

# MICHIGAN ORBIE AWARDS



A special section in partnership with MichiganCIO

The annual Michigan ORBIE® Awards program honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Super Global, Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate & Nonprofit/Public Sector categories will be announced November 17 at The Henry.



MICHIGAN  
**ORBIE**  
AWARDS

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<b>SHOHREH ABEDI</b> The Auto Club Group (AAA)	<b>JIM BUJAKI</b> Central Michigan University	<b>ASH GOEL</b> Bronson Healthcare	<b>JEFF MARRACCINI</b> Altair	<b>MICHAEL PAULIN</b> Accident Fund Group	<b>SULABH SRIVASTAVA</b> Acrisure
<b>KATRINA AGUSTI</b> Carhartt	<b>CLIFF BURGESS</b> Gentex	<b>MARVIN GRITTERS</b> Universal Forest Products	<b>HEIDI MATTISON</b> CabinetWorks	<b>CHRISTOPHER PODGES</b> Munson Healthcare	<b>DARLENE TAYLOR</b> Superior Industries International
<b>AMJED AL-ZOUBI</b> Amerisure Insurance	<b>R.J. BUSSONE</b> FordDirect	<b>MARK GUTHRIE</b> AM General	<b>SCOTT MCISAAC</b> NTT	<b>SAURABH RAISINGHANI</b> Ford Credit	<b>ART THOMPSON</b> City of Detroit
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<b>ANDY ANDERSON</b> The Shift Group	<b>LAURA CLARK</b> State of Michigan	<b>SEAN HOGG</b> Alliance Inspection Management	<b>JAMES MILLER</b> DXC Technology	<b>BILL REX</b> Kellogg Company	<b>STEVE TUOHY</b> Trinity Health
<b>MARK ANGLE</b> OneStream Software	<b>STEVE COLLINS</b> Great Expressions Dental Centers	<b>KEVIN JOHNSON</b> Clarience Technologies	<b>PATHIK MODY</b> Trion Solutions	<b>PAT RINALDO</b> Ally Financial	<b>SOMA VENKAT</b> Cooper Standard
<b>TOM BARTOL</b> Volkswagen	<b>SPENCER CREMERS</b> Ally	<b>JASON KENNEDY</b> Piston Group	<b>DEREK MORKEL</b> McLaren	<b>ROBERT RINNAN</b> OWL Services	<b>CHARLIE WEAVER</b> Ferris State University
<b>SCOTT BENDLE</b> Rigaku	<b>ALAN DOUVILLE</b> Stryker	<b>ASHISH KHAN</b> Amway	<b>CHARY MUDUMBY</b> HTC Global Services	<b>MIKE ROGERS</b> Nexteer Automotive	<b>JOSHUA WILDA</b> University of Michigan Health-West
<b>SCOTT BENNETT</b> Lear Corporation	<b>TAMARA FABER-DOTY</b> CMS Energy and Consumers Energy	<b>FRED KILLEEN</b> General Motors	<b>EARL NEWSOME</b> Cummins Inc.	<b>MAY RUSSELL</b> Toyota	<b>JERRY WINKLER</b> Haworth
<b>TYLER BEST</b> Tenenco	<b>TOM FARRINGTON</b> Perrigo Company	<b>CRAIG LABOVITZ</b> Nokia	<b>JOYCE OH</b> Moffitt Cancer Center	<b>JAMES SEEVERS</b> TGNA	<b>MELISSA WOO</b> Michigan State University
<b>JASON BRESSLER</b> United Wholesale Mortgage	<b>FRANK FEAR</b> Covenant HealthCare	<b>TERRY LEDBETTER</b> Meijer	<b>RYAN OLIVIER</b> American Axle & Manufacturing	<b>ABDALLAH SHANTI</b> Volkswagen	<b>BRIAN WOODRING</b> Quicken Loans
<b>DANI BROWN</b> Whirlpool Corporation	<b>KELLY GARCIA</b> Domino's	<b>LAURA LEFIEF</b> Taubman	<b>BRIAN PAIGE</b> Calvin College	<b>RON WOODY</b> Eastern Michigan University	<b>PAUL WRIGHT</b> Accuride Corporation
<b>PAUL BROWNE</b> Henry Ford Health System	<b>LUIS GERMAN</b> Visteon	<b>STAN MAC</b> Pet Supplies Plus	<b>ESHWAR PASTAPUR</b> Hastings Mutual Insurance Company	<b>BORIS SHULKIN</b> Magna International	<b>JOSH ZOOK</b> Rocket Mortgage
			<b>GEOFF PATTERSON</b> Henry Ford Health System	<b>DEE SLATER</b> Wolverine Worldwide	



2023 MichiganCIO CHAIR

Leadership makes the impossible possible



ANITA KLOPFENSTEIN  
2023 Chair, MichiganCIO  
CIO, Little Caesars Enterprises  
and Ilitch Owned Companies

Technology is everywhere in our lives, and when it doesn't work, we notice.

For nearly twenty-five years, the Inspire Leadership Network has helped CIOs succeed in today's most challenging C-suite executive role. MichiganCIO members grow their leadership through year-round, member-led programs and interaction. Working together, CIOs across public and private business, government, education, healthcare and nonprofit organizations collaborate, share ideas and best practices, and create enormous leadership value.

The ORBIE Awards bring together leaders facing similar challenges – and this year – the Inspire Leadership Network will grow to 30 chapters, including the first international chapter in Toronto, and 3 chapters exclusively for Chief Information Security Officers.

Security is top of mind for every leader and organization, and the same principles that have served CIOs can be applied to CISOs as well.

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

"Successful leaders understand the 'superpower' of trusted relationships."

Member-led, non-commercial programs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges, solving

problems and avoiding pitfalls. Successful leaders understand the 'superpower' of trusted relationships. In any gathering of technology leaders, the answer is in the room.

Together, we are transforming our economy using technology & security, and enriching our region and our world. On behalf of MichiganCIO, congratulations to the nominees and finalists on their accomplishments and thank you to the sponsors, underwriters, and staff who make the ORBIE Awards possible.

Sincerely,

Anita Klopfenstein

Anita Klopfenstein  
2023 Chair, MichiganCIO  
CIO, Little Caesars Enterprises and Ilitch Owned Companies

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CLOUDFLARE



2023 Leadership Award Winner

# Think Like a Futurist - A Conversation with Leadership Award Winner Jane Sydlowski, President & CEO at AMI Strategies



Jane Sydlowski is a trailblazer. She was among the first women in Michigan to launch a tech startup back in 1991. Since then, she has led her company AMI Strategies to success, making a meaningful impact within Michigan's technology and business community.

As the 2023 ORBIE Leadership Award winner, Sydlowski recently shared her thoughts on the changing role of the CIO and how to prepare for the future.

Can you talk a little bit about yourself and your background?

**Sydlowski:** I grew up in western Michigan, the third daughter of four kids. My parents and siblings were teachers, focused on math and music. I was in the choir and played the flute and piano. When my mother had a music program, if someone cancelled, we all had to be ready to fill in. The lesson I learned was to always be ready.

How did you get interested in information technology?

**Sydlowski:** I broke from the family tradition of teaching and earned a degree in applied engineering at Michigan State University. After college, I secured a job at Michigan Bell, just after the Bell System divestiture. I worked with interexchange carrier

startups. There were over 100 carriers in Michigan alone. That's where I witnessed entrepreneurship firsthand—the good, the bad and the ugly.

Why did you start AMI?

**Sydlowski:** I started American Megacom, Inc. (AMI) to share with the business community how to

*“When you imagine the future...think about the people in your organization and what skills they’ll need to support that future.”*

make intelligent choices around the various carriers because of my experience at Michigan Bell. It was a righteous ‘save the world’ kind of mission. AMI is all about helping enterprise clients make the right decisions.

What is AMI’s vision?

**Sydlowski:** Our Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG) is to be the most technology-forward vendor management firm in the world. We achieve this by incorporating a range of cutting-edge technologies from robotic processes to artificial intelligence and machine learning. Our workforce consists primarily of developers and analysts demonstrating our commitment to automation and efficiency.

What products does AMI offer?

**Sydlowski:** We offer a software platform that assists enterprise organizations in managing their technology, telecom, cloud and utility vendor programs. This provides accountability, accurate invoices, service-level-agreement compliance and more. These are mission-

What is your leadership style?

**Sydlowski:** I am a servant leader and a strong believer in and culture builder of human-centered design strategies. We want every voice heard. I am passionate about the visibility of outcomes. For example, we hang little hockey sticks from the ceiling everywhere to symbolize our

growing, and they’re responsible for business plans to raise capital. CIOs are “the” seat at the table now.

What is the biggest challenge that CIOs face today?

**Sydlowski:** Technology is changing so fast. The development of artificial intelligence continues at breakneck speed. Staying ahead of something that is accelerating at such a rapid pace is the big challenge. It’s hard to decide where to get the biggest bang for the buck and how to prioritize adoption. Articulating the case to a corporate board of directors who may not speak tech is difficult. CIOs have to sell the business case for new technology.

What is your advice to CIOs?

**Sydlowski:** When you imagine the future, play out the movie in your mind. Think about the people in your organization and what skills they will need to support that future. Re-tool and re-skill your employees in parallel with your product innovations.

What philanthropic work are you most proud of?

**Sydlowski:** I’ve worked for two decades with GreenPath Financial Wellness, a nonprofit organization that helps people in financial crisis. I’ve served on the board and also as chairman. The experience has shaped my leadership skills. I am currently the chair of the newly formed offshoot organization GreenPath Innovation Design.

As I mentioned before, the Michigan Council of Women in Tech has been another passion. I’ve served in every board role and was president in 2019. This year, I received the “2023 Woman of the Year in Technology Award” which was completely humbling for me.

What does the ORBIE Leadership Award mean to you?

**Sydlowski:** It is inspiring to receive the recognition. It’s like getting a Grammy... but for IT. It’s an acknowledgment by my peers and industry leaders and has given me a new sense of enthusiasm as we strategize what is ahead for AMI. At the same time, I’m very humbled, thankful and honored.



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# Congratulations, Heidi Mattison

## 2023 Michigan CIO of the Year ORBIE Award finalist

We celebrate your well-deserved nomination, leadership, and focused efforts to use technology as a value driver to transform our business and our industry.



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DANI BROWN  
SVP & CIO  
Whirlpool Corporation

As Senior Vice President and Global Chief Information Officer (CIO), Dani is responsible for leading Whirlpool Corporation's Information Technology function. Dani has been in leadership for more than 20 years, most recently serving as CIO at Brunswick Corporation. In 2019, Dani was appointed a member of the board for the PRA Group (Nasdaq: PRAA) and recently, she was appointed to the board of directors for Corewell Health, a not-for-profit healthcare system.



EARL NEWSOME  
CIO  
Cummins Inc.

Earl is the CIO at Cummins. With a storied career spanning 10 years in the military, over 10 years in consulting and 20 years in senior leadership, Earl is one of a kind. He has held VP & CIO roles at Estee Lauder, Linde PLC, & TE Connectivity. He has garnered a reputation for being innovative and caring. Earl is a founding member of TechPACT, an organization creating equitable opportunities for entry into the tech industry.



SAURABH RAISINGHANI  
EVP & CTO  
Ford Credit

Saurabh is the Global CIO & EVP at Ford Credit. He is responsible for managing global technology and operations. He is driving the transformation of Ford Credit to become a top FinTech organization. Saurabh started his career journey with Hewlett Packard and IBM Software Labs as a Software Engineer, grew over time as a VP of Engineering, led Digital Transformation at Publicis Sapient, and finally led Marriott Digital as a Global Vice President of Engineering at Marriott International.



BORIS SHULKIN  
EVP, CDIO  
Magna International

Boris was named Executive Vice President, and Chief Digital and Information Officer in April 2022. In this role, Shulkin oversees all aspects of IT, Cyber, Digitization and related initiatives while continuing to manage the company's technology and investment activities. He leads a global team focused on the shift to digital processes across the entire enterprise and within all relevant workstreams by incorporating technologies and analytics to create business value enabled by data.

My greatest success is creating an environment where IT team members have the freedom, confidence and opportunity to contribute to their highest potential. Teams continue to evolve and build upon their skills, learning new emerging technologies and how to apply technology to business needs and opportunities. We have created an environment where leaders are energized, enabled and valued contributors to the company. The growth of others is important to me because a large part of my success is because others have "poured into me." Therefore, it is my responsibility and privilege to "pour into others."

From my varied career journey to the results delivered, I have an appetite and aptitude for executing big, which have been pivotal to my success. I combine business, industry, emotional and technical intelligence to make decisions as a leader, and as a human. I am energized by solving complex challenges and empowering teams to widen their horizons of what is possible. I'm passionate about innovation and future-forward transformations that embrace emerging technologies. This chapter of my life is centered on giving of my time, insights, treasures, and experiences to build future generations of leaders and contribute to a more equitable world.

At Ford Credit, our mission is "To be the reason for our customers to choose and be with Ford." With the rapidly changing auto-captive landscape with EVs, digitization and regulation, we are reimagining our products and services with customer-centricity, digital, and data at the core. I am driving the modernization of our technology eco-system from a legacy mainframe-based eco-system to a cloud-native FinTech platform, digital, AI and data eco-system. Earlier this year we launched our first native mobile app with a 4.8-star rating. We are transforming the culture of engineering, with depth in technology and product mindset.

Since joining Magna nearly two decades ago, I have worn many hats, starting as an analyst engineer and holding roles in engineering and operations at all levels. Before my current role, I was Magna's executive vice president of technology and investment, helping drive technology strategy in the rapidly evolving mobility landscape. Today, I'm responsible for all IT and digitization, leading a global team focused on shifting to digital processes across the enterprise by utilizing data for decisions making. I largely attribute my success to the creative problem solvers I have the pleasure to work with every day.



Recognition for something we've known all along

Congratulations Chief Technology Officer Pathik Mody on being named one of Michigan's top CIOs.



LEADING WHAT'S NEXT

Grand Valley State University congratulates Miloš Topić, vice president for Information Technology and chief digital officer, for being honored in the Michigan CIO of the Year® Awards from Crain's Detroit Business.

His innovative leadership keeps Grand Valley at the forefront of higher education technology and allows GVSU to empower our students to succeed with in-person and online learning, so that we all reach higher together.

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MICHIGAN ORBIE AWARDS

FAST INTELLIGENT SECURE API & LLM ORCHESTRATION





GLOBAL FINALISTS Over \$2 billion annual revenue & multi-national operations



KATRINA AGUSTI  
CIO  
Carhartt

A seasoned IT professional, Katrina joined Carhartt in 2003 and has held various positions of increasing responsibility and is currently serving as CIO for the company. Katrina works collaboratively with Carhartt's Senior Leadership team to provide guidance and strategic vision for information technology and digital efforts. She earned her bachelor of arts degree in Management Information Systems from Davenport University and is a member of the NRF Tech Council and SAP ASUG Executive Exchange.

*I have shifted 95% of workloads to the cloud which allows a move away from data center management and enables modernization of operations; increasing velocity of deployments; increasing resiliency and redundancy. I've simplified and consolidated technology via a master reference architecture which allows for optimization and ability to scale. And I've standardized intake and prioritization and streamlined work. I also built out Quality Management practices which significantly increased quality of products delivered. Campaign to democratize data and enable business intelligence self service; recruit and retrain the top IT talent and keep them engaged/productive; established a Shared Services Center to increased delivery throughput and matured operational practices. I continue to prioritize security, compliance and privacy to protect our brand, associates and customers.*



JASON KENNEDY  
CIO  
Piston Group

Jason Kennedy is an astute executive with a proven record of success throughout his professional experience within multi-billion dollar organizations. Manufacturing related IT is much more than zeroes and ones. IT departments must be able to go toe-to-toe with the leader of any function, intelligently speak their language, and provide business value that favorably impacts the bottom line. As a natural leader, Jason has demonstrated this throughout his 25+ year career.

*My core competencies include leadership in global environments, cultural awareness (USA/Mexico/Germany/Japan), manufacturing and materials management, multi-million dollar capex/expense budgeting and information technology concepts such as infrastructure, production applications, corporate applications, and information security. If I had to pick accomplishments I'm most proud of, it would include building Irvin IT from scratch and separating them from Takata, implementing a new ERP system (QAD) without operational disruptions, and finishing my undergraduate degree with honors while going to school year-round, raising my daughter, and working near full-time. Every business problem has a solution with the proper level of perseverance and imagination.*



RAMAN MEHTA  
CIO  
Johnson Electric

Raman is the CIO & SVP at Johnson Electric and leads the global enterprise technology vision and improvements in digital resiliency with platform thinking, industry 4.0 adoption and enabling an insights-driven organization. Raman holds an MBA from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science in India. Prior to Johnson, Raman led three consecutive organizations Visteon, Fabrinet and EWIE for the coveted CIO100 award.

*I engage with business teams and empower IT teams with the simple 3-step "energize-engage-innovate" model. I promote the culture of speaking the business language and building digital threads among complex enterprise systems to enable improved business outcomes. I also embrace the fail early, fail often culture to harness powerful Generative AI solutions for enterprise use cases. I launched the groundbreaking JEDi (Johnson Electric Digital) program that empowers non-IT employees to leverage data lakes to develop their own visualizations. This gamification and shared responsibility model with LOB executive sponsorship has resulted in a grass root digital thinking, access to a single source of truth and actionable insights mindset.*



MIKE ROGERS  
CIO & CDO  
Nexteer Automotive

Mike is the Chief Information and Digital Officer at Nexteer Automotive. He leads a talented global team dedicated to driving business process optimization through cost-efficient delivery of IT services and advanced technology business solutions. He began his career as a systems and software engineer, later focusing on data architecture and business intelligence. With varied industry exposure, the majority of Mike's technical and leadership expertise has been dedicated to the automotive engineering and manufacturing sector.

*At Nexteer Automotive, our skilled global IT team collaborates with business leaders to drive substantial digital transformation. Through strategic decisions, we've self-funded and completed pivotal initiatives within the current tech cycle, including cloud adoption, data center modernization, RPA tools, software-defined networking, LowCode platforms, and business intelligence/analytics. Employing data-driven prioritization and business process optimization, IT harnesses these technologies for continuous service enhancement. Our IT and business teams leverage these tools to rapidly construct advanced analytics and specialized applications, optimizing global business processes and enriching core SaaS investments. This agile evolution underscores Nexteer's commitment to innovation and elevated IT service delivery.*



SOMA VENKAT  
SVP & CIO  
Cooper Standard

Soma inspires innovation, establishes strategy and enables execution of technology, digital and data globally for Cooper Standard, based at the Company's world headquarters in Northville, Michigan. Leading a highly diverse workforce across four continents, he sets the vision and is accountable for accelerating the value of digital investments. Soma holds a master's and a Ph.D. in computational mathematics from the University of Windsor in Canada.

*From driver-driven to self-driven, from internal-combustion to electric, the automotive landscape is undergoing a seismic transformation at an astonishing pace. "Creating Sustainable Solutions Together" - Whether it's transitioning to a fully cloud-based infrastructure, pushing the boundaries of automation, digitizing our factories, or solving complex data challenges to offer innovative insights across our operations, finance, procurement, and sales, this year has been a whirlwind of activity for my dedicated team. Their success has been a testament to their unwavering dedication and remarkable efficiency.*



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We believe technology must work for everyone

The technology we work with every day is embedded in everything we do in our lives. We believe in being grounded in our pragmatic engineering background and to be truly transformative, technology must deliver tangible benefits to those who use it every day.

Building on belief





LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS Over \$1.7 billion annual revenue



**ASH GOEL MD**  
SVP & CIO  
Bronson Healthcare

Ash is an accomplished business and technology executive, leading the technology and program management portfolio for SW Michigan's largest employer, Bronson. He also finds time to practice medicine as a Hospital Medicine physician and teach students at the medical school. He has been invited to speak at several national events, volunteers at local and regional community organizations focused on education, and enjoys outdoor adventures afforded by mountain hiking (most recently in Tibet).

*It has been a privilege to take everything that I learned about human health and wellness at the medical school, add many new skills gained in my CS masters, and use it to magnify the impact of my business school education by directly and indirectly impacting the life of hundreds (if not thousands and perhaps millions of people) - enabling healthcare professionals to serve the communities and families in the best ways possible. Healthcare as a profession enriches me. The power of tech-enabled opportunities was created to take this work to a different level with the support of my peers and teams.*



**HEIDI MATTISON**  
CTO  
Cabinetworks Group

Heidi is currently the Chief Technology Officer at Cabinetworks Group. Previously, Heidi held Chief Information Officer and various leadership roles in engineering, supply chain and technology at Superior Industries, ZF Group, TRW Automotive, Accenture, Starbucks, Robert Bosch and Mercedes Benz.

*In my first year at Cabinetworks Group, I had the honor of leading the team on a journey of transformation and innovation. The team has begun development to change the industry and set the standard for ease of doing business and customer service. We will take our complex merger and acquisition history and remove the friction from our customers with a scalable, cloud-native, custom-developed application. We have also established the first enterprise architecture capability within Cabinetworks Group which will transform the way we engage and serve the business and provide guidance to the decision-making criteria for technology solutions.*



**MICHAEL PAULIN**  
Managing Director -  
Divisional CIO  
AF Group

Since joining AF Group in 2019, Mike and his team have strived to create lasting value, fostered engaging experiences and championed operational excellence across the enterprise, distribution channels, and with their business partners. Mike's vision, strategies and leadership place an emphasis on customer, team, and culture. His passions include helping others succeed, team development, continuing education, and, of course, his family. Bringing these together, he has created mentorship programs, taught certification courses, and championed change.

*The past five years have been an amazing journey at AF Group. Our technology teams have partnered in the launch of solutions that have modernized our core business solutions, evolved our data ecosystems, embraced innovation and deepened our business relationships. Servicing our customers and delivering value through technology, while navigating the operational complexities introduced by the pandemic gives me a great sense of pride and appreciation. The accomplishments we have witnessed are the results of the collective efforts of all our technologists and business partners. Our success is something to be shared and celebrated by the entire team.*



**STEVE TUOHY**  
SVP & CIO  
Trinity Health

With three decades of experience in healthcare and information technology, Steve is a seasoned professional known for visionary leadership. Spearheading the execution of transformative strategies, Steve plays a pivotal role in helping shape Trinity Health. Overseeing IT initiatives spanning 26 states, Steve leads 1,400 colleagues and manages an approximate \$1B budget. Holding a B.A. in Economics from Albion College and an MHA from Xavier University, Steve drives innovation at the crossroads of healthcare and IT.

*As CIO, I have learned that success is only recognizable when it's clearly defined. My success is not defined by the methods and ideas I support, dollars saved or titles held. Rather, success is defined by the cultural transformation of the teams who trust my ability to lead them. I successfully transformed the Trinity OneTIS culture at a time of unprecedented financial pressure. Everyone has a voice and feels heard at every level. By promoting collaboration, encouraging feedback and empowering colleagues like never before, OneTIS achieved significant increases in engagement, reducing turnover and achieving transparency across Trinity Health IT.*



**Darlene Taylor**  
Chief Information Officer



*Superior would like to thank our global IT team for delivering secure technology and solutions that enable us to provide innovative and quality products for our customers. We congratulate Darlene Taylor, Superior VP IT and CIO, for her recognition as a 2023 CIO of the Year Orbie finalist and thank her for her leadership!*





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**ANDY ANDERSON**  
VP & CIO  
The Shyft Group

Andy was appointed to the Chief Information Officer role in November 2019, bringing over 20 years of global automotive technology leadership experience to The Shyft Group. His broad experience includes a diverse background, having led several global automotive companies' technology organizations through acquisitions, rapid organic expansions and restructures. He earned his Master of Business Administration from Lawrence Technology University and his Bachelor of Arts from Michigan State University.

*After divesting one of our legacy business units, we pivoted from on-premise servers and applications to cloud based infrastructure and software as a service, ultimately paving the way for a more nimble, secure IT environment. We acquired and integrated four businesses, reduced our contract costs, and implemented controls and policies to ensure the security of both the Shyft Group. A pivotal achievement was the ERP consolidation, completed in just nine months. We reduced seven systems to one, an ambitious task involving 400 users, 15,000 customers, 1,700+ suppliers, and the standardization of 28 business processes across five facilities.*



**DENNIS HODGES**  
CIO  
Inteva Products

Dennis has served as Chief Information Officer at Inteva Products since September 2007. In this role, he has managed all aspects of global IT including cybersecurity. Dennis has served in a number of companies from automotive to oil and gas in global roles and international assignments. His IT and finance work has prepared him to lead organizational transformation. Dennis has an MBA in Global Management & Finance as well as a Masters in Computer Science.

*I built the IT team from twelve people in 2008 (me, one other corporate resource and ten plant support contractors) to a highly functional, effective team of 150 spanning the global based in China, India, Europe and North America. My team is highly motivated and works toward a common goal. We have very low attrition globally within IT and have had a number of team members graduate into positions with more potential and recognition. This is my greatest success story. I am proud of this accomplishment - I have worked to build an environment that I would want to work in.*



**DARLENE TAYLOR**  
VP IT & CIO  
Superior Industries

Darlene is the CIO of Superior Industries, a recognized tech leader driving end-user-focused business solutions. She is known for networking, and mentoring, and has a passion for helping others. Darlene has been leading IT organizations for 20+ years and is an engineering graduate of the University of Michigan. She spent several years with Ford/Visteon in engineering and manufacturing. A "car girl" at heart. She is Chief Mission Officer for MCWT and a member of T-200 - women CIOs elevating women in technology and WomSA empowering women in cybersecurity. She loves spending family time traveling and watching sports.

*I had the pleasure of joining a very talented IT team less than one year ago. I am proud of the team coming together to transform from a regional to a global IT organization. They rallied around goals of ZERO aged tickets and ZERO unhappy customers working together to reach and maintain the goals. They formed global working teams around networks, infrastructure and solutions. They delivered many successes including standardizing platforms, decommissioning and updating aged tech to support the new cyber resiliency program and collaborating globally on delivering actionable data and analytics for key strategic business initiatives. I'm proud to lead this team.*



**PAUL WRIGHT**  
SVP & CIO  
Accuride Corporation

Paul is CIO SVP of Information Technology at Accuride Corporation. He has led this team since March 2013, with global responsibility for Systems, Network, and Infrastructure. Wright's responsibilities include the development and implementation of standardized and improved business systems at Accuride's 18 global locations. Paul joined Accuride in June 2012 as Director/Manufacturing Systems. Prior to Accuride, he had an eight-year career with Michigan-based global automotive supplier American Axle and Manufacturing (AAM) in multiple operations leadership roles.

*Our team has truly embraced digital transformation. In North America, we went from seven on-premise ERP solutions supported by 260 applications to a Plex and seven supporting applications. We extended this consolidation approach as we grew globally, consolidating enterprise systems to a combination of Workday and Microsoft globally while upgrading SAP to HANA for our locations in Europe and Asia, Accuride is now powered on a secure Cisco and Microsoft backbone. We've done this while reducing our cost, improving the diversity of our workforce and providing improved quality and security of service to our employees, customers and suppliers.*



*The ORBIE signifies exceptional leadership, innovation, and vision; representing the characteristics and qualities that inspire others to achieve their potential.*



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Congratulations to the 2023 Michigan CIO of the Year Award Winners and Nominees





LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS Over \$500 million annual revenue



AMJED AL-ZOUBI  
CIO  
Amerisure Insurance

Amjed is a leader, strategist and multiplier who delivers results by providing clear vision and building high-performing teams. Amjed is currently

CIO at Amerisure Insurance with accountability for technology, digital, and data, and serves a strategic leadership role at Amerisure. He has held a diverse set of roles during his career, enabling him to see the big picture and address business challenges from multiple angles.

We have built a great team that I have the honor of leading through a comprehensive technology, data and digital journey focused on transforming insurance experiences. We've built a high-performing culture, delivered new products and digital solutions, hardened our cybersecurity posture, established a new data lakehouse and hybrid cloud platform, and significantly improved the speed and agility of our company. Our teams have met or exceeded key performance benchmarks and our efforts have earned Amerisure five straight years of industry awards for excellence and innovation. I'm proud of my team's growth and contributions and excited for our continued journey.



MARK GUTHRIE  
CIO & SR. DIR. IS&S  
AM General LLC

Mark is a highly accomplished transformational and results-driven IT Executive adept at executing technology strategies, possessing demonstrated

experience working effectively with executives to promote IT business value as an enabling capability to support business growth. He has a robust functional and technology background with excellent problem-solving skills and expertise to ensure resiliency of services, emphasizing first-time quality and flawless execution. Mark has a proven record of effective personnel management and team development, successfully leading, directing, and influencing teams of skilled professionals.

The IS&S team delivered significant business value with shop floor innovation that delivers real-time vehicle assembly information to operators in each workstation and integrates with torque tool and quality defect management platforms. It is a key component of our winning proposal earning AM General a transformative 10-year government contract. Also compelling is 2022's introduction of SAP Customer Experience (CX) capabilities to enable Aftermarket business expansion, doubling 2023 revenue from the prior year with an additional 60% growth in 2024. Finally, everyone contributes to critical cybersecurity initiatives - NIST compliance, vulnerability management, and CMMC preparation - ensuring AMG's continuing ability to compete and win defense contracts.



KEVIN JOHNSON  
VP & CIO  
Clariance Technologies

Kevin is Vice President and CIO for Clariance Technologies, a global leader in transportation technology. He currently leads the Global

Corporate IT function, overseeing all aspects of information technology. Kevin brings 32 years of IT experience in various industries including consulting, manufacturing, consumer goods and financial services. He earned both a bachelor's degree in management information systems and an MBA in finance and entrepreneurial management, with Beta Gamma Sigma honors, from Wayne State University.

When I joined as CIO in 2020 the company had recently moved its headquarters to Michigan. In three years, I revitalized IT by building a skilled team and introducing innovative corporate capabilities in the areas of BI and analytics, program management, cybersecurity, and systems integration along with supporting our transformation to digital. One of our greatest accomplishments involved building a world-class data and analytics platform where we combine and harmonize transaction-level data from our different business units leveraging cutting edge tools. Our collective efforts across the organization have helped to maximize insights and achieve significant value from our data.



JOSHUA WILDA  
EVP, CDO & CIO  
University of Michigan Health-West

Joshua holds a Biomedical Sciences Bachelor's from Marquette University and a Healthcare-focused Master's from Grand

Valley State University, graduating with honors. He is a certified Healthcare CIO through CHIME. Josh's passion is driving personal growth as a leader and influencer. He prioritizes intentional, empathetic, and inclusive leadership, fostering positive change in professional and personal interactions, and within his community.

We have a purposeful culture where our team understands the impact their individual contributions have on the team's successes. It takes a cross-functional team with diverse backgrounds to serve the complex environment of healthcare. Our teams work with the organization as solution coaches utilizing developed guiding principles bringing intentional and partnered solutions to UMH-West. Our culture allows us to understand and focus on intentional and impactful solutions. UMH-West is a healthcare system leading the broader industry when it comes to meaningful patient-impacting innovations. Our team and department culture is our differentiator and my greatest success as a leader.



The ORBIE Awards is the premier technology executive recognition program in the United States. Since inception in 1998, over 700 ORBIE winners have received the prestigious ORBIE Award.



Lumen congratulates the Michigan CIO of the Year ORBIE Award winners



Learn more at [lumen.com](https://lumen.com)

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CORPORATE FINALISTS Up to \$500 million annual revenue



SCOTT BENDLE  
CIO  
Rigaku Americas Holdings, Inc

Scott has been CIO for Rigaku Americas Holdings for 12 years. Working closely with Finance he co-led a consolidation from five ERP platforms to one in the span of 18 months. Over time as Rigaku has acquired and divested companies the focus has shifted to the rapid integration of new locations. Presently the team supports six sites in the US and three in Europe and will be integrating a site in The Netherlands shortly.

Rigaku is a relatively small organization, with a global footprint, made up of smaller offices typically less than 100 persons. Standing up an individual site comes with the same complexity whether it is 50 or 500 people. All services must be available. We have been successful at figuring out how to address this organizational growth through services that scale rapidly and away from on-prem applications. We have sites in the US and in Europe so developing the ability to rapidly provision networking, communications, and toolsets to bring an acquisition online, regardless of location is critical to our sustainability.



MichiganCIO is one of over 30 chapters of the Inspire Leadership Network, a national membership organization comprised exclusivley of CIOs from publish and private businesses, government, education, healthcare and nonprofit institutions.



PATHIK MODY  
CTO  
Trion Solutions, Inc.

Pathik leads Trion's IT function from application, network, IT security, cloud-based technology and telecommunications – helping to enhance the Trion-client experience and drive revenue growth. He has served as Trion's Chief Technology Officer since 2017. He possesses more than 25 years of IT experience, including 15 years as a project leader at Deloitte. His diverse background in project management and management consulting expertise makes him among the most respected CTOs in the PEO industry.

I am proud to lead the IT function at Trion to help achieve high client satisfaction and protect critical client and company data. I have led a significant IT transformation project that aligns with our business goal of achieving streamlined efficiency. My focus on data-driven solutions drives growth and innovation, making Trion a technology leader in the PEO industry. Introducing document digitalization and machine learning-driven processes not only has achieved operational excellence but also enhanced company revenue. My achievements have showcased how CTOs can strategically align technology with business goals, resulting in impressive cost savings, operational excellence and sustainable growth.



ESHWAR PASTAPUR  
CIO  
Hastings Mutual Insurance Company

Eshwar is the Chief Information Officer for Hastings Mutual Insurance Company. He is responsible for developing vision, strategies, goals, operating plans, and policies to deliver on business goals and drive competitive advantages. At HMIC, he was instrumental in turning around in-crisis business transformation initiatives which impacted all aspects of functional areas. He transformed IT by introducing many newer technologies such as RPA and by making significant strides in use of data and digital technologies.

My success story revolves less around spearheading numerous extensive transformation projects and more around building a cohesive team that consistently delivers impactful results. My achievements also stem from cultivating robust connections with my business partners. I achieve it through setting realistic expectations and then fulfilling those expectations with precision. I do not hesitate to question status quo and to seek innovative solutions. In essence, my path is defined by building teams that thrive, fostering strong partnerships through dependable delivery and fearlessly pursuing innovative resolutions that drive progress.



RJ BUSSONE  
CIO  
FordDirect

RJ is a highly versatile technology and business executive, husband and girl dad, driven by solving unique challenges. He loves building teams, companies, software (and homes!), and he particularly relishes solving problems with technology in innovative ways. Making visible, forward progress fulfills and drives RJ. Helping his family, team and colleagues grow and expand their experience, skills and capabilities is highly rewarding to him.

There are two team accomplishments that I'm especially proud of. The first being awarded Detroit Free Press Top Workplace two years in a row. It reflects years of work on our culture and captured opportunities by expertly managing through the pandemic and providing great care and flexibility (and services!) for our employees. Second, is our establishment, sustainment and expansion over three+ years of our SOC 2 Type II program. This was the ultimate team sport and requires great on-going rigor to process, execution as well as continual improvement.



JASPER RECTO  
VP IT  
Loc Performance

Jasper joined Loc Performance in 2001 and brings over 20 years of experience in the manufacturing technology industry. Jasper oversees the development, implementation, and use of technology throughout the enterprise, working closely with finance and operations to provide practical but effective solutions that give Loc Performance a competitive edge. Jasper holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Michigan University and obtained his MBA from Lawrence Technological University.

I am a leader within Loc Performance, which has been recognized as one of Crain's Business's Top 50 fastest-growing companies in metro Detroit for the past 2 years. I championed the initiative to implement Loc's Enterprise Resource Planning system which was key to Loc's continued growth. I was part of the core leadership team during the acquisitions of three separate organizations over five years, integrating business processes and systems under one umbrella. Being part of the Defense Industrial Base, I currently drive the cybersecurity initiative to meet the Presidential Executive Order 13636 and on the verge of acquiring their CMMC compliance.



NONPROFIT/PUBLIC SECTOR FINALISTS Government, education, and nonprofit organizations



CHARLES CAIN  
VP IT  
Samaritas

Charles joined Samaritas as VP of IT in November 2020. Prior to Samaritas, Charles was McLaren Healthcare's CTO and Senior Director of IT at Beaumont Health. Early in his career, he left EDS to join Perot Systems and become part of the company's growth and eventual IPO. Charles received his MBA from Oakland University and his BS in Computer Science from the University of North Texas. His certifications include CHCIO from CHIME and CISSP.

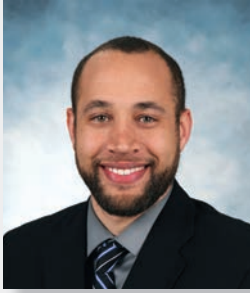
IT created a culture of service by adopting ITIL and NIST, assigning IT Advocates in the business, and developing a focused project portfolio within my first six months. Although that was a lot of change for the team, they quickly pivoted and now better realize the impact they have on the organization. Success is measured informally by the many positive comments the staff receive and formally by great satisfaction survey responses. These changes positioned IT to support the growth, challenges, and mission of the Samaritas caregivers while providing professional growth, comradery, and fun projects for the IT team.



LAURA CLARK  
Michigan CIO  
State of Michigan - Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget

Laura is a 20-year veteran of public service IT and serves as the CIO for the State of Michigan, directing the state's technology and security efforts. As Deputy Director for the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget, she oversees operations for the department which provides information technology, business and administrative services to Michigan's residents, businesses, state agencies, employees, and retirees.

Laura has directed staff to implement solutions for our hybrid workforce. The Mi Modern Workplace (MWP) program focuses on Microsoft 365 tools enabling productivity for remote workers. Transition from Skype to Microsoft Teams provides a secure remote workspace and increased chat usage from 18,000 daily users to 45,000. Teams Shared Workspaces have increased from 100 to 2,750. The MWP developed an online request tool for automatically provisioning Teams and SharePoint sites. Storage costs were reduced with the migration of 85TB of data from home drives to our cloud-based OneDrive saving \$2.6 million annually.



ART THOMPSON  
CIO  
City of Detroit

Art is the Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the City of Detroit, Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT). Prior to this appointment, Art served as the Director of Public Safety and Cyber Security for DoIT. Graduating from Eastern Michigan University with a degree in Supply Chain Management, he has over fifteen years of technical experience with the public safety environment and managing both union and non-union employees across multiple areas.

While working for an ambulance service company, my grandfather urged me to come to the city. He said after bankruptcy the city would rebound and have some great opportunities. Reluctantly I took his advice and applied for two jobs. I was eventually offered a management role with Public Safety, in which I turned down. Two weeks later I asked if I could still be considered. The Director at the time reluctantly said "yes" and brought me on board. I was lucky enough to be referred for his position by him and then ultimately the CIO for her years later.



RON WOODY  
CIO  
Eastern Michigan University

Ron serves as the CIO for Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Ron's 35-year career has spanned IT training, support, and management roles in healthcare and higher education, including the last 23 years at his Alma Mater, EMU. Ron sees the CIO role through the lens of being an advocate for IT as a strategic partner to further the University's mission.

I'm most proud of my team's accomplishment of consistently scoring 97%+ in satisfaction rankings in our ITSM surveys. Our "small but mighty" team buys into our University's Mission and understands and values its important role in supporting our students, faculty, and staff. I'm honored to lead a team of heroes who played a tremendous role in EMU's response to the COVID pandemic and who continue to provide and support innovative solutions in the new, post-pandemic era of teaching, learning and work. I'm proud to serve this team, our campus and my Alma Mater as an IT advocate.



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We congratulate Clarience Technologies Vice President and Chief Information Officer Kevin Johnson for being named a 2023 Michigan CIO ORBIE® Award finalist. We applaud his vision, leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence as we continue to bring Total Visibility to transportation.

**Kevin Johnson**  
Vice President and  
Chief Information Officer

Clarience Technologies - the Total Visibility company - provides vehicle lighting, advanced telematics, and other safety and performance technologies that move transportation, **forward.**





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