

ATLANTA
BUSINESS CHRONICLE

2025

GEORGIA CISO ORBIE® AWARDS

The annual GeorgiaCISO ORBIE® Awards honors chief information security officers who have demonstrated excellence in security leadership. Winners in the Super Global, Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate and Nonprofit/Public Sector categories will be announced November 20 at Hotel at Avalon.



**FROM THE CHAIR:
JOHN KOESTER**

Collectively We Secure
the Enterprise



**LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT:
DEBORAH WHEELER**

How Delta's CISO turned a
chance assignment into her
life's work



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FROM THE CHAIR

Collectively We Secure the Enterprise

Successful CISOs appreciate the power of collaboration with peers facing similar challenges.

GeorgiaCISO brings together preeminent CISOs from Georgia's largest organizations to enhance leadership effectiveness, mitigate risks, and recognize shared successes. Member-led, non-commercial programs foster meaningful professional relationships, empowering CISOs to protect their organizations and develop cyber resilience.

Through year-round, secure, member-focused events and interactions, the collective expertise of CISOs creates remarkable organizational value. The answer is in the room. Sharing best practices and experiences in a confidential, collaborative environment helps everyone win.

Together, we are building a collective defense.

The Inspire Leadership Network connects CISOs with members across 15 chapters, with more to come in 2026. Experienced leaders understand the 'superpower' of trusted relationships with other leading CISOs, which strengthens security and creates significant value across public and private businesses, government, education, healthcare, and nonprofit sectors.

The ORBIE® Awards honor outstanding CISO leadership in Georgia. On behalf of GeorgiaCISO, congratulations to the nominees and finalists for their remarkable achievements. A special thank you to the sponsors and underwriters for their investment to make the GeorgiaCISO ORBIE® Awards possible.

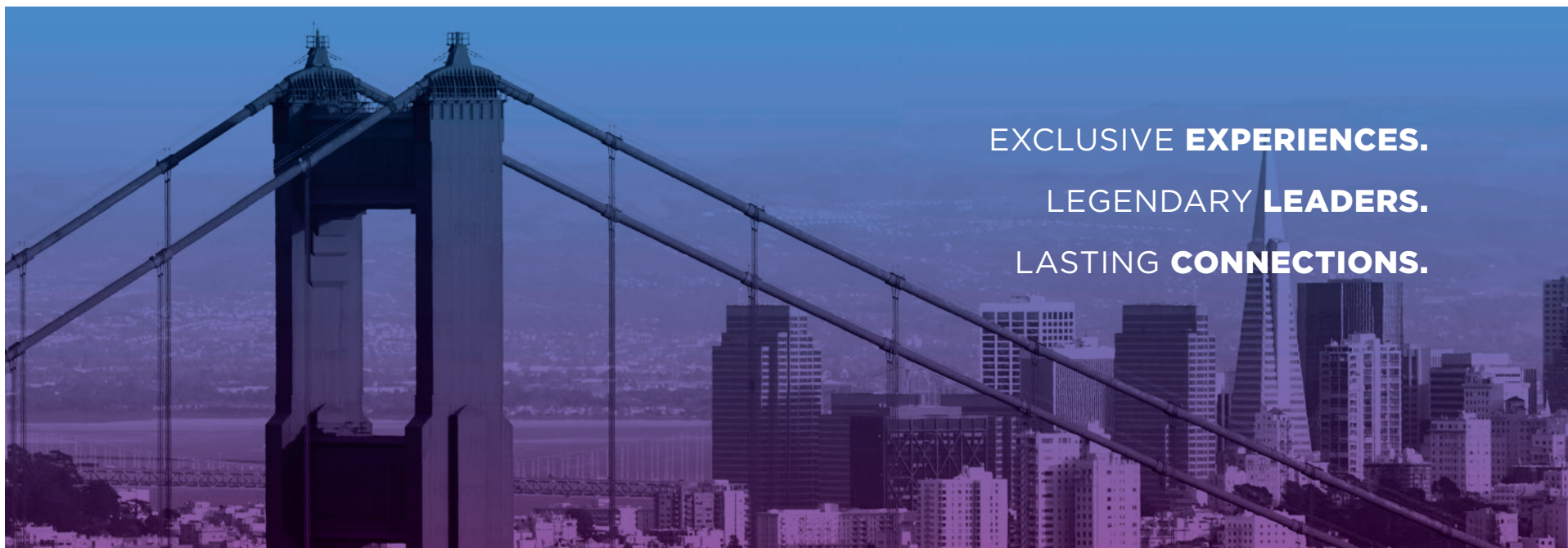


Sincerely

John Koester

2025 Chair, GeorgiaCISO

VP & CISO, Graphic Packaging International, LLC.



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2025 LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Deborah Wheeler

Global Chief Information Security Officer | Delta Air Lines

Delta Air Lines CISO Debbie Wheeler receives GeorgiaCISO ORBIE Leadership Award

By The Business Journals Content Studio

Debbie Wheeler, the global chief information security officer at Delta Air Lines, entered the field of cybersecurity almost by accident. In the early 1990s, while working as a network engineer at MCI, her manager asked her to take on an unusual problem: computer viruses. That short-term assignment turned into her life's work.

"I was fascinated by the psychology of it — why someone would want to write computer code that did something bad," Wheeler said. "From that point forward, anything that looked like security came my way."

Wheeler soon became a leader in an industry that was still defining itself. At a time when few organizations had formal security teams, Wheeler helped companies establish foundational cybersecurity strategies. Over the next two decades, she built security programs and held leadership roles at PNC Bank, Fifth Third Bank, JPMorgan Chase, Ally Financial and Freddie Mac.

The financial services industry offered dynamic opportunities. "When I was at Ally Bank, we built out the security function while the company went through everything from paying off TARP to building a new data center from scratch to relisting on the stock exchange," she said. "Where else are you going to experience that in a six-year time frame?"

Throughout her career, Wheeler has concentrated on the people cybersecurity affects — customers, employees and team members. "My focus as a leader in cybersecurity is to ensure the

information they share is secured," she said.

To acknowledge Wheeler's impact on cybersecurity, GeorgiaCISO selected her as its 2025 ORBIE Leadership Award recipient. The program honors chief information security officers who have a proven track record of successful information security leadership, have made significant contributions to the business and technology community, and have inspired others through their personal, professional and civic contributions.

From financial services to the skies

After more than 25 years in financial services, Wheeler made the jump to Delta Air Lines. "I couldn't resist the opportunity to be part of this iconic brand," she said.

The work was familiar. "The application of cybersecurity in financial services is the same in aviation. The threats are similar — different actors, different motivations — but you're still a target," she said. "I get to practice the same skills I spent 25 years honing in the financial services sector."

The importance of mentors

Mentors and managers have shaped Wheeler's career at key moments, including in 1998 when she was offered a leadership role outside of information security while expecting her second child. Her manager advised her to weigh the professional opportunity and her personal circumstances.

"That was the first time anybody challenged

me to think about what my priorities were and whether something was the right fit for my life," she said. "That transformed how I've thought about every career decision."

She also points to her experiences in the early 1990s, when women engineers were vastly outnumbered. "I was one of three women in a division of 1,000 engineers," she recalled. A female team leader taught her to stand up for herself, reminding her, "Even in an environment where the odds are stacked against you, you've earned the right to be there. Exercise your voice."

Giving back and building the next generation

Beyond her corporate work, Wheeler has invested deeply in the Atlanta community. She has served on multiple boards, including the Southeastern Electric Reliability Corporation and Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School. Her involvement with Cristo Rey and other groups reflects a commitment to developing the next generation of cyber leaders.

"For seven years, Delta has been involved in Cristo Rey's work-study program. We've had 28 young men and women come through our information security program," she said. "Some had no interest in security when they joined us but left saying the experience changed their life."

To Wheeler, workforce development programs are necessary to strengthen the field. "We want to build the pipeline for the next generation of cyber leaders," she said. "We're going to need them."



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OVER \$15 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS



2025
CISO
AWARDS



Andy Abercrombie

CISO,
Novelis Inc



Andy Abercrombie serves as Chief Information Security Officer at Novelis, a global leader in rolled aluminum and part of the Aditya Birla Group. With extensive international experience, Andy blends technology expertise with a strong focus on people and culture. His leadership is strengthened by a broad global network and a commitment to continuous learning. Passionate about driving innovation and resilience, Andy embraces new challenges to advance business security and growth.

SUCCESS STORY

The success as a cybersecurity team, has seen Novelis transformed and evolve. Aligning our Cybersecurity Strategy to business objectives and enterprise risks has been one of the most rewarding and significant accomplishments. The mantra 'cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility' continues to improve with awards for our cybersecurity month outcomes and the use of cybersecurity safety messages. The overall view of cybersecurity is the major change at Novelis that my team has been instrumental in driving. We are seen as an enabler of the business and this important change means that we are engaged, leveraged and involved to make the business resilient.



Sherron Burgess

Global SVP & CISO,
BCD Travel



Sherron Burgess is SVP and Global CISO at BCD Travel, where she leads security strategy and risk across 100+ countries—protecting one of the world's largest corporate travel portfolios. She also serves as Board Chair of Cyversity, accelerating access and advancement in cyber for untapped communities. Known for cultivating inclusive teams and future-ready talent pipelines, Sherron's recognized expertise bridges technical excellence with purpose-driven leadership to help secure a more resilient, representative digital future.

SUCCESS STORY

With a gifted team of security leaders and a shared sense of purpose, we transformed BCD Travel's cybersecurity program from decentralized compliance to a unified, risk-aligned strategy spanning 12 brands and 109 countries. Together, we streamlined global certifications, reduced audit fatigue by 30%, and now respond to 15,000+ client inquiries annually. Beyond frameworks, we built a globally diverse team of 80+ professionals—85% certified—with eNPS and engagement scores 23 points above company benchmarks. Our impact is measured not only in incidents prevented, but in the trust we've earned—redefining cybersecurity as a business enabler fueling global growth.



Gretchen Hiley

CISO, North America,
Randstad



Gretchen serves as the CISO, North America and Global Lead for Data Security at Randstad. She is a proven leader in building and implementing practical security solutions. Gretchen simplifies complex cybersecurity challenges by focusing on the fundamentals and communicating clearly across all levels of an organization. This approach drives cultural change, fostering the security mindset necessary to build a mature and effective security program.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, our team's greatest accomplishment is achieving ISO 27001 certification—the culmination of a full-scale turnaround. I inherited a struggling team with low morale and a portfolio of failing projects. My first priority was stabilization: building trust, setting priorities, and aligning talent. We then systematically rescued troubled projects and improved processes by collaborating with IT and business partners, which helped us build a security-aware culture across the organization. This transformation not only established a secure foundation for our continued growth but also demonstrates the maturity of our information security program.



David Nagel

VP & Global CISO,
Genuine Parts Company



David Nagel is the Vice President Global CISO at Genuine Parts Company (GPC). David earned a Bachelor of Arts from Virginia Military Institute. David has 21 years of experience in cybersecurity with the United States government and commercial companies across consulting, information technology and cyber defense. Certifications include cyber security programs at Georgia Institute of Technology and Harvard Business School. David's hobbies include coaching youth sports, volunteering in the community and on cybersecurity.

SUCCESS STORY

The success of security in GPC is attributed to three key items. The first is an executive team who fully supports security across each business area. The second is an information technology team championing security as key priority for their teams where they are committed to address security as part of their activities. The third is a security leadership team who wants to partner with their teammates and stakeholders for mutual success. We are grateful to our IT leadership for driving a culture of accountability and delivery. We are also humbled by the commitment of our partners to "ride together."

GLOBAL FINALISTS

OVER \$2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS



2025
CISO
AWARDS



Pablo De La Rosa

VP, Information Security,
Vontier



Pablo De La Rosa is the Vice President of Information Security at Vontier, leading teams responsible for enterprise information security strategy. He played a key role in developing a global business resilience program and enhancing security operations. Previously, he had a 24-year career at Invesco, strengthening their cyber defense. Pablo holds CISSP and CBCP certifications and a Master's in Cybersecurity. Outside work, he enjoys traveling, reading, fishing, and hiking.

SUCCESS STORY

I lead a high-performing information security team that has significantly strengthened enterprise resilience and cyber defense. By building a global business resilience program, we reduced incident response times by over 40% and improved recovery metrics for critical systems. We enhanced security operations with advanced threat detection and response, achieving a 30% improvement in detection and response times. Through coordinated efforts and awareness campaigns, we embedded security culture across the organization, reaching over 95% of employees and reducing phishing click rates by 60%. Our work reflects a strong commitment to resilience, collaboration, and continuous improvement.



Dan Dubowski

CISO,
Hertz



Daniel Dubowski is the Global CISO of Hertz. He leads strategy, operations, and governance across both corporate and franchise environments. Prior to Hertz, Daniel was the US CISO at Equifax, where he joined post-breach to help build an industry-leading security program and support a comprehensive technology transformation. He has also led the global security program for InterContinental Hotels Group which spanned more than 100 countries, nearly 6000 hotels, and employed over 350,000 colleagues.

SUCCESS STORY

My greatest success has been the impact I have been able to make on others. Getting a random phone call from someone I have mentored or impacted in a positive way is the greatest reward a leader can get. We deal with issues and challenges day in and day out, but taking time to invest in others is the greatest gift we can give someone.



Stacy Hughes

SVP & CISO,
ABM Industries



Stacy Hughes is Chief Information Security Officer at ABM, leading enterprise cybersecurity, risk, and compliance programs focusing on AI, cloud, and emerging technologies. With over 25 years of experience, she previously served as CISO at Voya Financial and Global Payments. Stacy serves on three Atlanta CISO leadership boards, Columbus State University's Cybersecurity Advisory Board, and the Susan G. Komen Community Board. She is passionate about mentoring and developing the next generation of cybersecurity leaders.

SUCCESS STORY

At ABM, we transformed cybersecurity from defense to a strategic driver of business value. By rebuilding the team, aligning to strategy, and launching cyber transparency workshops across every business unit, we clarified risks and built trust. Information Security became a critical partner in ABM's rebrand and launch of the new ABM.com website, enabled secure adoption of AI technologies through governance, and safeguarded innovations like robotics and ABM Connect. These initiatives elevated security as an accelerator of growth and trusted partner in securing the people and places that matter most.



Kemper Seay

CISO & VP, Infrastructure,
Carter's



Kemper Seay is the CISO and VP of Infrastructure and Supply Chain Systems at Carter's, where she has been for over 16 years. She started her career in IT consulting at Sapient and then transitioned into retail working on the website at The Home Depot, then transitioning to Carter's to build the ecommerce business. Transitioning back to IT, Kemper now oversees IT Security, Infrastructure, Supply Chain Systems and Support Services.

SUCCESS STORY

During my tenure as leader of the Cybersecurity Team, I have been fortunate to build a team of strong leaders and skilled professionals. We have developed processes for protecting against, detecting, responding to, and recovering from cybersecurity threats. We diligently conduct regular audits and continuously strive to improve security measurements along the NIST framework. The support of Carter's leadership has allowed us to install best-of-breed technology and tools to protect against threats. Most importantly, our team has built a security-minded culture across Carter's organization through investing in training and education for the broader company in addition to the cybersecurity team.

LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$2.3 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
CISO
AWARDS



Ron Aucoin

CISO,
Beazer Homes



A cybersecurity and technology leader with over 25 years of experience, Ron has a history of strategy development focused on innovation, risk reduction, improving incident response, and enhancing the customer experience. Prior to Beazer Homes, Ron held senior leadership roles at Serta Simmons Bedding, Manhattan Associates, and Vantiv, where he led large-scale technology transformations. With a strong focus on cross-functional collaboration, he is known for driving initiatives aligned with business objectives and delivering transformative results.

SUCCESS STORY

When Beazer Homes began exploring the use of AI solutions to enhance current business processes, the transformational potential was evident – along with the risks of sensitive data exposure. Instead of slowing innovation, the Security team built the safeguards that made adoption possible. We mapped data flows, validated access controls, and educated employees on responsible use. This resulted in multiple solution deployments where employees gained efficiencies and leadership gained confidence in IT. This success demonstrated that security, when integrated early, is a business enabler – helping the organization embrace AI while preserving trust and protecting critical information.



Curley Henry

SVP & CISO,
Southern Company



Curley Henry is Senior Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer at Southern Company, overseeing cybersecurity strategy and risk across all affiliates. With nearly 30 years of experience, he's held leadership roles at E*Trade, HP, IBM, and the U.S. Army Reserve. He collaborates with DOE, EPRI, and industry leaders, and champions diversity through Women in Technology. Henry holds degrees from Saint Leo University and Harvard Business School and serves on multiple national boards.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, our cybersecurity team achieved industry-first DHS SAFETY Act Designation and Certification, validating program maturity. We led DOE-funded innovations like ADVEDIA and STAR TREC, completed the CyOTE project, and advanced SBOM threat automation with EPRI. Our frameworks earned the 2024 EPRI Tech Transfer Award. We championed talent through the OT Defender Fellowship and launched a pilot with Women in Technology. Operationally, we delivered multimillion-dollar savings and embedded cyberculture via strategic programs. These milestones reflect our national leadership in securing critical infrastructure through innovation, inclusion, and excellence.



Kim Keever

CISO,
Cox Communications



Kim Keever is CISO for Cox Communications. Her team has implemented practices significantly reducing security risk and is recognized for innovation across the industry. In 2023, the president appointed her to the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee where leaders advise the White House on communications infrastructure security. She serves on the boards of Georgia Tech Scheller College of Business, Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power and Potential and technology advisory board for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

SUCCESS STORY

With Cox's support, I've built a high-performing, mission-driven team that has transformed our company's security posture into an industry-leading program. Through strategic implementation, cross-functional collaboration, and a commitment to sharing best practices, we've not only protected our enterprise but also strengthened cybersecurity across the industry and nation. Our defenses have successfully blocked high-profile attacks, and our insights have aided law enforcement and peers. I'm especially proud of our talent development—several team members have become CISOs elsewhere, and we've cultivated exceptional leaders from non-traditional backgrounds.



Pete Statia

Director, Information
Security & Compliance,
Saia LTL Freight



Since my service in the 82nd Airborne Division, 1/505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, I have dedicated my career to cybersecurity, in the Healthcare sector until 2021. I began as a security engineer, focusing on system architecture and support. In 2015, I transitioned from a large healthcare system in Georgia to lead an Information Security team for a regional Georgia healthcare system. Currently, I lead the Information Security function at Saia, a leading-national, less-than-truckload carrier.

SUCCESS STORY

Our team's most significant achievement is developing and deploying a Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) model for Saia. By leveraging the existing Human Capital Management (HCM) solution, we defined staff roles, eliminating the need for hiring managers to manually request access. This streamlined process reduced delays and inefficiencies in business operations and IT services. The RBAC model also prevents access rights accumulation during role transitions and ensures timely access termination. It is a crucial part of our Identity Governance framework, providing timely and exact privilege access during onboarding, role changes, and terminations.



Trey Tunnell

CISO,
Floor & Decor



Trey Tunnell is the CISO for Floor & Decor, a 260-store retailer of hard surface flooring with \$4.5B in annual revenue. Trey has been on a 27-year tour of Atlanta retailers. After spending 15 years at Home Depot in application development/delivery, he spent 7 years fulfilled similar roles for Paradies and NAPA. Trey found a new home in cyber in November 2019 and has since fallen in love with cybersecurity and the Atlanta cyber community.

SUCCESS STORY

In December of 2024, our ECOM partners had a CDN vendor that gave us 30 days to find a new solution. We partnered with those ECOM partners and Adapture to deploy Cloudflare for WAF/CDN in 3 weeks. 3 weeks from demo to protecting critical assets. The teams collectively stepped up serve the business need. I know there are a lot of great teams in the Atlanta Security family. What I believe makes a security team special is a fierce sense of duty to the business we are protecting. To enable it, to secure it, to ensure it's success. Gittyup.

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$1.5 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
CISO
AWARDS



Andrew Clinton

AVP, Cybersecurity,
Aveanna Healthcare



Andrew Clinton is a cybersecurity and IT leader with 20 years of experience driving strategy, security programs, and digital transformation in regulated environments. As AVP at Aveanna Healthcare, he leads a team that protects infrastructure, reduces risk, and enables resilient IT. He's led initiatives in security operations, architecture, and compliance across industries. Holding CISSP, OSCP, and OSEE certifications, Andrew is committed to mentoring future leaders and enhancing executive decision-making around cyber risk.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership as AVP of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure, I transformed the team from a reactive support function into a strategic business enabler. In a regulated healthcare environment, we built governance, visibility, and risk management from the ground up. We modernized vulnerability management, enhanced resilience through red teaming and threat hunting, and embedded continuous improvement. I fostered a high-performance culture, integrated security into M&A and digital initiatives, and resolved vendor issues by aligning delivery with business goals. Most importantly, we earned trust and enabled the business to navigate threats with confidence.



Kenny Cunningham

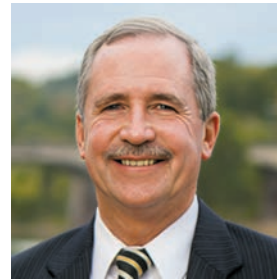
Director, IT Security,
OneDigital



With over 21 years of IT experience, I serve as the Senior IT Security Director at OneDigital. Holding certifications like CISSP, CISM, CRISC, and CDPSE, I am dedicated to safeguarding digital assets. I earned my BS and MS at Kennesaw State University and am pursuing a PhD at the University of the Cumberland.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, we drastically improved our cybersecurity, directly empowering business growth. We implemented Phishing-Resistant MFA and Windows Autopilot, which accelerated employee onboarding by cutting device setup time by 50%. By aligning with the NIST CSF and achieving SOC2 Type 2 certification, we built a foundation of trust. Our layered defense, including CrowdStrike Falcon Complete, reduced successful phishing attacks by 90% and security incidents by 65% since 2023. This approach was validated during a ransomware attempt where our rapid response prevented any data loss, proving that security is a vital business enabler, not just a safeguard.



Kevin Gowen

CSO,
Synovus Financial Corp



Kevin Gowen serves as Chief Security Officer for Synovus and is responsible for cybersecurity, fraud, privacy, and physical security. He was named Chief Security Officer in 2025, after serving as CISO since 2015. Gowen's prior industry experience includes technology and business roles at Synovus and IBM. Gowen earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech. He serves as a board member of the National Technology Security Coalition and on multiple advisory boards.

SUCCESS STORY

Synovus has been recognized as one of the nation's "Most Reputable Banks," and our cybersecurity, fraud, and privacy initiatives are an integral element. Our teams enhance digital offerings and customer experience through advanced authentication, threat intelligence, and integrated risk management. Ongoing employee training ensures strong cyber risk awareness and customer education. We further support business development with educational events and foster a high-performing, inclusive environment through professional development, cross-training, and active participation in industry groups and university programs. These efforts contribute to above-industry-average team member retention and reinforce our commitment to security and customer trust.



Ganjar Imansantosa

CISO, Tropical Smoothie
Cafe LLC



Ganjar Imansantosa is the Chief Information Security Officer at Tropical Smoothie Cafe, where he leads enterprise cybersecurity across corporate systems, retail operations, cloud infrastructure, and digital channels. A strategic leader, he positions security as a business enabler—protecting guest trust, enabling digital innovation, and supporting franchisee success. Passionate about talent development, he has coached professionals into industry-recognized security leaders. Ganjar is recognized for aligning protection with growth and fostering resilience in fast-paced, digital-first enterprises.

SUCCESS STORY

As CISO, I lead enterprise cybersecurity across corporate, retail, cloud, and digital channels, guiding a team of 40+. My philosophy is to make security a business enabler—protecting guest trust, enabling digital growth, and supporting franchise success. We embed resilience into transformation initiatives, strengthen defenses against fraud and ransomware, and foster a risk-aware culture. I invest in people as much as technology, coaching professionals into respected security leaders and industry voices. Ultimately, my role is to ensure growth happens securely—aligning protection with innovation and making security a catalyst for trust and business success.

LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

OVER \$550 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
CISO
AWARDS



Alicia Clarke

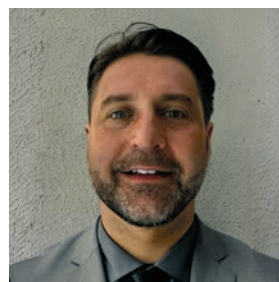
Director of CyberSecurity,
Privacy & Risk,
PGA Tour Superstore



Alicia Laing Clarke is the Director of Cybersecurity for the premier golf retailer in the U.S., overseeing cybersecurity, risk, compliance, and privacy for all company assets and data. With over 20 years of experience, she leverages the NIST Cybersecurity Framework to build strategic programs and implement security solutions. Alicia holds multiple certifications that demonstrate her expertise and leadership as a cybersecurity professional. Alicia is a renowned speaker in the cyber community.

SUCCESS STORY

The PGA TOUR Superstore Cybersecurity Program has matured by leveraging the NIST Cybersecurity Framework to guide strategic investments in technology and risk mitigation. We've transformed the organizational culture by promoting security awareness and accountability across all associates. Through enhanced threat detection, incident response, and privacy management, our program proactively defends against evolving threats while supporting business continuity and compliance. Training platforms and regular communication empower employees to recognize and report risks, reinforcing that cybersecurity is a shared responsibility.



Scott Kelly

VP, Infrastructure &
InfoSec, RPC, Inc
OneDigital



I am a strategic business leader and technologist with a proven record of driving enterprise technology innovation and workforce transformations. With expertise in information technology, strategic organizational leadership, and human capital management, I have guided organizations through complex global challenges by fostering collaboration across cultures and functions. Known for setting visionary goals and empowering high-performing teams, I consistently deliver results that strengthen organizational resilience, accelerate growth, and create lasting business impact.

SUCCESS STORY

Like many Information Security teams, we were once perceived as where "business innovation goes to die." Since joining RPC, my team has changed that narrative by building a culture rooted in collaboration and business enablement. Through this shift, we have fostered stronger relationships, positioned security as an enabler, and demonstrated that protecting the enterprise does not have to come at the expense of progress. Today, our team is recognized as a strategic business partner rather than a barrier, trusted to work closely with business counterparts, driving innovation while upholding the highest standards of information security.



Chuck Miller

CISO,
Blackbaud



Charles (Chuck) Miller is the CISO at Blackbaud with over 25 years of professional experience and active in the cybersecurity community. Chuck has been instrumental in successful merger activities, full public cloud adoption, digital transformation and driving best-in-class cybersecurity. Chuck was most recently SVP of cybersecurity at Truist, SVP of cybersecurity for SunTrust, and supported cybersecurity efforts at Capital One and Verizon. Chuck is an alumnus of the FBI CISO Academy.

SUCCESS STORY

As a post-breach CISO, our success story is turning a 2020 cyber incident into a catalyst for advancing cybersecurity awareness and strengthening risk management across the global nonprofit sector. We forged strong public-private partnerships to share lessons learned and elevate cybersecurity across nonprofit organizations including higher education and healthcare sectors. We partner with the industry and government to improve nonprofit resiliency against rising threats to a critical sector of the economy. In the US alone, the non-profit sector employees approximately 10% of all private-sector jobs and accounts for approximately \$1.4 trillion of US GDP. Protecting it means safeguarding social impact.



Jorge Perez

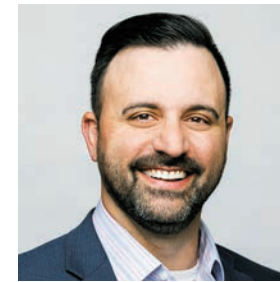
CISO,
Ameris Bank



Joined Ameris in July 2024. Prior to Ameris, Divisional CISO of Infrastructure, Commercial and Enterprise Payments at Truist. Prior to Truist, Director of Security Compliance and Cyber Hotel Security Services for InterContinental Hotels. Before IHG, KPMG Cyber Services out of NYC leading the Cyber Strategy and Transformation Implementations for fortune 500. Bachelor's degree in MIS from FIU. Jorge is a multi-year winner of the 100 HITEC Award for most influential Hispanics in the technology industry.

SUCCESS STORY

At Ameris, we have elevated cybersecurity as a customer-first priority. Recognizing rising digital threats, we have built a team of experts, implemented advanced monitoring tools, strengthened authentication measures, and launched proactive training to reduce risks. Our team successfully thwarted multiple attempted attacks without disruption to our customers or operations. Beyond defense, we championed customer communication campaigns that empowered customers to protect their accounts. Our collective efforts turned cybersecurity into a competitive advantage, safeguarding our customers while reinforcing Ameris Bank's reputation as a reliable and secure institution.



James Prolizo

CIO & CISO,
Sovos Compliance LLC



James is a senior technology executive with success driving digital transformation, product innovation, operational excellence, and customer satisfaction to accelerate growth. His enjoys working with companies to focus on what matters, by understanding the why and the data behind it, so the best decisions can be made. When not at work, James is most likely spending time with his family, coaching baseball or tackling his latest home improvement project - or even still LEGOs.

SUCCESS STORY

The use of AI automates our security questionnaire responses, reducing processing time by 85%. This accelerated customer onboarding and significantly improved customer satisfaction scores across the board. I expanded our AI implementation to threat detection, scaling our defensive capabilities far beyond traditional approaches. This strategic use of automation allowed me to effectively secure the organization with a small team. I established our Trust Center providing customers and partners with streamlined access to security documentation that accelerated business interactions and reduced friction during sales. I implemented a new vulnerability management program that achieved a 90% reduction in vulnerabilities in last year.

CORPORATE FINALISTS

UP TO \$500 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
CISO
AWARDS



Eric Aslaksen

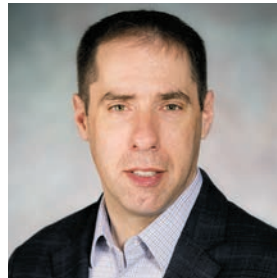
CISO & General Manager,
Security, Division Scale, LLC



Eric Aslaksen is CISO and General Manager of Security at iVision, where he has served since 2008, including a decade as CTO with dual responsibility for cybersecurity. An Air Force veteran and IT leader since 1995, he has guided technology strategies at Fortune 500 and multinational organizations and now drives iVision's transformation into a leading cybersecurity provider. Eric is known for building resilient teams, strengthening client trust, and aligning security with business growth.

SUCCESS STORY

Over the past few years, I've had the privilege of leading iVision through a strategic transformation into a full-scale cybersecurity provider. I redefined our client-facing security services, streamlined operations, and strengthened our positioning as a trusted security leader. Key initiatives included integrating specialized security acquisitions, expanding managed services, and building partnerships that drive long-term value. Internally, we elevated resilience and trust by embedding security into every layer of the business. Today, security is iVision's fastest-growing practice, fueled by a team committed to excellence, innovation, and helping clients navigate an increasingly complex threat landscape.



David Ehn

CISO,
Agilysys



David Ehn is a proven cybersecurity leader and CISO recognized for transforming enterprise security into risk-based, business-aligned programs. He partners with boards and executive teams to shape cyber strategy, strengthen governance, and safeguard customer trust across global SaaS environments. He has deep expertise in compliance, risk management, and enterprise security architecture. David has led multimillion-dollar initiatives that reduce risk, enable growth, and enhance resilience in complex environments.

SUCCESS STORY

At Agilysys, I have led the development of a globally consistent, sustainable security program grounded in repeatable fundamentals. Rather than chasing trends, we built a scalable framework that maintains strong security hygiene while seamlessly integrating advanced capabilities. Central to this success is a world-class team, nurtured through mentorship, process excellence, and a culture of ownership—evidenced by near-zero voluntary turnover. Together, we've enhanced controls, embedded security into DevOps, and elevated incident readiness. Our strength lies not in reacting to threats, but in anticipating and mitigating them with discipline and purpose.



Lock Langdon

VP & CISO,
Aprio



Lock Langdon is Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at Aprio. He leads global cybersecurity, privacy, and risk across high-growth advisory and managed services. He built scalable Security Operations, Security Engineering, and Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) functions that support mergers and acquisitions, data protection, and resilience. With 25+ years in healthcare, financial services, and consulting, he drives measurable outcomes, client trust, and responsible AI governance that enables innovation without compromising compliance.

SUCCESS STORY

Under Lock Langdon's leadership, Aprio scaled from a one-person security function to a high-performing global service. The program is aligned to recognized standards, with System and Organization Controls (SOC) 2 audit-ready controls while also establishing an Enterprise Risk Council, embedded security by design, designed product roadmaps, and standardized M&A playbooks to accelerate diligence and integration. Modernized identity, mobile application management, and endpoint protection safeguard client data while maintaining productivity. Automation, responsible AI guardrails, and clear metrics provide executives with real-time visibility into risk, enabling faster transformation, fewer disruptions, and durable client trust as Aprio grows.



Kevin Morrison

Sr. Director, Infrastructure
& Cybersecurity, HOA
Brands



Kevin Morrison is the Sr. Director of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure at HOA Brands. He earned his Bachelor of Science from AIU and his Master of Science, Applied Computer Science, from Kennesaw State University. He has over 35 years of experience in the Information Technology field and has held positions in varying responsibilities with extensive management and technology experience in non-profit, construction, manufacturing and technology industries.

SUCCESS STORY

When Kevin Morrison joined HOA Brands, the organization was facing critical infrastructure instability and had no formal cybersecurity program. In just over two years, Kevin led a complete transformation—stabilize the network, implement robust Fortinet-based security infrastructure, and build a cybersecurity practice from the ground up. His leadership directly contributed to a 25% recovery in revenue eliminating outages that were disrupting online ordering. Kevin challenges the mindset of "that's the way we've always done it." He brings a fresh, strategic perspective to every aspect of infrastructure and cybersecurity, questioning outdated practices and replacing them with modern, scalable, and secure solutions.



Tim Mullen

CISO,
OneTrust



Tim Mullen serves as the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) of OneTrust. Tim brings over 23 years of experience in information security encompassing all roles and functions. Prior experience includes security leadership roles at: Change Healthcare, Travelport, InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), Home Depot, Fidelity National Information Services (FIS), and AT&T. Tim holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia. An executive certification from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Sloan School of Management.

SUCCESS STORY

Over the past 3 years, the security organization has undergone a strategic transformation aimed at maturing its capabilities, aligning with business objectives, and proactively reducing enterprise risk. Through targeted investments, process optimization, and cultural change, the organization has evolved from a reactive posture to a proactive, risk-informed security program. Some examples: Built a modern Security Operations Center (SOC) with advanced threat detection, incident response, and threat intelligence integration. Implement clear policies, metrics, and reporting structures to ensure transparency and executive alignment. Developed and executed a multi-phase roadmap targeting high-risk areas including identity, cloud, product security and third-party risk.



Imtiaz Shaikh

VP, Information Technology,
Plumbing Distribution Inc.



Imtiaz brings his cybersecurity expertise to the forefront, working to strengthen the security posture of the broader IT community. His focus is on implementing efficient technology operations across systems infrastructure, networking, and data management. The strategies he puts in place ensure peak performance and availability while protecting the integrity of critical data assets. These initiatives highlight his commitment to innovation and reflect his core values of excellence and collaboration within the field of information technology.

SUCCESS STORY

At Plumbing Distributors Inc., my focus is on transforming our IT infrastructure, aligning technology strategy with business objectives to foster scalability and operational efficiency. With a tenure of over three years in this role, the teams I lead have successfully designed and deployed robust technical frameworks that adhere to stringent security protocols and industry standards. Our comprehensive approach ensures resilient systems, optimal resource allocation, and cost-efficient solutions, setting the stage for reliable operations across the board.

NONPROFIT/PUBLIC SECTOR FINALISTS

GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION, AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS



2025
CISO
AWARDS



Darrell Carter

Information Security
Officer, Technical College
System of Georgia



Darrell Carter (DC) is married with 6 children and 6 grandchildren. He is a US Navy Veteran with over 25 years of IT experience. DC has two associates degrees from Gwinnett Technical College (Information Security and Networking) along with a bachelor's and master's from Columbia Southern University (Information Technology and Organizational Leadership). He also holds the following certifications: CISSP, Cisco CyberOps, and Certified Ethical Hacker. He spends his spare time watching anime and with family.

SUCCESS STORY

TCSG needed an instructional platform that would allow colleges to leverage capacity regardless of student location. eCampus supports the mission to improve the student experience. For this initiative, TCSG needed a comprehensive and secure IAM with improved security, enhanced user experience, and increased operational efficiency. The chosen IAM platform is Okta. With my leadership, my security team was able to work with 22 colleges and our QuickStart Workforce Training division to implement a hub-spoke authentication model which includes over 900K accounts, 24 individual Okta tenants, and 24 Active Directory domains. This project was completed within 3 months.



Abdul Hussain

CISO,
Delta Community CU



Abdul Hussain is Vice President of Information Security and Chief Information Security Officer at Delta Community Credit Union, Georgia's largest credit union. He has more than 20 years of experience developing IT security strategies and infrastructure for large-scale global enterprises. A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and Certified Information Security Manager (CISM), Hussain holds a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology from Southern Polytechnic State University and an MBA from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

SUCCESS STORY

As Vice President of Information Security and Chief Information Security Officer at Delta Community Credit Union, Georgia's largest credit union, I protect sensitive information and oversee systems that safeguard critical data and organizational resources. One of my team's greatest accomplishments has been strengthening Delta Community's enterprise risk management capabilities. I led the implementation of a robust Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) platform, which enhanced our cyber framework and reduced our exposure to organizational threats. We also improved risk governance and reporting by redesigning executive dashboards and committee reports, achieving 100% on time delivery of cyber risk updates.



Heather Roszkowski

AVP, Cyber Defense &
CISO, Augusta University



Dr. Heather Roszkowski currently serves as the CISO for Augusta University. She previously served as the CISO of The University of Vermont Medical Center and the Network CISO of The University of Vermont Health Network. Preceding her occupation in the healthcare industry she served on active duty with the US Army - bringing 11 years of experience in computer information security and combat experience with her. Dr. Roszkowski has a Doctor of Science in Cybersecurity.

SUCCESS STORY

Our team's greatest accomplishment is the design, building, and operational development of our state-of-the-art Security Operations Center, which opened in the fall of 2020. We have integrated 71 students and 32 military interns into our operations, providing them with hands-on experience and a safe environment to learn and grow. This initiative not only benefits us but also prepares the next generation of cyber professionals. Knowing that we are positively impacting future generations while protecting our community from cyberattacks is extremely rewarding and what I am most proud of.



Carl Scaffidi

CISO,
VyStar Credit Union



CISO of VyStar responsible for integrating security as a risk balanced business enabler, while upholding the highest standard of security to protect credit union members. With over twenty years of technology & security experience, previous roles have included CISO of InComm Payments, CISO of Baker Donelson, Chief Data Security Officer for Regions Bank, Global Architecture Lead for EY Cyber Defense and Threat & Vulnerability Management while previously working as an Information Security Consultant for PwC and Accenture.

SUCCESS STORY

Implementing a new security strategy at VyStar we have been able to transform not only our security organization but also information technology and risk & compliance functions. Aligning to the NIST CSF, updating and creating policies & standards, implementing collaboration tools, enhancing our endpoint protection, upgrading our security operations platform, implementing additional email security, championing a GRC program, expanding security awareness & training, modernizing our application security, improving our cloud security, boosting our identity & access capabilities, reducing vulnerabilities & improving asset management to reduce the risk to our organization while enhancing our user experience and growing the team with zero attrition.



Eric Scott

CISO, Georgia Tech
Research Institute



Eric is a cybersecurity expert with 20+ years of experience, including leadership roles in R&D organizations. He currently serves as the inaugural CISO at GTRI overseeing cybersecurity across eight laboratories and 16 field offices. Eric previously led cybersecurity initiatives at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) before GTRI. Eric is a also combat veteran, honorably retiring from the reserves of the United States Marines Corps (USMC).

SUCCESS STORY

GTRI optimized its Security Operations Center (SOC) by implementing Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response (SOAR) to address budget and talent constraints. This automation streamlined 90% of triage tasks and reduced response times from days to minutes, significantly enhancing cybersecurity defenses. Improvements included faster detection and response to suspicious emails, foreign travel alerts, and security misconfigurations, with increased accuracy and customer responsiveness. Recognized for its impact, GTRI has presented this success story five times to various audiences, showcasing how innovation can drive efficiency and strengthen defenses amidst resource challenges.



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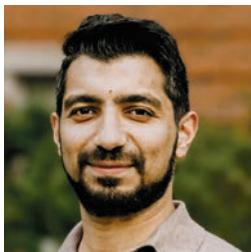
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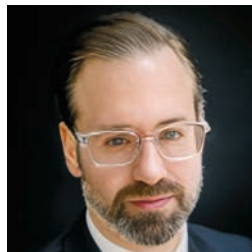
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Congratulations to Director of IT Security Pete Statia on being named a finalist for this year's GeorgiaCISO ORBIE Awards.

His nomination highlights his leadership and commitment to ensuring business continuity and customer trust in today's dynamic, digital-centric world.



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IS IN THE ROOM.
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Congratulations to **Kim Kever**, SVP,
Cybersecurity and Chief Information
Security Officer, Cox Communications for
being a finalist in the GeorgiaCISO ORBIE
Awards!



Her visionary leadership inspires us all.

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ORBIE
AWARDS

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