprise, GE Gas Power

Venkatram is responsible for all the enterprise platforms, extensions and cloud innovation to support over 15 value streams for the \$14 billion franchise. He has served in several roles in his 15 years at GE. Prior to GE, Venkatram consulted with clients like J&J, Motorola and MetLife. He serves on the board of the TAG Diversity and Inclusion Society, volunteers with TechBridge and is part of the industrial machinery council advisory board for SAP. He was the vice-chair of the Georgia Technology Summit in 2015.

SUCCESS STORY:

"As GE Gas Power leads the global energy transition, I have had the privilege of being part of a team that epitomizes the values of focus, candor and transparency. Playing the role of servant-coach, the team took every obstacle in stride, looked around the corners for each other and converted the last five years of constant disruption into a case study in realizing exponential change, combining mind, machine and will. The results speak for themselves. This makes me swell with pride."

Congratulations to all the Georgia CIO of the Year® Award Winners and Nominees!

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GEORGIA CIO OF THE YEAR
ORBIE
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Congratulations to the 2021
Georgia CIO of the Year
Award Winners and Nominees

2021 CIO OF THE YEAR

LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

Organizations with over \$5 billion annual revenue



GREGORY ALLARDING

SVP & CIO, Mansfield Energy

Prior to Mansfield, Allarding held two executive roles at Comverge Inc. Allarding also served prior to Comverge as an executive with Accenture. He has a bachelor of science degree in management information systems from University of South Florida in Tampa.

SUCCESS STORY: "My team has continued to stay focused on executing the digital strategy I laid out a couple years ago. In spite of the challenges this year with Covid, market disruptions and other distractions, we've stayed the course and delivered technology solutions that fundamentally change how our employees work and how we interact with our customers and supply chain partners. This year, we delivered industry-first solutions that streamline processes with our trading partners, which not only improves accuracy and efficiency, but positions us to help each other grow our respective businesses together."



DAVID BROOKS

SVP & CTO, Cox Automotive

Brooks joined Cox Automotive in Oct. 2016. He was most recently SVP of engineering at Manheim. He has served in roles at Choicepoint, Lexis-Nexis, Equifax and The Home Depot. Brooks earned a bachelor of science degree in software engineering from Southern Polytechnic State.

SUCCESS STORY: "I have delivered continuous engineering and architecture improvements, and increased time to revenue with improved throughput and quality and is outpacing our competition. Our product portfolio now carries less security and uptime risk while maintaining a flat cloud cost. We have increased growth at a lower expense and protected the business. Labor supplier consolidation increased the yield on our labor spend and we have reduced the time to staff by weeks. Our computer vision efforts are a differentiator for vehicle descriptions by automating photo analysis. Through a proven track record, technology is now central in our digital-first growth strategy."



JASON GETZ

RICHARD COX

SVP & CIO, Cox Enterprises

Prior to joining Cox Automotive, Cox was CEO and president of Jones International University and VP of customer experience at Orbitz Worldwide. Cox earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Liberty University and an MBA from Kennesaw State University.

SUCCESS STORY: "Our greatest accomplishment in my current role is the amazing turnaround in our customer experience. We proactively led an extensive customer assessment including ~200 interviews of our customers. Feedback revealed significant gaps in our operating model and in response, we created alignment across our entire technology team focused on keeping our customer front and center. Our cross-functional leadership team now collaborates to create solutions that fulfill customer needs and provide sustainable value. We are now better able to anticipate client needs much quicker by staying engaged with our customers to ensure technology value and business success."



CHRIS PARAVATE

CIO, Northeast Georgia Health System

Paravate has served as CIO for NGHS since October 2014. Prior to joining NGHS, Paravate was director of portfolio management for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA). He holds a bachelor of science degree in business operations from DeVry Institute of Technology and is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CPHIMS). He received his MBA from Brenau University.

SUCCESS STORY: "When I led our EHR system selection/Epic implementation, NGHS needed a tool to provide a continuity of care and a strong business partner to help us innovate. We built a great structure that allows us to consistently be one of Epic's top performers and innovators. Since last March, our IT team completed almost 200 Covid projects. We launched telehealth visits, created dashboards/analytics, set up mobile units and deployed our EHR to community nonprofits. As Covid persists, we're focused on using digital solutions to transform and expand care delivery across the region."



DARRELL RIEKENA

EVP & CIO, Republic National Distributing Co.

Riekana joined RNDC in 2016. His history includes positions at National DCPLLC, Target Corp., Kroger Co., and Limited Brands Inc. Riekana has served on many technology and industry councils. His volunteer work includes Women in Technology (WIT and TechBridge).

SUCCESS STORY: "My biggest accomplishment has been elevating the role of IT. IT has become a strategic partner, defining and delivering transformational initiatives including digital, data and analytics, ERP/technology modernization, and mergers and acquisitions. This was possible by recruiting and developing our team, creating a technology vision/roadmap aligned with business priorities, and strategic partnerships/joint ventures. We've invested in our people, established scalable processes and continued to innovate. It has been a rewarding journey as our company thrives and embraces technology and data to execute our growth objectives and provide value to our suppliers, customers and associates."



RAGHU SAGI

CIO of Inspire Brands.

Sagi received a bachelor of technology in electronics and communications engineering degree from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University and a master of science in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

SUCCESS STORY: "Raghu has been instrumental in the digital transformation of Inspire Brands, which has accelerated consumer adoption of digital channels and changed the way we serve our guests. As a serial acquirer built on a shared services model, IT is a critical component of how we integrate new companies and accelerate their long-term growth. Over the past year, Raghu's team has successfully integrated both Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins into Inspire's enterprise applications. His team implemented state-of-the-art systems across digital and data, unlocking new capabilities and optimizing application systems for nearly 80,000 corporate team members and billions of guests while championing agile transformation."



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2021 CIO OF THE YEAR

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

Organizations with over \$1.5 billion annual revenue



RANDY FOX

VP & CIO, White Cap

Fox joined White Cap from Construction Supply Group in October 2020. He led IT and Six Sigma for the General Electric (GE) Distribution business and GE Supply. Fox began his career as a software developer. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Ball State University and an MBA from The University of Cincinnati in Ohio.

SUCCESS STORY: "In October 2020, White Cap separated from HD Supply and merged with Construction Supply Group (CSG) to form a more than \$4 billion business. White Cap IT was highly integrated with HD Supply and CSG was a four-year-old start-up with 21 acquisitions that were only partially integrated. This team has the immense task of creating and integrating a newly independent company while simultaneously separating it from another, supporting daily operations during a time of unprecedented sales growth and building the team to deliver on this vision. The pace of change is indescribable, and we couldn't be prouder of all this team has accomplished."



MELISSA HOGGATT

SVP & CIO, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta

Prior to joining FHL Bank of Atlanta, Hoggatt was regional operations manager at Regions Mortgage. She was also held positions at HomeBanc Mortgage Corp., and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in Atlanta. She received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Alabama and her MBA from Georgia State.

SUCCESS STORY: "The team views my greatest accomplishment as the transformation of the culture of IT. Having the right leaders has been essential. Promoting strong performers with leadership potential from within IT, tapping internal leaders with relationships across our organization, and recruiting subject matter experts with outstanding leadership skills from outside the organization helped propel the Bank forward. We created a culture that values, recognizes and rewards each individual. The results have been improved transparency, communication, systems, customer service and collaboration. None of this would have been possible without the entire IT team."



TOMMY MEEK

CIO, Aaron's Tech

Meek oversees the operations of the enterprise technology solutions organization. He is now spearheading major strategic shifts for the transformation of technology into an enabler of innovation and integrating the technology organization to be a true partner in the growth of the business. Meek earned an MBA from Colorado State University and a bachelor's degree in computer science from Auburn University.

SUCCESS STORY: "My greatest accomplishment has been a culmination of several things that enabled the business throughout the pandemic. I moved into the role right as it hit, technology was put front and center and we had to find a way for us to continue to serve our customers. As a result, we went through personnel challenges and store shutdowns while transitioning to a remote workforce. At the same time, the Aaron's and Progressive Leasing businesses separated into two public companies. All of this was done successfully through technology and allowed the business to thrive in such a challenging time."



ROXANNE SEYMOUR

SVP and CIO, Serta Simmons Bedding

Prior to Serta Simmons, Seymour was senior director of IT strategy and planning at William Carter Company/Carters Inc. She also has served in roles at Sage Software, Ceridian, Macy's Systems and Technology, and HP Enterprise Services. She earned a bachelor of science degree in CIS from Lawrence Technical University and has credentials including Six Sigma Yellow Belt, Green Belt and Black Belt.

SUCCESS STORY: "My greatest accomplishment has been about transforming the IT organization and creating a brand that moved us from an order-taker to a strategic partner. We established a vision, mission and brand that helped us be the best strategic partner, create innovative solutions and deliver on those capabilities. It has not only empowered all IT team members to be the leaders that drive the right technology solutions, but the business continues to be proactive to 'invite us to the table' that allows us to deliver with unparalleled excellence."



GRANT SHIH

CIO, National DCP

Prior to joining the company, the 23-year IT industry veteran served as the CIO for Encompass Digital Media. He also held leadership roles at Carter's/Osh Kosh B'Gosh and Accenture. Shih is also active with several nonprofits in childhood education, STEM learning and local community enablement, including founding and operating the IT Girls Foundation.

SUCCESS STORY: "Promoting diversity and inclusion at National DCP has been incredibly fulfilling. It started by ensuring that my team understood that difficult topics that may not have been openly discussed in the past were proactively welcomed and appreciated. I worked intently to foster and sustain open dialogue through individual and team discussions. Realizing the importance of leading by example, I try to embody our values of treating everyone with respect and providing immediate, actionable feedback. This focus has better aligned role expectations and career opportunities and helped promote a culture where inclusion and diversity are the right things to do."



KEVIN STONEHAM

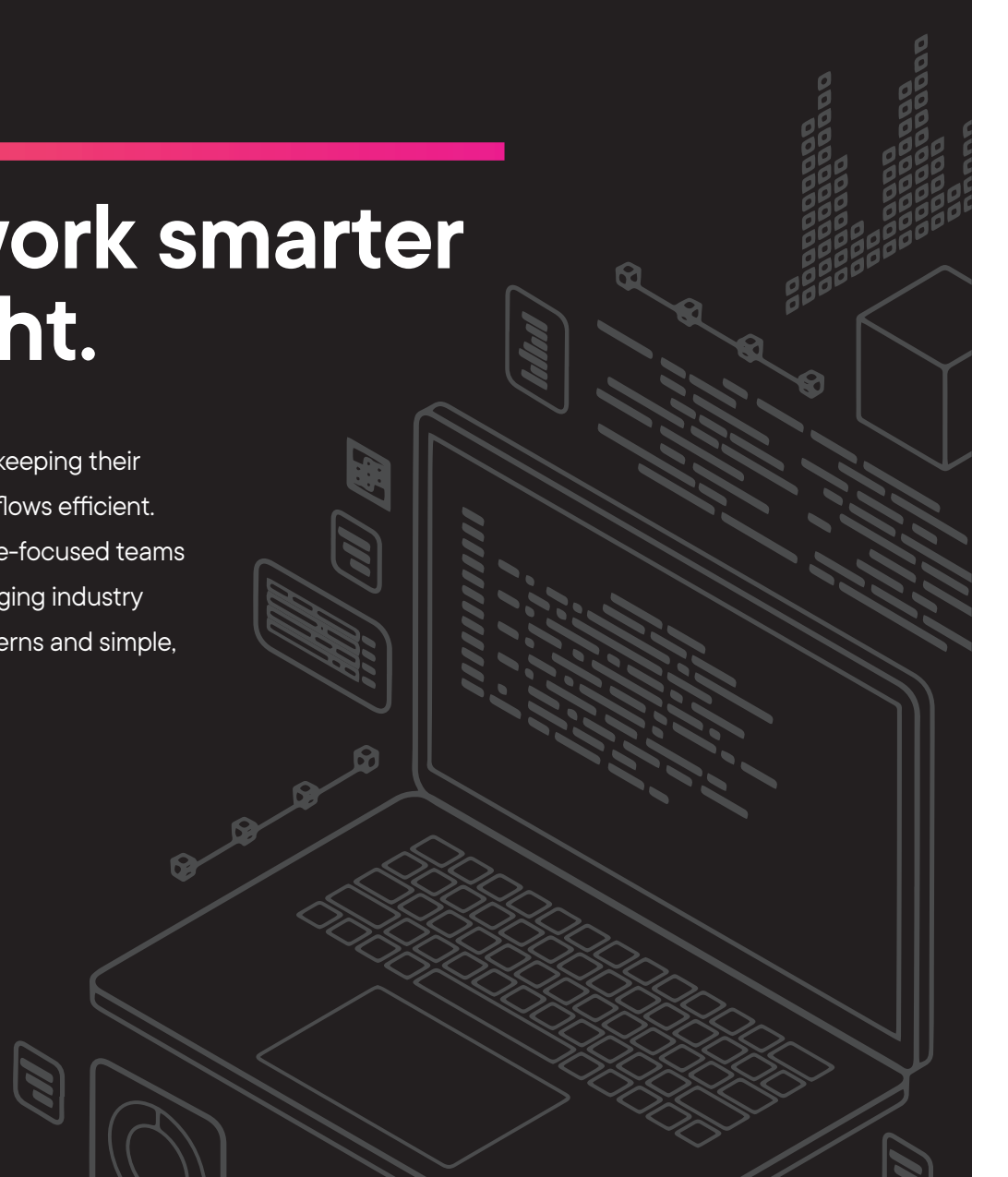
Global CIO, King & Spalding

Prior to joining King & Spalding, Stoneham spent more than 20 years at PwC, where he managed large groups of IT professionals (250+), oversaw large IT operating budgets, was involved in decisions relating to the selection and use of technology. Stoneham has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

SUCCESS STORY: "Arriving at King & Spalding as CIO in late January 2020, I had a comprehensive plan for my 'first 100 days' to launch a transformation of the use of technology to deliver top-tier legal services. With Covid, my plan was out the window by day 45. My greatest accomplishment was seeing our IT team accomplish things they did not think possible. After previously taking three years to deploy a collaboration tool at the firm, we introduced Microsoft Teams on May 1, 2020 after one 30-day agile sprint. We have kept up that pace of transformation at K&S through the pandemic."

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2021 CIO OF THE YEAR

LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

Organizations with over \$550 million annual revenue



DANNY BRANCH

CIO & VP IT, AMB Sports & Entertainment

Branch is on his 17th year as CIO for AMB Sports & Entertainment. He started at The Home Depot in 1990. Prior to The Home Depot, Branch worked for CONTEL, Management Science America and Texas Instruments. Branch earned his associate degree in mathematics from Abraham Baldwin Junior College and his bachelor's degree in computer science from UGA. He completed an advanced leadership development program at the Babson School of Executive Education.

SUCCESS STORY:

"The most significant accomplishment of my career has been to help create, build and maintain a state-of-the-art, future-flexible and resilient IT infrastructure that supports a world-class, award-winning fan experience for Mercedes-Benz Stadium. This infrastructure has allowed us to exceed the expectations of our fans and businesses. Our infrastructure allowed us to rapidly pivot during a pandemic. Our technology infrastructure consistently scores in the top quartile of all NFL stadiums for wireless services."



MATT DIAMOND

CIO, Secureworks

Prior to Secureworks, Diamond was part of Dell Technologies for 18 years. He holds a patent, and received Dell's Platinum Award three times. Diamond has worked with charities focused on the eradication of domestic violence. He has degrees from Michigan State University in mechanical engineering and German, along with an MBA from the University of Texas.

SUCCESS STORY: "The greatest accomplishment in my current role at Secureworks has been creating and executing, with my team, our digital transformation. The transformation supports our company evolution from a services provider to a Security SaaS enterprise. The digital transformation required change on several fronts: migration of our internal infrastructure to the public cloud; moving from our traditional hardened perimeter security model to a zero trust approach; and renovating our business systems to accommodate a SaaS sales model introducing new capabilities. None of this would have been possible without an amazing team who has video-called every day through the pandemic."



LARISA JOINER

VP & CIO, Enpro Industries

Joiner has held this position since 2017. She has a BBA in MIS from UGA and is pursuing an EMBA from Georgia Tech. She has a Cybersecurity Certification from Georgia Tech and recently completed a program at Stanford. Joiner is a member of GeorgiaCIO and CharlotteCIO, on the advisory board for GeorgiaCIO, the customer advisory board for Gartner and the executive board for InspireEDU.

SUCCESS STORY: "My greatest accomplishment is leading a global team that has transformed IT from a cost center to a strategic partner. This involved reorganization to support our decentralized structure, adding strategic talent, reducing technical debt, and simplifying our IT landscape to enable growth and value creation. My team has been instrumental in driving our company portfolio, reshaping efforts to accelerate growth in niche, high-margin science-related businesses. Our team has met aggressive timelines with four company divestitures and three acquisitions (>\$200M) amid a pandemic."



JOHNSON RAJAKUMAR

CIO, Verint

Rajakumar has more than 20 years of experience. He has a bachelor of engineering degree from the College of Engineering at Anna University, Guindy, Chennai, India. He also has a bachelor of science degree in computer information systems from Bellevue University in Nebraska, an Executive MBA from University of Nebraska and a doctorate in business administration from the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University. He also has a Harvard Bok Higher Education teaching certificate.

SUCCESS STORY: "On February 1, 2021, Verint Systems Inc. completed the spin-off of its security analytics division, Cognyte Software Ltd. My team completed the segregation of all the IT systems while enabling a fully remote workforce during Covid. The team is instrumental in fostering innovation, enabling self-service, strengthening security and advancing the 'cloud-first' initiatives."



ROBERT SHEESLEY

CIO, Wrench Group

A U.S. Marine and Operation Desert Storm veteran, Sheesley is a board member of the Veterans Leadership Program in Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Region 13 Counter-Terrorism Task Force. He has an MBA and bachelor of science degree from Clarion University, and is a graduate of the United States Marine Corps Engineers School and the U.S. Navy Logistics and Embarkation School.

SUCCESS STORY: "Our company strategy is: combine great leadership with winning cultures, brands and a strong financial track record. Our approach is to connect entrepreneurs, then compliment their organizations with technology and data analytics to advance automation and data-driven decisions. This enables Wrench Group's brands to deliver customer thrill, enhance employee experience and achieve strong financial performance. Wrench Group was named to the 2021 Inc. 5000 List of Fastest Growing Private Companies through efforts of our teams in 18 metro areas in the U.S."



BRANDON VAN ORDEN

SVP and CIO of Cousins Properties

Prior to joining Cousins in 2016, Van Orden spent four years at Novelis Inc., and 12 years at GE Energy. He is board chair for the Agape Youth and Family Center and has been active with other nonprofits. He is also an advisory council member for Realcomm and an advisory board member for the Georgia CIO Leadership Association. He has a bachelor of science degree in finance and information systems from Xavier University.

SUCCESS STORY: "When I joined Cousins, we were challenged with closing Cousins' largest merger. The infrastructure was unstable, exchange failing, Citrix dead and no remote connectivity. We moved the data center to a co-location, shutdown Citrix and implemented VPN. After every platform had been replaced or moved to SaaS, we were cloud-based. In 2020, we pivoted seamlessly to run the company remotely. The team now focuses on tech projects in our buildings versus backroom IT. The transformation happened during a period of significant business growth."

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Honoree Lee Crump known as ethical, talented

The retired Rollins CIO is now managing partner of The Crump Group

BY MARTIN SINDERMAN | CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Lee W. Crump was a purchasing agent for a wholesale hardware distributor in upstate New York in 1973 when his company gave its employees an “IBM aptitude test,” he recalled. He scored the highest, and a career in IT was launched.

Crump is this year’s recipient of the Lifetime Achievement ORBIE Award from GeorgiaCIO, one of 21 chapters in the InspireCIO Leadership Network. He will be honored during an event Nov. 5 at Cobb Galleria.

Crump worked with the IBM systems engineer at his company in the 1970s to custom-build all software applications, going live in less than a year, he said.

“IT grabs and keeps your interest because it is constantly changing and evolving, and now touches every other career,” said Crump. “It is a powerful tool that, if used correctly, makes everyone’s life better.”

In 1977, Crump moved to Atlanta and started a computer programming consultancy. From there, he moved several times between being an IT consultant and a CIO.

In 1998, he began a 10-year stint as CIO of Terminix International in Memphis. In 2009, he began his 12-year tenure as CIO of Rollins Inc., the Atlanta-based global pest control services company.

Crump retired from Rollins in April and is now managing partner of The Crump Group LLC, an IT executive coaching and consulting firm.

Crump cited “resistance to change, even positive change,” as the biggest challenge he’s had to deal with during his career. “Human beings take comfort in a ‘routine,’ and it’s human nature to be fearful of change,” he said. “Change management, through continual and effective communications at all levels of the organization, is one of the most critical skill sets a CIO must develop.”

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown how critical IT is to overall business success and has elevated the importance of the CIO role, he added. “It has been the sole enabler of work-



“IT grabs and keeps your interest because it is constantly changing and evolving, and now touches every other career.”

from-home capability that allowed social distancing while at the same time keeping the workforce and our customers connected virtually,” he said. In the future, he added, IT will allow people to live where they want to live while “‘working’ where the job is.”

At Rollins, Crump changed the relationship between IT and field operations, according to president and COO Jerry Gahlhoff Jr. “During his tenure, what was once an antagonistic and untrusting relationship evolved into a partnership of mutual dependency and respect that continues to contribute to our success,” Gahlhoff said. “When Lee retired, he left our company far better than he found it. We are rich and deep with the talent and expertise that will ensure continued success, and we have Lee to thank for that.”

Crump was a great mentor,

according to Rollins CIO Thomas Tesh, who worked for Crump for nine years prior to being promoted to his current position. “He was ethical and honest, sometimes too honest,” Tesh said about Crump. “Many people across Atlanta owe a part of their success to Lee.”

“Lee was the best businessman, who just happened to be involved in IT, that I’ve known and he was also the best executive hire that I ever made,” said Gary Rollins, Rollins chairman of the board and CEO.

Crump’s career also includes community service. “My passion is helping young people who want to help themselves,” he said, as he has served on boards of organizations including Chris 180, Junior Achievement and United Way.

He has also served as the chair of the advisory board of Year Up Greater Atlanta, part of a national Year UP organization that enables young adults to move from minimum wage jobs to meaningful careers in one year with training and mentors.

“Lee Crump is a key Year Up ambassador, introducing business leaders throughout Georgia to our skilled, motivated and diverse pipeline of talent,” said Sharronda Holmes, site director for Year Up Greater Atlanta. “He was instrumental in assisting us to secure more than \$2 million in philanthropic support from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation, all of which has helped us grow to serve nearly 300 students annually throughout the Atlanta metro area.”

Crump also facilitated a partnership between the organization and Rollins, which has hosted more than 80 Year Up interns and hired nearly 30 graduates of the program, according to Holmes.

“I’ve always felt that I have received much more than I’ve given by being involved in these nonprofits and making our Atlanta community a better place to live,” said Crump.

“No matter how bad you feel or what problems you are having in your life, helping others is guaranteed to make you feel better.”

2021 CIO OF THE YEAR

CORPORATE FINALISTS

Organizations with up to \$550 million annual revenue



WILL ALEXANDER

CIO, Benevis

Alexander has been the CIO at Benevis since 2019. Prior to Benevis, he was the VP of IT at RaceTrac Petroleum. He began his career at Milliken & Company. He has an MBA from Georgia State and a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech. He serves on the executive advisory board for Atlanta Technology Professionals and serves as vice chair on the board of InspirEDU.

SUCCESS STORY: “The mission of Benevis is to improve lives by providing high-quality dental care in a fun, compassionate environment. The challenges brought on by the pandemic were not fun. However, leading teams through challenging times can be the most rewarding aspect of one’s career. Being able to leverage technology to efficiently run the business during these unprecedented times has been a tremendous value to the organization. Through partnering with our stakeholders, IT has been able to positively impact our dream to create a world of happy, healthy smiles.”



BRIAN BENN

CIO and SVP, Atlanta Housing Authority.

Benn studied computer science and mathematics at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and has an MBA from Belhaven University. He serves on the executive advisory board for Atlanta Technology Professionals, the advisory board for the Government Technology Special Districts Program, the advisory board for GeorgiaCIO, board chair for the Southeastern Software Association, executive board member for TAG and on the Atlanta CIO board.

SUCCESS STORY: “The accomplishment that I am most proud of is the creation of our ACCESS initiative (Achieving Connectivity to Create Equity and Self Sufficiency) and our Digital Leadership Academy. This initiative employs a three-pronged approach to digital inclusion, partnering with private and public sector organizations to provide hardware, connectivity and digital literacy for all our residents. The Digital Leadership Academy is a workforce development cohort providing specialized IT training inclusive of certifications, soft skills training and job placement.”



JEFF BUDA

VP & CIO, Floyd Medical Center

Buda earned his MBA from Kennesaw State Coles College of Business and his bachelor’s degree from UC Santa Barbara. He is president-elect for the GA chapter of Health Information Management Systems Society.

SUCCESS STORY: “In 2012, Floyd’s robust clinical systems and capabilities provided state-of-the-art care to our community, however, the supporting technical infrastructure was not sustainable. Under my leadership, Floyd’s information technology has undergone a multi-year transformation from the inside out, focusing on developing world-class data centers, network, and phone systems and information security. Partnering with Floyd leadership, I have continuously fostered collaboration, accountability and agility, enabling Floyd to develop new capabilities and support Floyd’s unwavering commitment to clinical quality improvement. We proudly and confidently support Floyd’s mission and vision, and are well positioned to enable continued clinical and operational excellence.”



JOFFRE RIVERA

CIO, Intralot Inc.

Prior to joining Intralot, Joffre spent 20 years in IT leadership positions in the manufacturing, legal and pharmaceutical industries. He holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration and computer information systems from the University of Puerto Rico, and holds several technical and professional certifications.

SUCCESS STORY: “In this industry, before you finish anything, you will be working on your next challenge. However, a great accomplishment that carries on and allows me to take current and future challenges head-on has been building and maintaining an excellent and highly effective team that supports the company and myself with projects and initiatives, and enables us to support and maintain our system. We have faced challenges and achieved many accomplishments, but all those are a result of having a great team that knows how to prioritize and work together for a common goal.”



WILLIAM SULLIVAN

VP IT, Rinnai America Corp.

Sullivan started his IT career at Counterpoint Publishing, which was acquired by what is now Thomson Reuters. He also was director of IT for Boston-based Molecular Inc., which was acquired by Isobar. Sullivan is an alumnus of Harvard College, and he also completed coursework in management and leadership at the MIT Sloan School of Management.

SUCCESS STORY: “The mass migration to work from home by Rinnai America at the start of the pandemic, and our subsequent success managing the once-in-a-lifetime convergence of technology, safety and culture of the company, was a great accomplishment. Two years prior to Covid-19, our team took Rinnai America on a journey based on our cloud strategy to enable work any time, any place and on any device. This foresight established platforms that helped us achieve and exceed our goals in 2020, maintain high employee engagement scores and fulfill our brand promise of creating a healthier way of living.”



MARCUS WASDIN

CIO, Atlanta Hawks and State Farm Arena

Prior to joining the Hawks, Wasdin served in executive roles for hospitality, software and technology companies, most recently as CIO of Church’s Chicken. Wasdin graduated with honors from the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State with a bachelor of business administration in computer information systems.

SUCCESS STORY: “It’s an honor to be the CIO of the Atlanta Hawks and State Farm Arena. We completed the \$200 million renovation of State Farm Arena, making \$25 million in capital technology investments. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to put a fingerprint on a prominent building in Atlanta helping achieve the No.1 Guest Experience in the NBA. In addition, one of the proudest moments of my career was helping create the first-ever-in-a-sports-venue and largest-in-the-nation voting precinct for the 2020 presidential election and runoff, personally serving as a poll worker for both elections.”

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2021 CIO OF THE YEAR

PUBLIC SECTOR FINALISTS

Education, government and public sector organizations



MICHAEL CASDORPH

VP IT & CIO, Augusta University

Casdorph has more than 30 years of experience, including 23 in higher education and more than 12 in academic healthcare.

SUCCESS STORY: “My greatest accomplishment has been transforming IT into an effective, trusted team and business partner dedicated to enabling our teaching, research and clinical care missions. When assuming the CIO role, IT was as a barrier and AU wasn’t in control of its technology destiny due to ineffective outsourcing resulting in major foundational IT issues, technical debt and poor cybersecurity posture. Now we are a diverse, unified team that is customer-focused, proactive, strategic and maximizing business value. We executed mission-critical business priorities while modernizing legacy infrastructure, advancing “cloud-first” strategy, eliminating technical debt, bolstering cybersecurity and expanding capabilities such as high-performance computing.”



KELSIE DANIELS

VP IT, Cobb EMC

Daniels started his current position in 2020. He has managed teams and deployments in the U.S., the UK, Spain, India, Mexico, France, China, Australia, Switzerland and Ireland. Daniels is a former GE Executive leader who drives college student internship programs with Usher’s New Look Foundation. He also has served as an engineering coach for Palm Beach County Math & Science Academy and the volunteer IT project manager for the city of Atlanta police department.

SUCCESS STORY: “My greatest accomplishments include repositioning IT for stronger business alignment and delivering on key priorities of the cooperative. I focus on building trust with all business partners through strategic planning sessions, ongoing technology discussions, program execution and technology change management. EMCs have a unique and unifying mission of delivering value to their members/customers. I received great support from all levels of the organization, which ensured success of the initiatives I have led.”



FRANKIE ELMORE

CIO, Gwinnett County Public Schools

After a 22-year-plus Marine Corps career, Elmore served in senior tech posts for several companies in Orlando and Tampa. He worked at the headquarters of U.S. Central Command. Elmore became CIO of Orange County Public Schools in Florida in 2012.

SUCCESS STORY: “I am particularly proud of three initiatives: an updated email system; strengthened system and processes; and realized cost savings. Our transition from an antiquated email system to a cloud-based platform has improved communication districtwide. More significantly, the systems, applications and processes my team implemented allowed us to provide uninterrupted 24/7 instruction to approximately 180,000 students and support 12,500 teachers during the pandemic. Always being fiscally responsible with a realized savings of about \$10 million annually allowed us to replace technology at a faster rate, ensuring access to the most modern technology available.”



VENKAT KRISHNAN

CIO, Georgia Department of Human Services

Krishnan is responsible for the tech services of this state agency with an annual operating budget of over \$1.8 billion. Previously, he was a consultant for Deloitte. In the mid-2000s, he was tasked to build a child welfare system. Later, he became CIO of that agency. Krishnan also is on the board of American Public Services Human Services Association IT Solutions Management and has served as an advisory board member for the Georgia CIO Leadership Association.

SUCCESS STORY: “My focus has been to harness the power of technology to improve the lives of Georgia citizens. I feel blessed to be engaged in implementing innovations to assist low-income Georgians, and to protect vulnerable people from abuse and neglect. One example is the creation of the nation’s first child support app, which has been downloaded nearly 700,000 times. We have received more than \$76 million in child support payments through the app and it has paved the way for more Georgians to be self-sufficient.”



GLENN MELENDEZ

CIO, Fulton County Government

Melendez holds a baccalaureate degree from Rutgers University and a masters degree from Seton Hall University, and has earned recognitions including PMP certification, Certified Scrum Master (CSM), ITIL V3 foundations certification, and a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt from Georgia State University.

SUCCESS STORY: “As CIO of Georgia’s largest county, my team serves over 1.1 million residents. We are innovators who develop technology solutions that improve the lives of our friends, families and loved ones, not driven by profit, but simply the desire to make a difference. We stand in support of so many great public servants: law enforcement; healthcare professionals; librarians and more. We are leveraging technology to enable life-changing services for our community including vaccine support systems, public safety and digital literacy. Our names largely unknown, our faces rarely seen. I’m so proud to lead Fulton County’s IT division. We are making a difference!”



LIFETOUCH INC. 2021

DOROTHY PARKS

CIO & Director IT, Gwinnett County Government

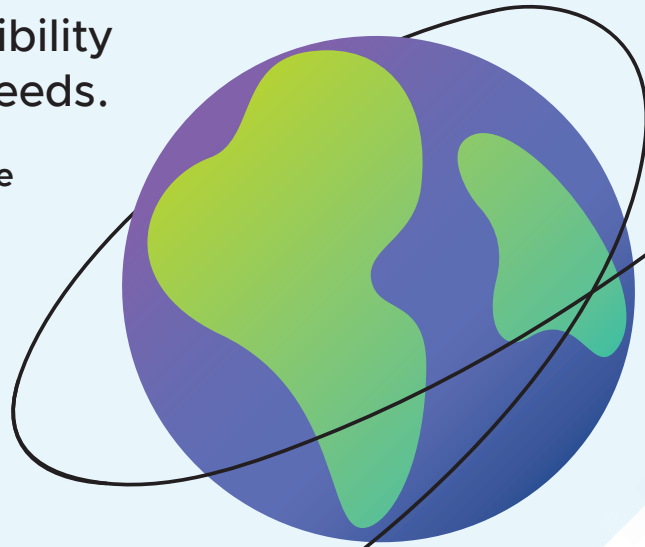
Parks holds degrees in management, economics and finance from Clark Atlanta University and numerous certifications. She is a member of the CIO Forum, National Association of Female Executives, TAG, Women in Technology, Information Technology Senior Management Forum, Technology Executive Club and Cambridge Who’s Who.

SUCCESS STORY: “Early in the pandemic, IT had to rapidly respond to the need for over 6,200 employees and deploy 4,000 laptops. I had to plan and prioritize a rapid implementation of improved telecommuting functionality that also considered cybersecurity. This required a refresh of the county’s telecommute policies and new ITS governance. This encompassed support of tech needs through a complex environment that includes multiple data centers, extended wide area network, telecommunications, wireless services, diverse end-user computing devices, and many business and public safety systems.”

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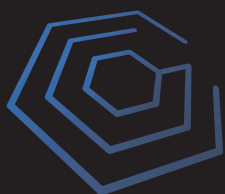
VMware congratulates the Georgia CIO of the Year® ORBIE® Award winners and nominees. We are pleased to honor these individuals who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership.

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2021 CIO OF THE YEAR



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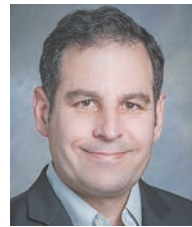
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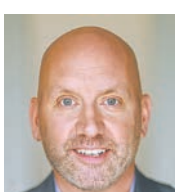
Juan Perez
UPS



Balasubramaniam Ramesh
Georgia State University



Wes Richard
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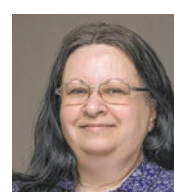
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The Wrench Group



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Georgia Lottery



Gina Strickland
Miller Zell



Shirl Stroeing
Paradies Lagardère



Dan Stuart
Southwire



Thomas Tesh
Rollins



Richard Cox
Cox Enterprises



Bob Toupin
Jackson Healthcare



Bill VanCuren
NCR Corporation



Sallie Wright
ITRG



Missy Young
Switch



Kevin Morrison
Rollins



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SMARTER ENERGY FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Cobb EMC focuses on continual improvements that benefit our members and our future. We are advancing our smart grid with cutting-edge technologies and powering our communities with renewable energy options, like solar.

But we don't stop there. We invest in our neighborhoods by supporting local schools, and we've given more than \$6.5 million to nonprofits through the Cobb EMC Foundation.

A tip of the hard hat to Kelsie Daniels, Cobb EMC Information Technology Vice President, for being named one of Georgia's CIO of the Year ORBIO Award finalists.



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Chief Information Officer

on being named a finalist in the
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DOROTHY PARKS
*Director of Gwinnett County
Information Technology Services*



Gwinnett County Government proudly supports our vibrantly connected community by delivering superior services. Our residents, businesses, schools, local governments, and nonprofits exhibit a tradition of working together to make Gwinnett the best place to live, work, and play.

It's what we call the Gwinnett Standard – an expectation of excellence in everything we do – and it's reflected in the nearly one million residents who call our diverse and dynamic community home.

Gwinnett County Government's CIO Dorothy Parks is a standard bearer who ensures that Gwinnett is the preferred community where *everyone* thrives. We are proud she has been selected as a finalist for the Georgia CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards.



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