



2023

# 25<sup>TH</sup> GEORGIA **ORBIE** AWARDS

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**BUSINESS CHRONICLE**



## FROM THE CHAIR

Leadership makes  
the impossible  
possible



## KEYNOTE

Georgia ORBIE  
keynote: Accenture  
Chair and CEO  
Julie Sweet

**B4**



## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Georgia Lifetime  
Achievement Marie  
Mouchet on making a  
meaningful impact.

**B6**

The 25th annual Georgia ORBIE Awards honors chief information officers and, for the first-time ever, chief information security officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate & CISO categories will be announced October 27 at Hotel at Avalon.

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# CONGRATULATIONS 2023 GEORGIA ORBIE NOMINEES

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<b>JOHN ADAMSON</b> Floor & Décor	<b>JEFF DAVEY</b> Artera Services	<b>BRYANT KING</b> Holder Construction	<b>KIM ROMETO</b> Atlanta Hawks & State Farm Arena
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<b>SANDEEP ANGRA</b> Unifi Aviation LLC	<b>MONIKA DAVIS</b> DeKalb County School District	<b>BRYSON KOEHLER</b> Equifax	<b>GUIDO SACCHI</b> Global Payments, Inc
<b>NATE ARNOLD</b> GE Aerospace	<b>ED DEPRIMO</b> Mauser Packaging Solutions	<b>NAVEEN KRISHNA</b> Genuine Parts Company (GPC)	<b>REGINA SALAZAR</b> Novelis, Inc.
<b>AVISHAI AVIVI</b> SafeBreach	<b>JESSE DIAZ</b> Phoebe Putney	<b>EASWARAN KRISHNAMURTHY</b> Johnson Controls	<b>RAHUL SAMANT</b> Delta Air Lines
<b>CARL BADGETT</b> Sawnee EMC	<b>JOE DROUIN</b> PulteGroup	<b>ROHIT LAL</b> Saia, Inc.	<b>STUART SAMPLES</b> Northeast Georgia Health System
<b>JENNIFER BAKER</b> Synovus Financial Corp	<b>SCOTT DUFOUR</b> FLEETCOR	<b>JODY LEE</b> Global Payments	<b>SHEILA SANDERS</b> Emory Healthcare
<b>KAREN BAKER</b> Qualifacts	<b>JAMES EDGAR</b> FLEETCOR	<b>JEREMY LEGG</b> AT&T	<b>JASON SANKEY</b> The City of Atlanta
<b>MICHAEL BARDWELL</b> DialAmerica	<b>FRED EHLERS</b> Norfolk Southern	<b>KATY LEGGETT</b> City of Woodstock, Georgia	<b>HABIB SARKIS</b> GE Digital
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<b>SHERYL BUNTON</b> Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation	<b>DAN GUSTAFSON</b> Newell Brands	<b>JASON MOLFETAS</b> Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta	<b>JEMIN THAKKAR</b> Crawford & Co.
<b>ROB BURKART</b> FirstKey Homes	<b>BESS HEALY</b> Synchrony	<b>SCOTT MOORE</b> Cortland	<b>NEERAJ TOLMARE</b> Coca-Cola Company
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<b>TOM CAMPBELL</b> Oxford Industries	<b>GRETCHEN HILEY</b> Randstad	<b>ONOME OKUMA</b> Chick-fil-A	<b>GEORGE TURNER</b> InterContinental Hotels Group
<b>JEFF CAPLAN</b> HOA Brands	<b>DIAB HITTI</b> GoHealth Urgent Care	<b>AYLIN ORIAL</b> KyckGlobal, Inc.	<b>BATES TURPEN</b> Travelport
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<b>TOM CARTER</b> Novelis	<b>DAREN HUBBARD</b> Georgia Institute of Technology	<b>DOROTHY PARKS</b> Gwinnett County	<b>BOB VARNADOE</b> NCR Corp
<b>ZELMA CILLIERS</b> Mercedes-Benz USA	<b>DAVE HUDSON</b> Insight Global	<b>JUAN PEREZ</b> Salesforce	<b>ATUL VERMA</b> BMO Financial Group
<b>ED CLARY</b> Haverty Furniture Companies	<b>BRET HURST</b> PruittHealth	<b>ASHLEY PETIT</b> Northside Hospital	<b>GERALD WALDHERR</b> Mondigroup
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<b>KEITH COFFEY</b> Kaleris & Navis	<b>LARISA JOINER</b> EnPro Industries	<b>BEN PIVAR</b> Carter's   OshKosh B'gosh	<b>ADAM WEINER</b> McLarens
<b>BARRY COHEN</b> Asbury Automotive Group	<b>AMIR KARUPPAIAH</b> QModo AI Inc.	<b>DON PRINCE</b> North American Electric Reliability Corporation	<b>DEBBIE WHEELER</b> Delta Air Lines
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		<b>MATT RINGER</b> Kloeckner Metals Corporation	

2023 ORBIE AWARDS



FROM THE CHAIR

Relationships make the impossible possible

Technology permeates our lives, and when it doesn't work, we notice.

For twenty-five years, GeorgiaCIO has recognized technology leaders for making technology work – delivering value for organizations – and shaping our digital economy.

GeorgiaCIO members grow as leaders through collaboration, sharing ideas and best practices through member-led programs and other interactions. Working together, CIOs across public and private business, government, education, healthcare and nonprofit organizations create value for their organizations and each other.

On the eve of the Georgia ORBIE Awards, prior winners from over 25 years will be recognized at the inaugural ORBIE Circle Reception, honoring all prior ORBIE winners, refreshing relationships, and reflecting on the collective successes of Georgia's technology community.

The Inspire Leadership Network has grown to 30 chapters and over 1,300 members, including the first international chapter in Toronto, and chapters exclusively serving Chief Information Security Officers.

Security is top of mind for every leader and organization, and the same principles that serve CIOs apply to CISOs as well.

There is no textbook for how to be a great CIO or CISO. But relationships with other leaders facing similar challenges simply make everyone better. Every leader's perspective is valuable and contributes to the conversation – and everyone wins joining a peer leadership network.

Together, we are transforming our economy with technology & security, 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 members, sponsors, and underwriters who make the ORBIE Awards possible.



Sincerely

*Marcia Calleja-Matsko*

**Marcia Calleja-Matsko**  
2023 Chair, GeorgiaCIO  
Chief Information Officer, OneDigital

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2023 ORBIE AWARDS



2023 KEYNOTE

Julie Sweet

Chair and CEO | Accenture

Georgia ORBIE keynote: Accenture Chair and CEO Julie Sweet

Julie Sweet is chair and CEO of Accenture. She became CEO in September 2019 and assumed the additional position of chair in September 2021. Previously, she served as CEO of Accenture’s business in North America, the company’s largest geographic market. Prior to that, she was Accenture’s general counsel, secretary and chief compliance officer for five years. Before joining Accenture in 2010, Sweet was a partner for 10



years in the law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP.

Sweet serves on the World Economic Forum Board of Trustees. Additionally, she is board chair of Catalyst and serves on the board of trustees for the Center for Strategic & International Studies and for the Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities – Bridges from School to Work.

Sweet holds a Bachelor of

Arts degree from Claremont McKenna College and a Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School.

Sweet has been recognized as one of Fortune’s Most Powerful Women in Business and by Forbes as one of The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women.

Sweet is the keynote speaker for this year’s Georgia ORBIE Awards event, which is scheduled for Oct 27.

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## 2023 ORBIE AWARDS

## 2023 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

# Marie Mouchet

## Georgia Lifetime Achievement winner on making a meaningful impact



*The Business Journals Content Studio*

Marie Mouchet firmly believes excellence must come from the top down in any organization. Over decades as a business and IT leader, she has lived that truth with curiosity, courage to try new things, a commitment to helping others, careful planning and meticulous attention to detail.

Her approach spans a highly successful corporate career that has earned her the Lifetime Achievement Award as part of the 2023 Georgia ORBIE Awards – just the latest in a series of awards she has received.

Leaders must bring forth “a compelling vision that ignites excitement and enthusiasm within the organization,” Mouchet said. That vision includes “creating and nurturing high-performing, diverse teams; forging enduring relationships across functions; treating everyone with unwavering respect; maintaining open and constant communication; and fostering collaboration while encouraging the free exchange of ideas and opinions.”

Mouchet most recently served as Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer of Colonial Pipeline Co., which maintains 5.5K-plus miles of pipeline moving gasoline, diesel and jet fuel from the Gulf Coast to the East Coast, making it one of the nation's largest refined product pipelines. Mouchet held secret clearance from the U.S. Department of State while leading Colonial's technology strategy and operations for information and operations technology, overseeing a team of SCADA engineering, controls engineering, IT, cybersecurity, physical security and information governance professionals.

She was the organization's first CIO before retiring in 2022. As a member of Colonial's executive leadership team, she helped recruit other executives and onboard new board members.

Previously, Mouchet was the CIO of Southern Co. Operations & Southern Nuclear, based in Birmingham, Alabama. Southern Co. is a gas and electric utility holding company and one of the largest energy providers in the U.S. with a generation portfolio including coal, oil, gas,

hydroelectric, renewables, and nuclear, and responsibility for 27K miles of transmission lines. She ascended through the ranks at Southern Co. over a 30-plus-year tenure, steadily advancing her career by assuming various leadership positions in regulatory affairs, marketing, and commercial sales and services. Mouchet launched Southern's first national accounts organization and subsequently led restructuring of the financial and contract services organization within the newly formed Southern Wholesale Energy division. In this capacity, Mouchet oversaw the administration and billing of wholesale and bulk power contracts, their compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley regulations, and financial reporting.

### Driving change through times of crisis

Reflecting on her career, Mouchet said times of crisis and senior leadership transitions provided opportunities to step up as a leader and drive strategic change. She took plenty of risks as she moved from role to role.

“Moving laterally and up, across and within organizations, and accepting positions in fields I previously knew nothing about – I have many career defining moments as well as many challenging experiences I recall,” said Mouchet, who started her professional life as a high school math teacher and swim coach and left a few years later to pursue a corporate career. “Bottom line, I enjoyed all of my positions and learned – which was the most important thing to me.”

Some of her proudest moments include pioneering the entry into electric vehicles at Georgia Power and leading the nuclear technology team in charting technology roadmaps for Southern Co.'s groundbreaking project to construct the first new U.S. nuclear generating units in more than 30 years. Mouchet and her teams played a pivotal role in the success of multiple acquisitions and integrations that resulted in company growth and revenue increase. Mouchet also helped guide her team through the pandemic, and provided leadership through crisis management and recovery following a cybersecurity attack in 2021.

As a people leader, Mouchet has cherished the opportunity to develop and support her team members, celebrating their promotions into management and executive roles.

### Her advice for technology professionals aspiring to make a meaningful impact?

“It's crucial to embrace a dual role as both a technology expert and a business leader,” she said. “Understand your company's core operations, revenue streams and how technology contributes to its overall success.”

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes a current or former CIO with significant leadership experience who has made major contributions within the technology and business community and inspired others. Not only has she made significant impacts in all of her leadership roles across multiple industries throughout her career, but she is dedicated to continuing making such contributions in her various board roles. Her commitment is showcased in her current and future initiatives. “Looking ahead, I am excited about where I am now and the opportunity it offers for providing advisory and consulting services. Through thought leadership, I aim to share my wealth of experience, business insights and unwavering passion for technology and cybersecurity across diverse industries and boardrooms.”

Mouchet serves on the boards of advisors for HData, Rausch Advisory Services and GeorgiaCIO. She previously served on customer advisory boards for IBM and GE, as a curriculum advisor for Georgia State University and Gwinnett Tech, and on the boards of several nonprofit organizations, including Alpharetta Tech and Women in Technology Foundation.

She holds advanced degrees in mathematics from Georgia State University.



# OPTIMIZE COSTS, ACCELERATE GROWTH

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Products in  
14 Months

40%  
Reduction  
in Costs

26%  
Increase in  
Profitability

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Clearly linking individual roles to business outcomes while incorporating tools that promote positive accountability.

By doing so, **your culture becomes the force that amplifies results.** And that's how you can experience both quick wins and long-term ROI.

\*Results are based on the real-world experiences of select Culture Partners' customers.

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That Means *Business*

GLOBAL FINALISTS



2023  
ORBIE  
AWARDS

OVER \$10 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS



Nate Arnold

CIO, Supply Chain,  
GE Aerospace



Nate Arnold is the CIO of Supply Chain for GE Aerospace. In this role he is responsible for enterprise and custom digital systems spanning the domains of sourcing, planning, materials, manufacturing, quality, logistics, assembly, test, and data delivery. He also leads a site operations team supporting over 40 factories and a global software engineering practice. Nate started his career with GE in 2002 and has worked for multiple divisions over the past 21 years.

SUCCESS STORY

Business Outcomes: We completed an effort to transition from a custom third-party Kanban tool with limited scalability beyond individual factory implementations into core enterprise ERP functionality ahead of schedule. This allowed our supply chain to convert billions worth of material onto a PULL methodology enabling an estimated multi-million-dollar reduction in inventory over the remainder of 2023.

Operating Excellence: Within my first 6 months of the role, I was able to identify internal productivity opportunities resulting in the capacity to add millions of unplanned program demand while returning over 3% total forecast reduction on a multi-million-dollar program budget.



Amir Kazmi

Chief Information & Digital  
Officer, WestRock



Chief Information & Digital Officer at WestRock (Fortune 183)

Board Member ParkourSC, GirlScouts

Advisory Board: Emory University, Metro Atlanta Innovation & Entrepreneurship Board

Previously: Kuprion (CEO & Co-founder), Lockheed Marin (various technology & commercial leadership roles)

SUCCESS STORY

Our WestRock technology team is enabling our company's purpose to Innovate Boldly and Package Sustainably.

Team is enabling our business transformation by standardizing and automating end to end global processes across +200 factories & +55K employees.

We are elevating our customer experience with eCommerce & augmented/virtual reality packaging designs, accelerating productivity through predictive analytics on our shop floor in our factories and enabling connected packaging solutions to provide customers better visibility to the quality and location of their products.

Our cyber team is enabling our business resiliency and platform team is delivering cloud agility.



Naveen Krishna

EVP, Chief Information and  
Digital Officer,  
Genuine Parts Company  
(GPC)



Naveen Krishna is EVP & CIDO, responsible for all technology, digital and data efforts across Genuine Parts Company's global organization. He has over 25 years' experience leading technology and digital transformations in retail and consumer products industries. Naveen previously held leadership roles at Macy's, Home Depot and Target. He holds two U.S. patents in the field of Search Algorithms. Naveen has master's degrees in Management and Mechanical Engineering, and a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

SUCCESS STORY

Transformed role of technology from 'cost center' to an enabler bringing the art of possible to our global businesses and customers in just two years.

- Tech-enabled transformation has remained at the core of exceptional growth and performance, positioning GPC as a leader among S&P500 companies during 2021-22.
- Hired 500+ top-tier technology talent.
  - Launched technology center in Krakow.
  - Launched "GenuinePay" – proprietary B2B payments platform.
  - Globally implemented Google-BQ – advanced data analytics platform.
  - Re-platformed digital properties.
  - Standardized operations with Dynamics365 global rollout.
  - Leveraged metaverse technologies – creating Digital-Twins of customers' operations.
  - Launched Workday in North America.



Juan Perez

EVP & CIO,  
Salesforce



Juan Perez is EVP and CIO at Salesforce. He is responsible for the global IT team, driving digital strategy, and the technical integration of newly acquired companies. Juan also partners closely with customers to advise on their digital transformations.

Juan joined Salesforce in 2022 from UPS where he was CIO and Engineering Officer and a member of the Executive Leadership Team. Juan was a key part of UPS' adoption of new technologies.

SUCCESS STORY

Under Juan's leadership Salesforce is transforming the technologies used to support the organization as it scales into a \$50+ billion company. He has worked on transforming the IT organization by implementing a business-intimate model focused on providing tech services to a growing technology company. His team of top IT professionals are helping Salesforce implement its own technology to support business process improvements and drive efficiency and productivity in many aspects of the business. He is now focused on enabling AI capabilities fueled by Salesforce's products and continues to prioritize cybersecurity, people development, resiliency, and innovation in all aspects of IT.



Matt Ringer

Global VP Cyber Security  
and VP IT - Americas,  
Kloeckner Metals  
Corporation



Matt Ringer is a tech leader with 17 years spanning Retail, Metals, and Manufacturing. Currently the North and South America Regional CIO and Global VP of Cyber Security, he thrives on aligning tech and business for value. As a worship minister at Journey Christian Church, Matt's servant leadership clears the path for team success, emphasizing growth and collective achievements. He believes in pushing limits, stating that growth happens beyond comfort zones – in the high-impact zone.

SUCCESS STORY

Guiding a resilient team of IT professionals, Matt Ringer champions a servant leadership approach. By nurturing an environment where innovation thrives, he challenges his team to stretch beyond comfort zones, fostering both individual and collective growth. Through trust and empowerment, Matt's leadership inspires his team to conquer challenges, leading to achievements like seamless global integrations and substantial cost savings. With a heart for servant leadership, Matt's legacy is a harmonious blend of team empowerment and remarkable accomplishments.



Regina Salazar

SVP and Global CIO,  
Novelis, Inc.



Regina Salazar is Senior Vice President and Chief Information & Digital Officer of Novelis Inc.

Prior to Novelis, Regina held positions of increasing responsibility in information systems, manufacturing, and aftermarket at Whirlpool, Delphi Automotive (Aptiv), Goodyear & Meritor Automotive.

Regina holds a bachelor's degree from UNICAMP – Universidade Estadual de Campinas in São Paulo and a master's degree from Central Michigan University.

Regina is also recipient of the Automotive Hall of Fame Young Leadership Award in Detroit.

SUCCESS STORY

In her role as CIDO, Regina Salazar has led the development of a strategic framework that aligned digital initiatives with Novelis' growth, sustainability, and resiliency goals by improving executive support, team alignment & collaboration, enhancing the transparency of investments, creating a project prioritization formula, & using a balanced scorecard to reshape how IT ROI is measured. Regina led a cross-functional team in the design & implementation of Novelis's first IT/Digital Career Framework, achieved the highest employee engagement rate in the company, increased the number of women in IT roles by 30%, & is currently cosponsoring the Plant of Future (i4.0) initiative in Novelis plants.





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Georgia CIO of the Year  
Award Winners and Nominees



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# LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS



2023  
ORBIE  
AWARDS

OVER \$2.8 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



**Jennifer Baker**  
CTO,  
Synovus Financial Corp



Jennifer is a Financial Services Executive currently serving as the Chief Technology Officer at Synovus Bank, the \$62B regional bank in the Southeastern United States.

Jennifer is a member within a variety of professional, community and non-profit programs including Technology Association of Georgia (TAG), Georgia Chamber of Commerce Innovation Committee and Women in Technology (WIT) forums, University System of Georgia student programs; as well as, several non-profits supporting Neuroendocrine Tumor Foundation and SATB2 Gene Foundation.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Our greatest success in the past few years has been found leveraging fintech opportunities targeting improved customer experiences and increasing our as-a-service offering offerings and adoption. This foundational element enables Synovus to innovate differently by identifying business value creation solutions as technology agnostic vs product specific and resulted in Synovus being named Top 10 Most Innovative Companies by the Technology Association of Georgia in 2022.

Aside from our fintech efforts, we are simultaneously “modernizing from within” across our enterprise infrastructure stack. These end to end impacts ensure we are preparing for the planned organization growth several steps at a time.



**Suzi Connor**  
CIO, CDC



Suzi Connor serves as Chief Information Officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She catalyzes transformational change to make CDC better prepared to combat threats to public health and safety.

Additionally, Suzi has an impressive 25+ years in technical and executive leadership in other public and private sectors. She has achieved various awards, including the Presidential Rank, Fed 100, Women in IT, and CIO of the Year Awards in 2020 and 2021.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Serving as CDC’s CIO has been incredibly rewarding. Despite the challenges posed by the largest pandemic in history, my team achieved significant modernization while ensuring uninterrupted operations. Our key focus within data modernization initiatives was to upgrade CDC’s IT infrastructure. This effort aimed to enhance the timeliness, accuracy, and completeness of our data, while improving understanding, decision-making, and public health impact. We migrated critical systems to cloud platforms, adopted agile product development, and implemented robust cybersecurity measures. These advancements enhanced operational efficiency, scalability/expandability, and data integrity. We are now positioned to better protect public health and overcome future challenges.



**Bess Healy**  
SVP, CIO, Synchrony



Bess Healy is SVP, CIO at Synchrony, a premier consumer financing company. After serving as a U.S. Army officer, Bess joined General Electric. In 2015, she was instrumental in building the technology infrastructure for Synchrony’s separation from GE. Now, she is responsible for leading technology across products, platforms, and partners – leading IT strategy, digital transformation, and innovation. She supports Synchrony’s Veteran’s+ Network and is Executive Sponsor for Girls Who Code. Bess graduated from West Point.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Our mission is to drive seamless customer experiences and engagement with Synchrony’s 70M+ customer accounts. Our team has enabled embedded finance to activate our diverse product ecosystem to be used across platforms including with merchants, third party platforms, and Synchrony-developed platforms. Synchrony operates across a range of industries, so our technology for embedded finance must adapt to a range of customer experiences. From offering credit to patients within healthcare portals to enabling financing capabilities to small businesses on POS platforms, our goal is to have seamless transactions and banking accessible for everyone, no matter the time, place, or medium.



**Rohit Lal**  
EVP & CIO, Saia, Inc.



Rohit Lal is a results-oriented leader and board director with a track record of leveraging technology to enable business strategies that drive revenue and profitability. He improves shareholder value by tackling the increasingly complex nature of supply chain and customer relationship management by aligning business goals and digital transformation. As EVP & CIO at Saia, Rohit rebuilt the IT team and helped transform the culture of a staid trucking company into a nimble technology-driven organization.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Saia is nearly a century old and had legacy systems and processes and a fractured Business-IT relationship when I joined. My greatest accomplishment is creating a culture of service and partnership across teams to enable digital transformation and deliver innovative solutions with advanced technologies. Data-driven decisions and modern applications have become the competitive tools that fuel Saia’s industry-beating expansion and business strategies.

The tight Business-IT alignment has allowed us to deliver shareholder value through solutions that drive revenue, increase profitability, and improve the customer experience regardless of external threats, from the pandemic to weather disasters to economic downturns.



**Lisa McVey**  
CIO, National Christian Foundation



Courageous and visionary strategist who successfully leverages dynamic industry and corporate environments to drive complex business initiatives that achieve business results. Exemplary leader, keenly adapt at integrating processes and organizations to solve business challenges with the right solutions. A respected change champion and collaborative team player who earns the trust of business partners and motivates toward high performing teams.

**SUCCESS STORY**

I was brought to NCF to help create a healthy IT team and provide leadership. Bringing synergy, training and support to the team was my highest priority.

My greatest goal and accomplishments in my role are to provide support for a multi-year, organization wide, process and technology transformation.

As we build toward the future, we completed projects committed to the organization. These projects have been focused on stabilization and improvements to existing operations; identification, management and mitigations of cybersecurity risks; Proactive monitoring on our applications and infrastructure; IT Service Management; Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery; and implementation of Agile.



**Dan Stuart**  
SVP, CIO,  
Southwire Company



In his role, Stuart is responsible for overseeing the company’s enterprise systems, technology applications, and IT infrastructure. He co-leads Southwire’s Digital Transformation strategic objective, which involves creating a best-in-class customer experience. Prior to Southwire, Stuart served as Chief Business Process Officer at Breakthru Beverage Group, CIO and Vice President of Business Services at Charmer Sunbelt Group, CIO at D&H Distributing, and Global VP and CIO at Algeco Scotsman.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Upon my arrival, there was significant technical debt and lack of a clear strategy for Southwire to navigate the future in a digital world. We improved the customer experience and automated manual processes, reducing legacy IT costs by 10% over three years and growing our IT talent pool by 30% in Digital, BI, and Cyber Security areas. Our Customer Hub, launched less than a year ago, has more than 7,000 users. Southwire is now the second-largest wire and cable company in the world with \$8.9 billion in revenue (up from \$5.5 billion in 2019).





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# ENTERPRISE FINALISTS



2023  
ORBIE  
AWARDS

OVER \$2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



**Ravi Acharya**  
SVP & CTO,  
National Vision, Inc.



25+ years of experience in partnering with business stakeholders to challenge the status quo and drive the digitization of global enterprises, creating value for customers, associates, and shareholders. Built strong teams to enable sustainable advancement of the technology organization, founded on collaboration, innovation, and operational excellence. Maintain thought leadership in emergent technologies to advise leadership on relevant innovations to add value to enterprises.

**SUCCESS STORY**

As the second-largest optical retailer in America, we know that when someone comes to a National Vision location, it may be the only time that year they'll see a medical professional. I'm proud to be using technology to enhance our ability to do more good for more people, while continuing to prioritize cost-consciousness and convenience.

I've led the building of enterprise-wide tech infrastructures that will support and scale our people-first operations for 15k+ employees across 1300+ physical locations and omni-channel, and, through our philanthropic efforts, help 1mil+ people around the world.



**Jeff Davey**  
SVP and CIO,  
Artera Services



Mr. Davey joined Artera Services in June, 2020. He brings over 38 years of industry experience in Energy, Healthcare, Oil & Gas, and Construction. Jeff has extensive expertise in Operations, Services, Product Development, and Information Technology. He is known for his strong team leadership, people development, and transformation and integration execution. Jeff attended the University of California, Berkeley, as well as California State University, Chico, where he graduated with BS and MS Degrees in Computer Science.

**SUCCESS STORY**

The CIO is a coach of a high-performing team who enables complex strategies across the business functions and environment. Many times, we don't stop to reflect and celebrate our team victories. The ORBIE award gives us the opportunity to pause and take note of the incredible work completed by the team. While I'm honored to be recognized for my accomplishments as a coach, the real recognition goes to my incredible team who have delivered an incredible body of work for the Artera business. This honor and ORBIE award is really for the entire Artera IT team!



**Lael Ellis**  
SVP & CIO,  
Primerica



I am a seasoned technology professional with over twenty-five years dedicated to business transformation through technology, starting as an engineer and evolving into leadership roles, where I guide teams in the development of innovative business applications and pioneer cloud-based and AI-driven solutions. I am deeply invested in continuously advancing the ethical and secure application of technology and working with organizations to share knowledge and nurture the next generation of technology talent and leadership.

**SUCCESS STORY**

I have successfully led transformative initiatives at Primerica that have positively impacted our agents and improved our operational impact through technology. We are embracing emerging technologies, fostering a culture of innovation, and significantly streamlining internal operations, resulting in significant improvements in efficiency and encourages further investment in technology transformation. By adopting cloud solutions and working tirelessly to redesign operational processes, my teams are empowered to make data-driven decisions, which reduce overall expenses and improve engagement. Our strategic approach continues to position Primerica as a leader in our industry and establishes us as a gold standard for transformation and excellence.



**Daren Hubbard**  
VP for IT & CIO, Georgia  
Institute of Technology



Daren Hubbard is an award-winning technology leader with more than 25 years in leadership. Since joining Georgia Tech in 2020, Hubbard has established a five-year strategic plan rooted in continuous improvement and digital transformation, and implemented an enterprise-wide data strategy for the Institute.

Hubbard is a certified project manager and holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan, as well as a Master of Library Science and an M.B.A. - both from Wayne State University.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Georgia Tech has redefined how data is collected, managed, and utilized to drive decision-making across the Institute. The Data Excellence Program was crafted around three core tenants:

Data Democratization: building capacity across the organization by expanding access to data, and harnessing data to drive decisions

Best Practices and Standards: achieving optimal balance between data usage and risks related to utilization

Community of Practice: empowering awareness through engagements that highlight a data-first culture

Our program has produced critical deliverables to improve our overall data landscape, inclusive of enhanced reporting, key metric dashboards, and a data governance and privacy policy framework.



**Tommy Meek**  
CIO, Aaron's



As the CIO of PGA TOUR Superstore, Tommy Meek is responsible for the day-day operations and leadership of all technology-related business activities. Tommy spearheads technology initiatives and thanks to his rich retail and technology background, he plays a critical role within the PGATSS leadership team. With a knack for strategic thinking, Tommy has achieved remarkable success in driving innovation and seamless operations in fast-paced environments, such as Novartis, Cbeyond and Aaron's.

**SUCCESS STORY**

As CIO, my greatest achievement lies in influencing the business through a technology lens. Balancing technology demands with business needs is a constant challenge for IT organizations. I am proud of the increased visibility that collaboration and partnerships have brought. This collaborative approach drives technology innovation and ensures alignment with business priorities.

Now as CIO at PGA Tour Superstore, the experience and insights from previous years will be leveraged to make influential contributions in the new role. As the business grows, technology will play a crucial part of the success and I look forward to being a part of it.



**Jason Sankey**  
CIO, City of Atlanta



Jason Sankey is a strategic change agent with two decades of executive leadership and experience in operations and technology. He is known for his ability to effectively collaborate across business lines while continuously driving innovation. Jason brings immense experience as a technology leader to the City of Atlanta. Jason is widely known for his executive leadership, technology foresight, thought-provoking strategies in transforming organizations, and community impact through his work serving as a public service executive.

**SUCCESS STORY**

With budget constraints, politics, and a competitive job market, leading as a CIO for a municipality with the size and complexity of the City of Atlanta is challenging. My success is measured with a focus on our most important asset, our people. My emphasis is geared toward upskilling our talent, improving our culture, and providing internal growth opportunities for our staff. We've realized promotional advancements, ensured equitable compensation, and provided upskilling opportunities. I have developed into a leader that is focused on positioning organizations to be better poised for long-term sustainable success and the core is investing in our people.



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# LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS



2023  
ORBIE  
AWARDS

## OVER \$1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



### Sandeep Angra

Chief Information and Technology Officer, Unifi Aviation LLC



Since 2019, Sandeep Angra held the position of CIO/CTO at Unifi Services, guiding an IT organization responsible for 26K+ employees at 210 airports, serving prominent US and global airlines. With oversight of a global team of 80+ members and collaborative engagements with 45+ software vendors and consulting partners, we lead formulation and execution of digital modernization and technology innovation strategies across corporate functions.

#### SUCCESS STORY

Over the past three years, my team and I have orchestrated a transformative journey for Unifi Aviation’s IT landscape. Starting with a modest team of six individuals, we undertook the intricate challenge of disentangling IT infrastructure from Delta. Through strategic collaborations with stakeholders and software vendors, we translated our three-year-old IT vision into reality. Our accomplishments span the establishment IT organization, and an independent technology stack from Delta – all of which played a pivotal role in driving 100% revenue growth. By harnessing the capabilities of data, AI, and automation, we expedited decision-making processes, streamlined manual operations, and empowered our employees.



### Danielle Evans

VP & CIO, Honeywell Connected, Honeywell



Danielle Evans, an innovative and results-oriented leader, held the role of Chief Information Officer at Honeywell Connected Enterprise. In this capacity, she led the charge in executing the company’s digital transformation strategy and overseeing IT operations for their recurring revenue software division. Danielle’s distinguished leadership includes a history of collaborating closely with business counterparts to spearhead change and pioneer solutions that foster profitability, growth, productivity, and holistic value creation.

#### SUCCESS STORY

As a CIO, one’s most significant achievement lies in shaping the business through technology. I take immense pride in the groundbreaking software foundational design model that our team, in collaboration with the business, successfully delivered. We transitioned from manual operations hindered by disjointed platforms, technical debt, and strained partnerships to crafting a connective tissue known as the Software Global Design Model. This innovation streamlined our sales processes, offered unprecedented visibility into an integrated Bill of Materials (BOM), and, most notably, harnessed a robust billing engine and data analytics to bolster the organization’s financial independence.

Recognizing that IT thrives on teamwork, we cultivated partnerships, trust, and sustainable value, thus fortifying our ecosystem for a thriving future. This achievement epitomizes the transformative power of technology, translating it into real-world, game-changing results



### Christie Pruett

CIO, SVP of IT, S.P. Richards Company



- Per-Se Technologies 1995 - 2007
- SP Richards Company 2007 - Present
- Packaged Applications Manager, 2007 - 2013
- Director of Applications, 2015 - 2020
- Assistant Vice President of App Development, 2015 -2020
- Vice President of Information Technology, 2020 - 2021
- CIO, SVP of IT - 2021 - Present

#### SUCCESS STORY

Since July 2019 my team and I have achieved many successful accomplishments by overcoming multiple challenges and adversity. July 19, 2019, our corporate headquarters burned down. Within 40 hours all critical systems were online and accepting orders from our customers. In July of 2020 our company was divested. Within a short window we had to take a 173-year-old public company to a private standalone entity. Then in February 2023 we were purchased again. We implemented new applications, setup a new office in China, and built new data centers within a short window. The team successfully completed each of these challenges.



### Robert Sheesley

CIO, Wrench Group



Robert Sheesley is an executive leader with experience driving transformational change and growth across mid-market and Fortune 500 organizations. He is known for being a people-focused leader recognized for building teams of experts, creating critical mass, and delivering exceptional results. As CIO, Robert is responsible for the information, technology and computing platforms enabling Wrench Group’s historic growth. A U.S. Marine, Robert is a member of Georgia CIO Advisory Board, and board member/advisor for Bump Search.

#### SUCCESS STORY

Since its inception in 2015, Wrench Group has become a leading provider of home services to residential customers in twenty-six markets. I’ve the privilege of serving as the CIO of Wrench Group the past six years, leading our teams to deliver solutions and shared services across twenty-six brands focused on creating customer delight with every experience. Our advancements in acquisition integration, data analytics, consumer digital technology, and real-time visibility of key performance indicators enabling data-driven decisions are noteworthy. The principle of our strategy is to drive innovation, share best practices and increase scale to accelerate growth and create sustainable value.



### Kirk Talbott

CIO, MARTA



Kirk Talbott has more than 26 years of experience in IT spanning the entire gamut of IT functions across multiple industries in the private & public sectors. As the CIO for MARTA, Kirk is responsible for the technology portfolio of the 9th largest Public Transit agency in the U.S. and is passionately focused on improving mobility through innovation.

Kirk is bilingual and holds a B.A degree in Computer Science and Spanish Linguistics from Rice University.

#### SUCCESS STORY

During my tenure at MARTA, the Technology team has pivoted from being a reactive technology implementor to a to a proactive operations improver. By leading the lines of business to prioritize and clarify their business needs to investigating advanced and emerging technologies for ways to improve the customer’s experience, the MARTA Technology organization anticipates needs, infrastructure, and services that will greatly improve the delivery outcomes of our agency.



### Sigismund Tetteh

VP, CIO, Houston Healthcare



Siggy is an accomplished 23-year healthcare IT Executive and thought leader. He mentors and job-shadows the next generation. He aligns stakeholders and vendors to achieve operational efficiencies for the organization, patients, and community through Digital Innovation and to achieve strategic goals. His board memberships exemplify his dedication as a servant leader and passion for improving technologies to benefit patients and communities. He is an innovator, motivator, change maker, and Optimizer.

#### SUCCESS STORY

During my tenure as the CIO and HIPAA Security officer, two distinguished success stories come to mind. First, I encouraged the board and leadership to approve our implementation of Two Factor Authentication on all our critical appliances to keep our cybersecurity posture heightened. Second, I worked on a Focus Group comprised of clinical and non-clinical teammates, to develop the most effective communication strategy for all teammates across the generational gaps. It is being used throughout the organization to strengthen communication between teams and leadership. Additionally, I transformed and improved the consumer and patient experience through innovative partnerships with our vendors.



# LEADING BY EXAMPLE

## Extraordinary people with powerful ideas are a driving force at Aflac

Aflac congratulates Global CISO Tim Callahan for being named as a finalist for the 2023 Georgia ORBIE Awards by the Georgia Leadership Association for his outstanding achievements in business, advocacy and cybersecurity. Your innovative and servant leadership inspires us every day.



Get to know us at [aflac.com](https://aflac.com).



# CORPORATE FINALISTS



2023  
ORBIE  
AWARDS

UP TO \$1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



**Brian Benn**  
CIO, Atlanta Housing



Brian studied Computer Science and Mathematics at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, has a Master of Business Administration degree from Belhaven University and a passion for bridging the digital divide. Brian serves on the executive advisory board for Atlanta Technology Professionals, the national advisory board for the Government Technology Special Districts Program, as vice chair for GeorgiaCIO, as board chair for the Technology Association of Georgia, and on the Atlanta CIO advisory board.

SUCCESS STORY

We are intentional about harnessing technology to level the playing field. The inaugural cohort of our ACCESS initiative and WIT collaboration will consist of five Atlanta Housing residents, with one additional resident to matriculate in the spring session of Emory University's Cyber Security Certification classes. Cohort members will also receive professional development and career planning including financial planning, assistance with resume writing, mock interviews, and job placement. This cohort is valued at 23K per participant and most significantly, aligns with our commitment to not only provide quality affordable housing, but also to help our residents thrive.



**Jeff Buda**  
VP of Operations & CIO, Atrium Health Floyd



Mr. Buda joined Atrium Health Floyd as Chief Information Officer in 2012. He was named Vice President in 2016 and Vice President of Operations & CIO in 2022.

Throughout his career, Mr. Buda has focused on developing high-performing teams focused on executing strategic initiatives with exceptional results.

Mr. Buda earned his MBA from Kennesaw State University's Coles College of Business and received his BA in Business Economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, my team executed a successful turnaround of the IT department, creating the ability to execute strategy and the agility to pursue opportunity. Beginning in a position of failing infrastructure and a lack of confidence from our customers, we established a plan to rebuild, improve our processes, build robust information security and restore customer confidence. We progressed from a service that our organization was wary to use to one that partnered with leadership to execute on strategy. When our organization was our new parent shared that we were the model for how an IT integration should be done.



**Wesley Eugene**  
Partner & Global CIO, IDEO



Wesley Eugene, IDEO Partner and CIO, leads a global tech team by fostering deep collaboration and individual empowerment. His vision shapes IDEO's digital future, prioritizing client, employee & team experiences in the delivery of infrastructure services. With a 20-year background in digital transformation for major players like Capgemini, Aflac, and Anthem, Wesley thrives in change. A prominent speaker and thought leader, he advocates for Digital Transformation, Workplace Culture, and TBM, enabling agile investment in innovation.

SUCCESS STORY

In just 18 months as CIO at IDEO, overseeing a team of 600 worldwide, we've achieved transformative feats. Launching FreshService ITSM and global Workday adoption streamlined our tech, retiring 4 legacy systems and cutting analytics costs. Our innovative Slack overhaul amplified global team communication, acting as a 'digital town hall.' Crucially, Jamf MDM deployment fortified security across diverse endpoints. We revamped shared services, prioritizing human-centric experiences for employees, clients, and delivery. These global strides signify a shift toward advanced tech, collaboration, and user-centered design—empowering consistent, top-tier experiences for our diverse workforce and clients worldwide.



**Mat Mathews**  
CTO, Boys & Girls Clubs of America



Mat Mathews is the Chief Technology Officer for Boys & Girls Clubs of America and leads digital transformation, product development, BI, IT Operations, and cybersecurity. Prior to joining the organization, Mat spent almost two decades proudly supporting the United States National Security Community in counterterrorism and cyber-defense. In addition to technical certifications, Mat holds a BA from Emory University in Political Science and a MA in International Studies and Diplomacy from the University of London.

SUCCESS STORY

A few months into the top role, I had the courage to recommend to our C-level and Board that their \$2M investment in a product they made over the past 1.5 years needed to be completely replaced; it was not sound technology. I also had to have the gumption to ask for more money. With credit to the amazing team I have, the new program launched within 6 months and in two years claims 1/3 of the market share in our ecosystem. Our CRM is still in shock at how we pulled off the trust, new funding, and the product.



**Scott Schemmel**  
CTO, Graham-Field



Scott is a senior executive whose career has been at the intersection of business and technology. He has extensive experience aligning technology strategy with business strategy, architecting solutions to support the customer's needs, and leading teams to execute transformation. He is customer-focused and passionate about making an impact and driving change. He leads by example through a servant leadership style and focuses on empowering high-performance teams.

SUCCESS STORY

In August 2021, the Atlanta-based medical device manufacturer, Graham-Field, was suffering from global supply chain challenges and 15 years of limited technology investment. Company leadership had zero trust in inventory accuracy, and the IT team was only reactively keeping the lights on. Hired to fill an IT leadership void and serve as business partner, I leveraged significant turnaround experience to learn, assess, and drive change.

Fast forward 18 months, my team and I have virtually eliminated system inventory errors, greatly improved infrastructure resilience, and significantly reduced enterprise and cyber risk. The key was vision, pragmatic investment, and governance to prioritize.



**Frank Ziller**  
CIO, Frontline Managed Services



Frank has 25 years of technology leadership. Prior to FMS, Frank led key strategic initiatives for Ricoh including the alignment of technology with business strategies and the development of global teams with strong business alignment. After Ricoh, Frank worked at Elavon where he led a transformation to a globally aligned IT delivery model, inception of security & compliance programs and drove operational efficiency through process improvement and innovative use of technology.

SUCCESS STORY

While more than doubling in size while integrating offices & data centers around the globe we have successfully expanded our go to market strategy to include small and medium size law firms in addition to our existing large enterprise-oriented law firms. Several foundational technologies have been deployed for workforce automation including servicenow, ConnectWise, Genesys, SAP and bespoke developed financial applications resulting in efficiency gains, defect reduction and expense optimization. During this process a multi-cultural multi-discipline technology team has been assembled with a presence in the US, South Africa and India.





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# CISO FINALISTS



2023  
ORBIE  
AWARDS

## CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICERS



**Tim Callahan**  
SVP, CISO, Aflac, Inc



Tim Callahan joined Aflac in 2014 as the Chief Information Security Officer, bringing more than 30 years of experience in information and physical security, business resiliency and risk management. He was promoted to his current role in 2016, where he is responsible for directing Aflac's global security strategy and leading the information security, business continuity and disaster recovery functions across the company to prioritize security initiatives and allocate resources based on appropriate risk assessments.

**SUCCESS STORY**

The Aflac's Cybersecurity Program has matured from an informal, U.S.-centric program to a well-defined Global Program ahead of its peers. The team has focused on enhancing Aflac's readiness to respond to cyber threats through improving defense, detection and response capabilities while continuing to securely enable the business. Key enhancements include a Global Security Operations Center, Global Threat Intelligence Platform, Global Vulnerability Management, Global Application Security Program, Global Cyber Assurance Program, Global Identity and Access Management practice, award winning Enterprise Governance Risk and Compliance, Global Crisis Management framework, Global Security Awareness Accountability and Global Key Risk Indicators.



**James Edgar**  
SVP & CISO, FLEETCOR



James Edgar is currently SVP & CISO for FLEETCOR Technologies, a global leader in fuel, lodging, tolls and commercial payment solutions. He oversees the global Information Security and IT Compliance teams, which span four continents and multiple business lines. Before joining FLEETCOR, James was the VP of Security Architecture, Risk and Assurance for U.S. Bank's payment processing division, Elavon. Prior to joining U.S. Bank, James led the Security Architecture and Risk team for Cox Communications.

**SUCCESS STORY**

James' journey as a cyber security leader has taken him from a network engineer to the CISO of a S&P 500 company. He has utilized his experience to grow a security and IT compliance program that has help FLEETCOR meet it's everchanging business needs and challenges. During that time, the security team transformed into a global team spanning 3 continents and now manage over 25 annual audits, assessments and examinations of FLEETCOR's core business. In addition, his team has championed enterprise changing initiatives around identity access management, endpoint and system protection, cyber hygiene and more.



**Kevin Gowen**  
CISO, Synovus Financial Corp



Kevin Gowen serves as Chief Information Security Officer for Synovus and has overall responsibility for cybersecurity, physical security, fraud and financial crimes. He earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech. Gowen is an alumnus of Leadership Columbus, sits on the Board of the National Technology Security Coalition and serves on multiple advisory and industry boards. He was a finalist for Technology Association of Georgia's Technology Executive of the Year in 2023.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Synovus was named one of the "Most Reputable Banks" by the Reputation Institute, and we are integral to this position. We've supported enhancements to digital capabilities and customer experience through work on authentication, security, and fraud detection capabilities. We've increased efficiency and scale to support growth, and enhanced how cyber risks are measured and reported. Employees receive ongoing training on cyber risks, their role in protecting our systems and information, and to help them educate our customers. We foster a high-performing and inclusive workplace through recruiting, training and professional development, and our ongoing program to cross-train and rotate team members.



**Jemin Thakkar**  
SVP, CISO, Crawford and Company



Jemin is the Chief Information Security Office at Crawford & Company where he is responsible for developing and overseeing Crawford's risk-based cybersecurity strategy, create a secure and resilient cybersecurity environment, and enable Crawford's business objectives. Jemin has over 24 years of cybersecurity experience working for a 'Big 4' consulting firm, a start-up company, and a fortune 500 company. He has experience creating cybersecurity strategies, building security products, and implementing security solutions.

**SUCCESS STORY**

My biggest success at Crawford has been changing the culture and how cybersecurity is perceived at Crawford. Focusing on people and providing ongoing training has enabled the employees to identify potential threats and respond appropriately. It has brought a sense of ownership and understanding that security is everyone's responsibility. Under my leadership, my team has transformed from identifying issues and vulnerabilities to becoming a trusted business partner providing and implementing solutions, consulting on new initiatives and acquisitions, and enabling the business to achieve enterprise objectives.



**Bob Varnadoe**  
Global CISO, NCR Corp



Bob Varnadoe is Global Chief Information Security Officer for NCR Corporation. His duties include overall information security and physical security. Prior to NCR, Bob was with Fiserv Corporation, where he was responsible for information security. He has over 25 years of experience in IT – with more than 20 exclusively in the security field.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and serves as an executive ambassador for TechBridge.

**SUCCESS STORY**

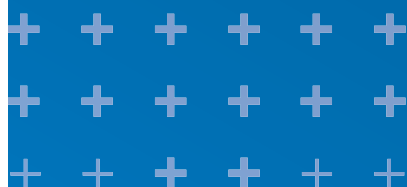
In my 11 years at NCR, we have made strides in technology, aiming to be a pace leader in industry innovation. A major focus during this time has been cloud migration. Our approach is to weigh the pros and cons like costs, risk and resourcing when evaluating our cloud strategy. Through partnership IT, we must be open and transparent, keeping in close communication. I am proud of the performance of our Global Information Security team. Thanks to their hard work, we have aligned our on-premises to cloud migrations to match business needs and deliver for our customers.



Congratulations to  
the **2023 Georgia**  
**ORBIE** award finalists,  
including Crawford's  
own **Jemin Thakkar!**



**Jemin Thakkar**  
Chief Information Security Officer



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Congratulations Amir Kazmi,  
WestRock's Chief Information and Digital  
Officer, on being recognized as a Georgia  
CIO ORBIE Finalist.

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GEORGIA CIO

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