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2025

GEORGIA CIO ORBIE® AWARDS

The annual GeorgiaCIO ORBIE® Awards honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Super Global, Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate and Public Sector categories will be announced November 21 at Hotel at Avalon.



**FROM THE CHAIR:
ELIZABETH HOEMEKE**

Great CIOs Understand
How Connections Drive
Transformation



**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT:
MARTIN DAVIS**

Lifetime Achievement recipient:
Martin Davis, executive vice
president and CIO, Southern
Company

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FROM THE CHAIR

Great CIOs Understand How Connections Drive Transformation

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

GeorgiaCIO brings together preeminent Chief Information Officers from Georgia's largest organizations to strengthen leadership effectiveness, drive innovation, and create business value. Member-led, non-commercial programs foster meaningful professional relationships, enabling collaboration on shared challenges to gain leadership advantage.

Whether you're leading a large corporation or a nonprofit, there's no textbook for how to be great in a role that changes as rapidly as technology. That's why relationships create superpowers, driving personal and organizational transformation.

The Inspire Leadership Network connects CIOs with over 1,700 lifelong learners across more than 40 chapters. From public and private companies to

government, education, healthcare, and nonprofits, we exist to help members navigate and thrive in a uniquely challenging executive role.

The leadership principles that have served CIOs for over 25 years are now available to communities serving CISOs as the Inspire Leadership Network expands in 2025.

The ORBIE® Awards recognizes the great leadership of CIOs in Georgia. On behalf of GeorgiaCIO, I congratulate the nominees and finalists for their remarkable achievements. A special thank you to the sponsors and underwriters for their foresight in making the Georgia ORBIE® Awards possible.

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



Sincerely

Elizabeth Hoemeke

2025 Chair, GeorgiaCIO

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2025 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Martin Davis

Martin Davis, EVP & CIO | Southern Company

GeorgiaCIO ORBIE Lifetime Achievement Award recipient: Southern Company's Martin

Martin Davis is executive vice president of Southern Company Services and chief information officer of Southern Company, one of America's most respected companies. Davis leads more than 2,000 technology professionals, supporting Southern Company's subsidiaries.

Davis is the recipient of this year's Lifetime Achievement as part of the GeorgiaCIO ORBIE Awards held Nov. 21 at Hotel at Avalon. The ORBIE Awards honors CIOs who drive innovation and transformation at leading organizations.

Davis has spent over 35 years leading complex technology organizations in highly regulated environments. He served as head of enterprise information technology, executive vice president and chief technology officer at Wells Fargo. He was instrumental in the financial institution's integration of Wachovia, leading the largest

technology integration in the history of U.S. financial services. Davis has served in a wide range of technology leadership roles, including as Wachovia's chief information officer.

Davis currently serves on the board of directors of Piedmont Healthcare and the South State Corporation. He formerly served on the board of directors of the American Heart Association (Southeast Region) and the board of trustees at Winston-Salem State University. He has been recognized as one of the "50 Most Important African Americans in Technology" by U.S. Black Engineers & Information Technology magazine and one of the "75 Most Powerful African Americans in Corporate America" by Black Enterprise. Davis was named the 2021 TechBridge Ed Steinike CIO of the Year and featured in Savoy Magazine's "Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America" in 2019 and 2020.

Most recently, he was named a 2024 Global CIO 100 award winner. The Global CIO 100 Awards recognize technology leaders who are "leading the charge in digital transformation and business innovation [and] shaping the future of the global business landscape."

Davis holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Winston-Salem State University and is a graduate of the Young Executives Institute and the Wachovia Executive Leadership Program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Southern Company has been recognized as one of the 100 "Best Places to Work in IT" by IDG's Computerworld for 15 consecutive years and top "50 Best Companies for Diversity" by Black Enterprise in 2018.

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& Innovations



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Interface



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Apps: CDN, DNS, Load Balancing
Network: Smart Routing, Interconnect



Protect

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Apps: WAF/API, Bot Mgt, L7 DDoS
Network Security: L3-4 DDoS, FWaaS



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Kateau James

Partner & Global CIO,
McKinsey & Company



Kateau James is the Global Chief Information Officer at McKinsey & Company, where she leads the Technology & Digital organization. She oversees the firm's internal product technology strategy, enterprise platforms, and digital workplace for nearly 40,000 colleagues worldwide. With over two decades of experience, including the Global COO of Deloitte Technology, Kateau is known for driving large-scale transformation, operational excellence, and platform innovation that elevates how global organizations work, collaborate, and deliver lasting impact.

SUCCESS STORY

This year marked a bold leap forward in transforming the colleague experience and future-proofing the enterprise. The team launched new collaboration tools, streamlined payroll and modernized mobile technology with next-gen devices and unified management. AI adoption accelerated with the deployment of off the shelf and custom conversational assistants, and workflow-optimizing tools. Scaled CRM system across regions, enabling smarter client engagement. These innovations, paired with a strong focus on service reliability, compliance, and inclusive leadership, delivered measurable value, simplified complexity, and empowered colleagues to work smarter, faster, and more securely across the globe.



Shannon Johnston

Senior Managing Director
& Chief Information and
Operations Officer, Invesco



Shannon Johnston is Invesco's Chief Information and Operations Officer, overseeing Technology, Investment and Distribution Services, Global Security, Enterprise Data and Analytics Office and North America Transfer Agency. Prior to joining Invesco, she served as Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer of Global Payments Inc. Ms. Johnston serves as the technology chair on the supervisory board of Deutsche-Boerse and is an executive ambassador for Tech-Bridge. She holds a bachelor's degree from Georgia Southern University.

SUCCESS STORY

One of Shannon Johnston's most impactful achievements in 2025 was guiding Invesco through the strategic decision related to the investment platform transformation program - Alpha Next Generation - a pivotal moment for the firm. Shannon helped shape a hybrid model that improved business value while accelerating innovation and reduced the risk associated with delivery. The team has since delivered the largest phase of the program to date, representing more than 50% of the program delivery expected.



Viren Shah

SVP & Chief Digital and
Information Officer,
AGCO Corporation



Viren Shah is Senior Vice President and Chief Digital & Information Officer at AGCO, leading the company's digital strategy, IT, and data analytics. He joined in January 2024 with 25+ years of experience in, supply chain, and digital roles. Previously, he was Chief Digital Officer at GE Appliances and held CIO roles at Masco Cabinetry and Specialty Fashion Group. He holds an MBA from New York Institute and a computer science degree from University of Mumbai.

SUCCESS STORY

Our high-performing team drives AGCO's mission to help farmers feed the world through smart solutions. Recognition as a top 150 AI leader and top 100 CDO reflects our team members' hard work & leadership of an AI strategy & our AI & Automation factory with initiatives such as AI Farm, AI Farmer, and Talking Tractor are transforming learning and customer value. The Global Leadership Institute award highlights our team's impact through M&A, notably the \$2.3B PTx Trimble joint venture, advancing mixed-fleet precision ag and farmer productivity with flexibility, leveraging technology.



Kathy Tira

SVP & Chief Digital
Workplace and Business
Systems Officer, Experian



Kathy Tira is SVP, Chief Digital Workplace and Business Systems Officer at Experian, where she leads technology for 33,000 users worldwide. She oversees the Digital Workplace, core systems across Finance, HR, Sales, and Compliance, as well as GenAI, automation, and M&A integrations. Kathy has earned the Silver Stevie Award, Experian's first Women in Experian Accelerator Recognition, #empowHERaccess Cloud Technologist Visionary Award, and WIT CIO honors. She is a back-to-back GeorgiaCIO ORBIE finalist.

SUCCESS STORY

Kathy Tira leads Experian's Digital Workplace and corporate systems for 33,000 users worldwide. Her team has modernized core financial platforms, delivered multi-million-dollar annual savings, and strengthened compliance by ensuring more than 200,000 monthly transactions run without past-due audit risks. Under her leadership, the team established the Workplace GenAI Center of Excellence, driving enterprise adoption of AI and automation that has transformed productivity and client responsiveness. Beyond technology, Kathy champions inclusion through accessibility initiatives, ERG sponsorship, and mentoring diverse talent. Her achievements have been recognized with the Silver Stevie Award, Women in Experian Accelerator Recognition, and #empowHERaccess Cloud Technologist Visionary Award.



Raj Velmurugan

VP, Global IT,
Harley-Davidson Motor
Company



Raj Velmurugan is Vice President of Global IT at Harley-Davidson (CIO Role), leading enterprise transformation, ERP modernization, Data & AI, and digital innovation. With over 25 years of experience in technology and business strategy, Raj was the CIO of Salem Five Bank, and has held Digital leadership roles at Bose Corporation. He is known for driving measurable business value through strategic clarity, operational excellence, and talent development—positioning IT as a catalyst for growth and innovation.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, Harley-Davidson's IT organization delivered transformative outcomes through cloud migration, ERP modernization, and application footprint reduction. These initiatives drove significant cost savings, improved scalability, and streamlined operations. We enhanced dealer and customer experiences through modernized platforms and advanced analytics, accelerating decision-making and logistics efficiency. Beyond technology, I fostered a culture of empowerment and innovation, shifting from risk aversion to calculated risk-taking. By investing in internal talent and reducing reliance on external consultants, we built a future-ready workforce and improved capability maturity—positioning IT as a strategic enabler of long-term business growth.



Brooksource is a proud supporter of the Georgia InspireCIO chapter and is honored to be serving as a Chapter Partner for the first time. Congratulations to all of the 2025 ORBIE Award nominees and winners along with our inspiring clients and partners here today!



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2025
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Willi Candra

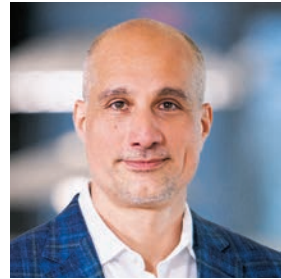
Chief Digital & Technology
Officer, Conair LLC



Willi Candra is Chief Digital and Technology Officer at Conair, where he leads Global IT, Content & Creative, and Analytics. He plays a pivotal role in advancing Conair's Growth strategy by enabling technology, data, and content to create business value. Through his leadership, IT has introduced new enterprise-wide digital, AI, and analytics capabilities, accelerated E-Commerce success, and fostered a culture of innovation and empowerment - positioning Conair for sustainable success in an increasingly digital marketplace.

SUCCESS STORY

At Conair, IT has transformed into a strategic enabler of growth and performance. Through cloud migration and modernization, we unlocked additional savings on top of an already best-in-class IT spend, enabling us to self-fund innovation. We launched enterprise-wide analytics and AI capabilities, shifting the organization to become more data-driven and insight-led. At the same time, we introduced new enterprise technologies that automate processes and deliver better visibility across the business. These initiatives have transform IT as a core driver of business transformation and competitive advantage.



Jamil Farshchi

CTO,
Equifax



As Chief Technology Officer of Equifax, Jamil Farshchi has led an approximately \$3B multi-year technology and security transformation changing nearly every facet of the company's infrastructure. Farshchi serves on the Board of Directors for both UKG and the National Technology Security Coalition, and is a Strategic Advisor to the FBI. He holds a bachelor's in business administration from the University of Oklahoma and a master's from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

SUCCESS STORY

My passion for technology runs deep. At 12, I coded a Frogger video game clone. Later, at the University of Oklahoma, I hacked my school network. Instead of being expelled, I got a fellowship. That set me on a path that led to NASA, where I learned there are no limits to what people and technology can achieve. From there, I defended nuclear weapons at Los Alamos Lab, secured trillions in financial transactions at Visa, oversaw media properties at HBO, led The Home Depot's security turnaround — and then took on the largest transformation of its kind at Equifax.



Rajeev Kapur

CIO,
Mativ Holdings



Rajeev Kapur is the Chief Information Officer at Mativ, where he drives business outcomes through digital, data, AI, and technology. A pioneer in ERP transformation, BI-to-AI evolution, and cybersecurity, he builds high-performing teams with strong culture. Rajeev brings deep experience in Manufacturing, CPG, and Retail, having held leadership roles at Kimberly-Clark, Under Armour, Newell Brands, and Nike. He holds a bachelor's in Electrical Engineering and an MBA from the University at Albany, New York.

SUCCESS STORY

As CIO of Mativ, Rajeev Kapur has led a transformative IT journey aligned with strategic priorities underpinned by culture principles - We Partner, We Listen, We Deliver, We Care. A next-gen technology ecosystem delivering digital transformation was started that included - journey from 15 ERPs to 3 cloud platforms (SAP, Oracle, Infor), unified multiple CRMs to Salesforce, and deployed Azure analytics with AI pilots. Cybersecurity reached NIST CSF Level 3, while ServiceNow and SuccessFactors enhanced service and HR operations. His commitment to the tech community is reflected in six years of service on the ASUG Board.



Justin Mennen

Chief Information &
Technology Officer,
Shake Shack



Justin Mennen is an accomplished technology executive with a proven track record leading digital transformation, innovation, and growth across industries. As Chief Information and Technology Officer at Shake Shack, he oversees technology strategy, execution and operations across the company. With prior executive roles at Rite Aid, Estee Lauder Companies, Dell, and CompuCom, Justin has driven large-scale technology transformations globally. He also serves as lead independent director of the board at PetMeds.

SUCCESS STORY

Shake Shack introduced its first flagship full bar at The Battery in Atlanta, launching a new operating model within the QSR and Fine Casual industry. In under six months, Technology Services partnered cross-functionally to enable open bar tabs in a legacy POS, rapidly configure custom menus and order modes, and deploy tailored reporting for drink sales. Despite significant constraints, the team delivered a seamless guest and operator experience. This innovative, tech-enabled format now serves as the blueprint for future Shack Bars, showcasing the impact of creative problem-solving, agile execution, and technology-led innovation.



Bates Turpen

EVP & CIO,
Travelport



Bates Turpen is the Chief Information Officer and Executive Vice President at Travelport, overseeing application development, global operations, and security. With over 20 years of experience, he has held senior roles at Intercontinental Hotel Group, Staples, and First Data, demonstrating expertise in IT strategy and business outcomes. Bates holds a Bachelor's in Engineering Technology from Memphis State University and completed the Harvard Business School Strategic Leadership Program. He resides in Atlanta, GA.

SUCCESS STORY

I am proud of my Global Technology Services (GTS) team at Travelport, because together, we have achieved such high standards for the delivery of technology services that are being recognized by the Georgia CIO community. We have worked hard to maintain our "always on" availability for our customers, while consistently remaining innovative and efficient to improve our capabilities. As Travelport is leading key initiatives to modernize travel retailing for the entire industry, my team maintains an end-to-end customer centric view of system rollouts and continually improves our own processes enabling Travelport to support industry shifts with flexibility and agility.



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Aaron Buck

CTO,
Ochsner Health



Aaron Buck, CTO at Ochsner Health, is a transformational leader driving enterprise-wide cloud, AI enablement, and digital modernization to advance clinical care and operational excellence. Passionate about enabling physicians and nurses to deliver better outcomes—shaped by his own medical journey—Aaron partners with industry leaders to build secure, scalable solutions. A dedicated philanthropist and board member for Habitat for Humanity New Orleans, he champions technology as a force for health equity and community impact.

SUCCESS STORY

Aaron Buck is CTO at Ochsner Health, leading enterprise omni-cloud and AI modernization that advances growth, financial stewardship, and caregiver experience. After serving as a senior executive at a Fortune 50 company, he chose to join healthcare to enable doctors and nurses—shaped by his complex personal medical journey. He forges mission-aligned partnerships to deliver secure, scalable capability. A committed civic leader, Aaron serves on the Habitat for Humanity New Orleans board and champions philanthropic initiatives. His servant leadership builds high-performing teams and turns strategy into measurable outcomes for patients, clinicians, and the communities we serve.



Keith Credendino

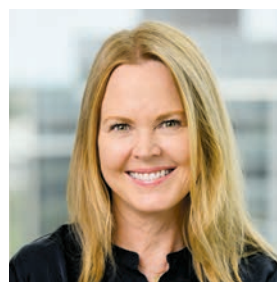
Chief Information &
Technology Officer,
Macy's, Inc.



Keith Credendino is Chief Information & Technology Officer at Macy's, Inc., overseeing enterprise technology functions including infrastructure, applications, and operations, driving data-driven modernization, AI/ML, warehouse automation, and omnichannel experiences. Since joining Macy's in 2022, he has led major transformations including the digital marketplace, checkout modernization, and fulfillment automation. He previously held leadership roles at Inspire Brands, IHG, and The Home Depot, and serves on multiple boards, advancing organizations' strategic goals through technology leadership.

SUCCESS STORY

Under Keith Credendino's leadership, Macy's Technology has delivered transformative achievements in support of the company's A Bold New Chapter strategy. The team migrated one of the nation's largest retail websites to the cloud, enhancing scalability and reliability. They launched a digital marketplace, expanding assortment by enabling third-party sellers on macys.com and bloomingdales.com. A new 2.5M-square-foot, state-of-the-art fulfillment center with advanced automation was also deployed, boosting speed, efficiency, and capacity. These initiatives exemplify how technology drives innovation, business value, and customer loyalty.



Carolyn Pleiss

SVP & CIO,
Cox Enterprises



Carolyn Pleiss, SVP and CIO at Cox Enterprises, is an Agile Certified Professional with over 25 years of industry leadership. She drives enterprise-wide IT strategy, architecture, security, compliance, application development, and infrastructure, orchestrating transformative change. Pleiss has spearheaded high-impact technology initiatives, such as Cox Automotive's Dealertrack integration and agile delivery, fueling multimillion-dollar growth. Honored for trailblazing leadership, Pleiss was named among Diversity Journal's 100 Women Worth Watching and a WIT Woman of the Year Honoree.

SUCCESS STORY

As SVP and CIO at Cox Enterprises, I unified Data, Analytics, and Intelligent Automation under a single, product-focused vision, driving measurable business outcomes and innovation. My leadership enabled the launch of a process mining platform, resulting in millions of dollars saved in Accounts Payable, and established our enterprise AI Council to integrate AI responsibly and effectively. We modernized data platforms, scaled agile delivery, and built an AI Factory—accelerating innovation and reducing costs. By embedding product discipline, I fostered a culture of collaboration, speed, and excellence, ensuring technology is a catalyst for positive change and sustained success for Cox.



Suresh Rangarajan

CIO,
CRH Americas Materials



Suresh Rangarajan is the Chief Information Officer of CRH Americas Materials, leading IT strategy across 80+ companies. Since joining in 2020, he has driven cloud transformation, ERP consolidation, and digital innovation. Previously, he served as CIO at GE Lighting and held leadership roles at GE Power and Dun & Bradstreet. Suresh holds a Master's in Biological Sciences and a Bachelor's in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Birla Institute of Technology & Sciences, Pilani (India).

SUCCESS STORY

We're in the middle of an enterprise-wide implementation of a new SAP S/4HANA solution across CRH AMAT to unify our fragmented ERP landscape—previously spread across 13 systems due to years of acquisition-driven growth. This transformation required deep engagement with our operating companies, mapping diverse processes to a single platform, and driving standardization across applications. We've built strong stakeholder buy-in and launched a robust change management program involving over 80 leaders. While ERP rollouts are common, this one stands out for its scale and complexity—and the blueprint we've created positions us for long-term operational success and growth.



Paula Wagner

CIO,
Mansfield Energy



Paula Wagner is Chief Information Officer of Mansfield Energy, where she leads enterprise technology strategy across cybersecurity, infrastructure, application development, data, and AI. She has transformed IT from fragmented operations into a strategic driver of growth and innovation, modernizing platforms, launching Mansfield's first product team, and embedding AI-driven solutions. Recognized for building high-performing teams and fostering a culture of accountability and excellence, Paula ensures technology powers Mansfield's role in supporting critical industries across North America.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, Mansfield IT has become a catalyst for growth and innovation. We modernized platforms enterprise-wide, embedded Agile practices, and launched Mansfield's first product team delivering continuous improvements. Innovations such as AI-driven voice solutions, touchless operations, and a redesigned customer portal streamlined processes, opened opportunities, and strengthened trust. Most importantly, we built a culture of accountability, collaboration, and excellence. Today, technology powers Mansfield's operations and supports the energy and logistics solutions that businesses, governments, and communities across North America rely on every day.

Tech Trailblazer. Innovation Driver.

Cox Enterprises celebrates 2025 GeorgiaCIO ORBIE Awards Finalist, Carolyn Pleiss, SVP & CIO.

Your leadership lights the way for what's possible in tech.



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ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



Leo Howell

VP, IT & CIO, Georgia Institute of Technology



Leo Howell is a visionary IT executive with 20+ years in higher education. He has served as Chief Information Security Officer at top research universities and is now CIO at Georgia Tech. Leo drives enterprise strategy, innovation, and transformation—advancing infrastructure, digital modernization, and inclusive talent development. He holds an MBA from NC State University and a BSc in Computer Science and Electronics from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

SUCCESS STORY

As CIO, I set a bold vision to transform IT from a service provider into a strategic force. Under my leadership, we streamlined operations and introduced automation that reclaimed millions in productivity hours—freeing faculty and staff to focus on core mission work. We secured a national supercomputer and launched a multi-million dollar AI infrastructure, expanding research capacity and hands-on student learning. By aligning IT investments with institutional goals, fostering cross-functional collaboration, and developing diverse talent, we've positioned technology as a catalyst for operational excellence, research innovation, and Georgia Tech's long-term competitive advantage.



Yogs Jayaprakasam

Chief Technology & Digital Officer, Deluxe



Yogaraj (Yogs) Jayaprakasam is Chief Technology and Digital Officer at Deluxe, leading product development & engineering, enterprise technology, digital platforms, data and AI, cybersecurity, and resiliency. With over 25 years in financial services and payments, he has held senior roles at American Express, Cognizant, and a fintech start-up. Yogs also serves on the TAG Executive Board, Junior Achievement of Georgia Board, and Georgia CIO Governing Body, advocating AI fluency and career transformation across all levels.

SUCCESS STORY

As Chief Technology and Digital Officer at Deluxe, I led the transformation from a legacy manufacturing company to a cloud-native, AI-driven enterprise. By launching Deluxe.ai, we embedded AI across operations and customer solutions, delivering multiple payments and data products, machine learning models, and over 20 intelligent automations. These innovations generated millions in productivity gains, cost savings, and new revenue—earning Deluxe the IDC CIO100 award in both 2024 and 2025. Most importantly, I'm proud of the culture we built, where team members advanced their careers within Deluxe and beyond, driven by our "Power of One" approach to innovation.



Jeremy Meller

CIO, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta



Jeremy Meller serves as CIO for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. In this role Jeremy provides executive strategy and oversight for Digital Experience, AI, Data & Analytics, Cybersecurity, Research IT and Technology Architecture. Jeremy leads a team of 490 IT analysts, engineers, informaticist and scientists to deliver state-of-the-art technology for one of the largest pediatric hospitals in the country. Prior to Children's, Jeremy served in multiple roles, including as a Captain in the Army Medical Service Corps.

SUCCESS STORY

Arthur M. Blank hospital was opened in late 2024. At nearly 2-million sqft, it's one of the nation's largest and most technologically advanced pediatric hospitals. Highlights include 90 robots making nearly 2,000 daily deliveries, precision staff/equipment locating, thousands of integrated devices supporting AI, video technologies allowing for virtual care and responsive patient engagement/entertainment systems. All of these innovations create a true state-of-the-art hospital right here in Atlanta. Despite massive workload, the IT team achieved a 95% retention/90% engagement index in 2025. The team is a 9-time Most Wired Hospital and 7-time Computerworld Best-Place-to-Work in IT.



Michael Muncy

CIO, Aveanna Healthcare



As Chief Information Officer at Aveanna Healthcare, a leader in home health services, Michael brings over 30 years of expertise in IT management, digital transformation, and healthcare-focused M&A alongside senior leadership in technology innovation and growth strategies.

SUCCESS STORY

In my tenure as CIO of Aveanna, my biggest success has been the success of Aveanna and our mission growing from a \$260M company to over \$2B in revenue serving 38 states and thousands of patients. My success is being part of a great success story working closely with great business leaders as well as fantastic IT leaders. From M&A, to COVID, to going public, the IT team and Aveanna story has proven to be one of the best chapters in my career.



Chintan Patel

CIO, National DCP



Chintan Patel is an award-winning Chief Information Officer at National DCP with over two decades of experience driving digital transformation and operational excellence across global retail and supply chain organizations. She has led large-scale technology initiatives, including digital transformation, cloud migration, and M&A integrations, transforming IT into a strategic business enabler. Currently, Chintan is leading a multi-year modernization effort, including the rollout of AI-enabled supply chain platforms supporting 10,000+ Dunkin' franchisees in 40 countries.

SUCCESS STORY

My teams have led the modernization of our Transportation Management System (TMS) to a cloud native solution. They launched our new TMS - a robust and strategic daily routing software, to improve routing, master route scheduling, and dispatch functions across 9 DCs. We went through a thorough RFP process to select the right software and implemented it over 12 months. We were able to move from manual static route planning, which involves deliveries to 10,000+ QSRs 2x a week, to AI driven dynamic route planning, saving time, labor, millions of miles, fuel and overall provide a better service to our members.



Vikram Ramani

CIO, Synovus



Vikram Ramani is Chief Information Officer of Synovus, leading technology strategy, operations, and innovation across the enterprise. He has more than 25 years of experience, including senior leadership roles at FIS and Equifax. Vikram holds an MBA from Emory University's Goizueta Business School and a degree in engineering from the University of Madras. He serves on the University of Georgia MBA/MBSA Advisory Board and is a strong advocate for advancing diversity in technology leadership.

SUCCESS STORY

Since joining Synovus in 2023, I have led a technology transformation that accelerated our shift to the cloud, modernized branch infrastructure, and expanded digital capabilities for clients and associates. In less than a year, we migrated 62% of applications to the cloud and launched tools that improved client onboarding, increased efficiency, and enhanced satisfaction. We also built a cloud-based data fabric that enables smarter decision-making across the bank. These achievements reflect our commitment to innovation, resilience, and people-centered progress, and I am proud of how quickly our team has delivered meaningful impact.

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LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

OVER \$600 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



Ross Creasy

CIO,
Ameris Bank



Ross Creasy is executive vice president and chief information officer of Ameris Bank. Prior to Ameris, Creasy was the chief information officer at Fidelity Bank where he had oversight of Technology and Operations. With nearly 25 years of banking and technology experience, Creasy has held many leadership positions, including at E*TRADE, Capital One, and the Federal Reserve. He has a MBA from Averett University and lives in Atlanta with his wife and two daughters.

SUCCESS STORY

I'm very proud that in the span of five years, Ameris Bank's technology team led the integration of a major bank merger, acquired fintech firm Balboa Capital, and launched a new online and mobile banking platform. These efforts unified infrastructure, expanded digital services, and enhanced customer experience. Coordinating vendors, ensuring security and focusing on user experience were essential. These achievements showcase our team's technical expertise, agility and commitment to excellence, establishing a strong digital foundation for Ameris Bank's future growth.



Prakash Muthukrishnan

CTO
Purchasing Power



Prakash Muthukrishnan is the Chief Technology Officer at Purchasing Power, responsible for technology development, IT operations, and the Global Competency Center in India. Previously, Muthukrishnan held leadership roles at several companies, including Manhattan Associates and Blockbuster, Inc. He earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from the College of Engineering, Chennai, India, and a master's degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Muthukrishnan is a patent holder and won the 2015 ATP Innovation Award.

SUCCESS STORY

I led the implementation of an award-winning digital platform that delivers an exceptional shopping experience and a scalable platform, driving a threefold increase in revenue and AEBIT-DA over the last 12 years. To further support growth, in 2019, I established our Global Competency Center in India to expand my team. We have since grown to over 150 professionals supporting all business units and enhancing our company's scalability and growth. I take pride in developing my teammates and providing them with growth opportunities, which has resulted in a very low attrition rate in both the US and India.



Melanie Sandlin

CIO,
Lazer Logistics



Melanie Sandlin is CIO at Lazer Logistics, leading enterprise technology, data, and digital transformation. With 26 years of IT leadership at companies including Cummins and Allegion, she has delivered measurable business value through large scale transformations. Known for simplifying the complex and fostering adoption, she builds solutions with empathy for end users, ensuring technology is embraced and impactful. Melanie holds a B.S. from Purdue University and an MBA from Indiana University.

SUCCESS STORY

At Lazer Logistics our IT team is building the company's first enterprise technology function from the ground up. Guided by empathy and focused on frontline, Site Managers, we are replacing siloed tools with a single solution that gives Site Managers hours back each day. Built hand in hand with end users, adoption has been strong because the system reflects their real needs. As deployment expands across hundreds of sites, the platform is improving engagement, speeding onboarding, and raising data accuracy, proving how IT can simplify work, create measurable value, and fuel growth.



Scott Schemmel

CIO,
Construction Resources



Scott serves as CIO at Construction Resources. His career has been at the intersection of business and technology. He has extensive experience aligning technology strategy with business strategy, architecting solutions to meet customer's needs, and leading teams to execute transformation. He is customer-focused and passionate about driving change and delivering business outcomes. He leads by example through a servant leadership approach and focuses on empowering high performing teams.

SUCCESS STORY

Construction Resources (CR) was acquired by The Home Depot (THD) to capture a larger share of the professional home-builder and remodel market by leveraging CR's expertise in complex, cross-category projects. Starting with a small IT team just 19 months ago, I am proud of the hardworking technology team we built and the significant milestones we achieved in a short time: we deployed an Enterprise Data Platform, launched a CRM platform integrated with four ERPs to support multi-category selling, and rolled out a last-mile logistics solution across multiple product categories—digitizing install scheduling and standardizing customer communication.



Aaron Streimish

VP, IT & CIO,
Kennesaw State University



Aaron Streimish is Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer at Kennesaw State University, where he leads University Information Technology Services. He oversees more than 250 professionals delivering enterprise IT, cybersecurity, infrastructure, and client solutions across two campuses serving just under 60,000 students, faculty and staff. His leadership has focused on strategic transformation, cost optimization, and aligning technology with institutional priorities, positioning IT as a driver of innovation, security, and student success.

SUCCESS STORY

Since joining Kennesaw State University, I have focused on building a foundation of clarity, structure, and alignment. We launched SOAR 2028, a strategic roadmap that unifies IT around shared ownership and results while engaging campus leaders as partners. Early initiatives - modernizing identity management, launching our Azure migration, and improving governance - have already delivered seven-figure cost savings, stronger security, and better client experience. More importantly, we have shifted culture. UITS is now seen less as a utility and more as a strategic enabler, positioning technology to advance teaching, research, and operations while creating long-term value for the university.

CORPORATE FINALISTS

UP TO \$600 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

2025
ORBIE
AWARDS**Brian Benn**

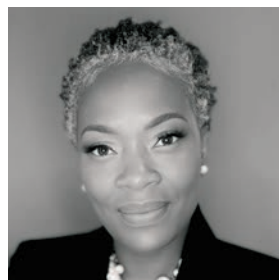
CIO, Clark Atlanta University



Brian Benn is Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Clark Atlanta University. He studied Computer Science and Mathematics at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and has an MBA from Belhaven University. Brian serves on multiple technology advisory boards, including the Technology Association of Georgia and GeorgiaCIO. Recognized with awards such as GeorgiaCIO's 2023 CIO of the Year, he is a thought leader and technology evangelist passionate about leadership and bridging the digital divide.

SUCCESS STORY

Our team successfully migrated the university's infrastructure from on-premises to a secure off-site location, delivering enhanced uptime, security, scalability, and operational flexibility. This migration was especially critical following a recent devastating campus flood, emphasizing the importance of integrating both cyber and physical security. By modernizing infrastructure and strengthening resilience, the initiative ensures continuity of academic, administrative, and research operations while providing a scalable foundation for future growth and rapid deployment of services.

**Sharay Erskine**

CIO, Atlanta Community Food Bank



As CIO of the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Sharay leads strategy and governance at one of the largest hunger-relief organizations. With 20+ years in technology, logistics, and supply chain, she delivers digital solutions that improve efficiency and performance. Her expertise spans IT strategy, process optimization, project management, and transformation. A PMP with a Master's in Information Systems, she aligns technology with mission impact, and is a champion for women in technology.

SUCCESS STORY

At the Atlanta Community Food Bank, our IT team advances the mission by modernizing how food moves from donors to neighbors. We delivered a cloud-based ERP, integrated WMS, and refreshed e-commerce, reducing waste and increasing distribution capacity. We established a Business Intelligence function that provides board-ready dashboards and drives data-informed decisions. An Enterprise PMO now prioritizes and closes strategic projects with discipline, while improved IT service management consistently meets a 97% on-time SLA. Together, these innovations lowered operating costs, improved transparency, and made it easier for staff and partners to get nutritious food where it's needed most.

**Tiffany Kane**

VP, IT & CIO, recteq



Tiffany Kane is the Chief Information Officer of a rapidly scaling consumer brand, bringing more than 20 years of IT leadership experience, including roles at several Fortune 50 companies. Known for modernizing technology, driving transformation, and delivering measurable ROI, she empowers lean teams to achieve outsized impact through servant leadership. A former Division I scholarship Women's Swim Team athlete, Tiffany brings discipline, resilience, and a team-first mindset to every initiative.

SUCCESS STORY

As CIO, I lead a technology transformation that positions IT as a driver of growth, innovation, and customer experience. By modernizing digital platforms, launching AI-powered tools, and building recteq's first business intelligence program, I deliver measurable results such as significant process efficiencies and faster, engaging customer experiences online and in-app. I focus on servant leadership, empowering a lean team to achieve outsized impact with a relentless focus on ROI that enables the business to scale with discipline and purpose. These efforts create the secure, scalable foundation that enables the company to expand into new channels while serving customers with excellence.

**Tommy Meek**

CIO, PGA TOUR Superstore



Tommy Meek serves as Chief Information Officer for PGA TOUR Superstore, where he leads the vision, strategy, and execution of the company's Business Technology organization. With the team now recognized as true business partners, he is helping advance the business through technology solutions. This is done by delivering enterprise data solutions, technical capabilities, and operational foundations that support and scale the company's accelerated growth strategy with a cybersecurity first mindset.

SUCCESS STORY

At PGA TOUR Superstore, the Business Technology organization has transformed from a reactive support function into a proactive driver of strategy and growth. By embedding business enablement capabilities into decision-making, our team delivers impactful solutions, streamlines operations and enables innovation. We're leveraging data to turn insights into real-time actions that improve performance, while also playing a strategic role in initiatives like In-Home Golf Simulation, new stores, reshaping customer experiences and scaling new business opportunities. With the adoption of product management practices, Business Technology is now positioned as a true partner and catalyst for efficiency, innovation, and competitive advantage.

**Gaurav Singal**

EVP & CTO (Former), Cantaloupe



Gaurav Singal is EVP & CTO at Cantaloupe Inc., leading digital and AI innovation in self-service commerce. Educated at IIT Delhi (B.Tech) and UIC (MS, Computer Science), he brings 26+ years across investment banking, asset management, logistics, gaming, and payments, with leadership roles at Goldman Sachs, XPO Logistics, and Georgia Lottery. Recipient of multiple national technology awards, he is recognized for driving digital transformation, trusted leadership, and building diverse, high-performing teams.

SUCCESS STORY

As CTO at Cantaloupe, I lead one of North America's largest unattended IoT platforms, powering 1B+ transactions and over \$3B+ in payments each year. Two innovations stand out. Remote Price Change replaced costly site visits with instant, remote updates across thousands of machines, cutting labor and accelerating margins. Cantaloupe's Smart Café and Smart Store use AI sensors and computer vision for tap-to-open, grab-and-go shopping. We are innovating to move shopping from SCAN→TAP→GO (removing scanning), to TAP→GO, and ultimately to GO with biometrics. These advances redefine unattended retail - blending IoT and AI to unlock frictionless consumer experiences.

**Mike Weinberg**

CIO, The Wilmington Group



Michael Weinberg is a seasoned technology executive with a proven track record across Fortune 500, mid-sized, VC-backed, and PE-owned companies. Currently serving as CIO at The Wilmington Group, he consistently delivers capabilities that create measurable business value. Michael excels in building and restructuring high-performing technology teams, aligning IT initiatives with core business objectives, and driving innovation through emerging technologies. His consultative leadership style ensures that technology investments deliver measurable results, competitive differentiation, and sustainable profitability.

SUCCESS STORY

In my first year at TWG, we successfully transitioned from legacy, on-premises systems to a cloud-first, scalable infrastructure. This modern foundation supports secure, anytime/anywhere access to analytics across devices and enables a standardized, cross-functional data model. The transformation not only improved operational efficiency but also positioned the organization to leverage predictive analytics and AI-driven insights with limited additional overhead. Additionally, the shift to cloud architecture significantly strengthened our overall security posture. By implementing modern security protocols and hardening our environment, we've created a resilient infrastructure capable of supporting exponential growth while maintaining compliance and data integrity.

PUBLIC SECTOR **FINALISTS**

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SECTOR

2025
**ORBIE
AWARDS****Chris
Crist****CIO, Hartsfield-Jackson
Atlanta International
Airport**

Chris Crist serves as Chief Information Officer at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the world's busiest airport, supporting 108 million annual passengers and 63,000 employees. He leads technology strategy, cybersecurity, engineering, and operations that help drive ATL's nearly \$70 billion annual economic impact. Previously a CIO in healthcare and a senior technology leader at U.S. Transportation Command, he holds a doctorate from Vanderbilt University and an MBA in IT Management, with multiple professional IT certifications.

SUCCESS STORY

My success story begins with my grandmother, who immigrated from Mexico and never had the chance to attend school. For generations, opportunities like higher education felt out of reach for my family. Her resilience and belief in me planted the seed that I could break through. Along the way, key people believed in me at pivotal moments and propelled me forward, from military service to earning a doctorate at Vanderbilt to becoming CIO of the world's busiest airport. My success is not mine alone but also theirs, and I am grateful to the teams I have worked alongside for years.

**Kevin
Kerrigan****CIO, Fulton County
Government**

Kevin Kerrigan, MPA, PMP, CG-CIO, is Chief Information Officer for Fulton County, GA, where he leads a \$75M IT enterprise serving 44 offices and 1.2M residents. With 20+ years of local government IT leadership, Kevin has driven major cloud migrations, cybersecurity resilience, and digital transformation initiatives. Previously serving as Assistant CIO for Gwinnett County and IT Director for Hillsborough County, he is recognized for modernizing IT, building talent pipelines, and advancing secure, innovative public services.

SUCCESS STORY

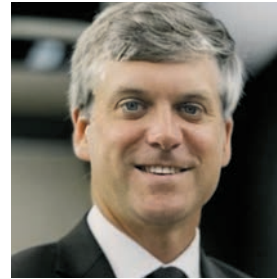
Through my leadership, Fulton County IT has become a resilient, innovative enterprise. After successfully overcoming a LockBit ransomware attack, we accelerated modernization—halving our on-premises footprint and migrating mission-critical systems to the cloud, improving reliability, security, and continuity of services. We launched AI and digital initiatives that streamlined operations and enhanced resident satisfaction, while internships, leadership development, and mentorship programs expanded our talent pipeline and boosted morale. These achievements delivered multi-million-dollar savings, modernized essential services, and positioned Fulton County as a leader in secure, transformative public innovation.

**Kimberly
Lemley****CIO,
Cobb County Government**

Kimberly Lemley began her IT career with Cobb County Government as a part-time Help Desk Analyst while attending college. After earning her B.S. in Information Systems from Kennesaw State University, she advanced through roles including IS Coordinator, Technical Support Analyst, Technology Services Manager, and Division Director. She has served as Chief Information Officer since June 2020. Mrs. Lemley is a Certified Government CIO and an EXCEL Management Program graduate from UGA's Carl Vinson Institute.

SUCCESS STORY

Over the past year, I oversaw the successful delivery of 30+ technology projects. Highlights include launching a countywide e-procurement platform, a new water billing system, and implementing findhelp.org, a centralized social services portal. We expanded broadband in underserved parks using ARPA funds and implemented Cobb's Strategic Plan in a digital platform. Cybersecurity advances included DLP protections, .gov domain migration, and a new threat-hunting position. Our team ranked 5th nationally in the 2024 NACo Digital Counties Survey. I've also fostered a high-performing, inclusive IT culture through recognition programs and sponsorship of a departmental book club focused on professional and personal growth.

**Tyson
Morris****CIO, Metropolitan Atlanta
Rapid Transit Authority
(MARTA)**

An innovative digital transformation executive with 20+ years of management experience leading IT strategy, driving modernization, and delivering measurable business value. Proven success spearheading large-scale initiatives and managing diverse, cross-functional teams to create scalable digital solutions for customer-facing, corporate, and government organizations.

SUCCESS STORY

In my first year at MARTA, our Technology team delivered transformative initiatives aligned to safety, cleanliness, and reliability. We migrated critical workloads to the cloud and stabilized our data centers for hybrid efficiency, enabled 24/7 monitoring for 99.9% uptime, and expanded CCTV features for real-time monitoring and safer operations. We launched a generative AI pilot to cut manual tasks, modernized our data science platform to drive operational efficiency, and restructured IT roles to strengthen accountability and agility. These initiatives are positioning MARTA to meet today's demands and anticipate tomorrow's with a mission-aligned, data-driven, people-first team.

**Jason
Sankey****CIO,
City of Atlanta**

Jason Sankey is a strategic change agent with 20 years of executive leadership in operations and technology. Renowned for driving innovation and fostering cross-sector collaboration, he brings transformative strategies and forward-looking technology leadership to the City of Atlanta. Widely recognized for his ability to modernize organizations and deliver community impact, Jason combines vision, execution, and public service to advance both organizational performance and the lives of the residents he serves.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, our team has redefined the role of technology in public service. Partnering with public safety, we equipped the new Training Center with advanced technology and helped contribute to an 11% citywide crime reduction. We modernized infrastructure, introduced AI tools that improved civic engagement and boosted IT satisfaction scores 1–2% above industry averages, and launched youth eSports labs to build future skills. Through \$6M in savings and \$4M in new recurring revenue, we delivered unprecedented financial stewardship in a challenging economy. In times of crisis, we've shown resilience, ensuring Atlanta is safer, more equitable, and future-ready.

**Ananias
Williams III****CIO, Georgia Department
of Revenue**

Ananias Williams III is experienced in the strategic guidance of innovative technology solutions across global environments. He provides leadership for delivery of Information Technology services to support enterprise business functions for DOR. His technology experience spans business areas in the public and private sectors. Williams is a veteran of the U.S. Navy having served in the Fleet Marine Force. He earned a bachelor's degree from Auburn University and holds a Master of Information Technology.

SUCCESS STORY

I'm honored to lead the Information Technology Division at the Georgia Department of Revenue, where our team has delivered innovative, high-impact solutions that serve both our agency and the citizens of Georgia. My leadership approach is grounded in my experience as a U.S. Navy veteran, where I served with the Fleet Marine Force. That time taught me the value of discipline, teamwork, and developing people—principles I carry into every leadership role. I am dedicated to advancing technological innovation while empowering teams to build a stronger, more citizen-centric government.



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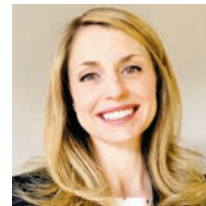
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