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The inaugural OhioCIO CIO of the Year® 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 categories will be announced April 1 at the Hilton Columbus Easton.

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2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

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2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

2022 OHIOCIO CHAIR LETTER

TECHNOLOGY LEADERS ARE THE X-FACTOR

Technology is at the center of modern business transformation and leadership is the X-factor between surviving and thriving in today's digital economy.

OhioCIO brings together leading CIOs of State of Ohio's largest organizations to help CIOs maximize their leadership effectiveness, create value, reduce risk and share successes. Through member-led, non-commercial programs, CIOs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges, solving problems, avoiding pitfalls and bringing value to their leadership teams and their company.

OhioCIO members collaborate locally and nationally with CIOs across industries because, successful CIOs understand the 'superpower' of trusted relationships. In any gathering of CIOs, the answer is in the room. The challenge one CIO is facing has likely been solved by another CIO.

There is no textbook for how to be a great CIO. The best way to sharpen your leadership acumen is by collaborating with

other leaders facing similar challenges. The industries and size may be different, but winning approaches to effective leadership are transferrable. Every leader's perspective is valuable and contributes to the conversation - and everyone wins when leaders engage, share ideas, experiences and best practices.

For over twenty years, InspireCIO has helped CIOs succeed in today's most challenging C-suite executive role. By joining OhioCIO, technology executives take their leadership to the next level through year-round, member-led programs and interaction. The power of CIOs working together - across public and private business, government, education, healthcare and nonprofit organizations - creates enormous value for everyone.

Together, we are transforming our economy using technology and enriching our region and our world. On behalf of OhioCIO, 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

Brian Shield
2022 National Chair, InspireCIO
SVP | CIO Boston Red Sox

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2022 CIO OF THE YEAR



2022 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Francis "Fran" Dramis

CIO (Retired), BellSouth (AT&T)

How to achieve your business life goal

Fran Dramis has had four parallel careers in business. The first as a senior executive and head of technology at five Fortune 500 companies. The second as a board member of eight midsize and emerging market companies and as chairman of three of them. The third as an angel investor in more than 30 companies. And the fourth as an author, mentor and speaker.

It's career No. 4 that he's using to help technology executives achieve what he calls their "business life plan."

Take, for example, a man in his 40s who worked at a mobile phone company. Dramis was approached by him several years ago: "Fran, they are asking me to transfer to Finland. I don't want to go. What should I do?"

Dramis, now CEO of technology consulting and investment firm F. Dramis LLC, asked him to write an aspirational paragraph as if it was his last day on the job before retirement. The paragraph would contain the activities the man performed on his job that day and, to the writer, those activities would be meaningful.

The man envisioned himself presenting a plan to the U.S. Department of Energy that would make mobile technology the underpinning of the nation's Smart Grid.

“

What I'm trying to say to people at the senior level is, 'You have the ability to touch people's lives in a meaningful way.' Help them find something in this job which is a building block for them so they can find purpose in their work that aligns with their value system or family and spiritual goals.

FRAN DRAMIS

"I said, 'That's great. That's what you are going to be doing at age 63,'" Dramis recalled. "I told him, 'Let's look at people who have made presentations to the Department of Energy and find out about their backgrounds.'"

In their research they found out that the man would need to get a master's degree in engineering, study public policy and learn about the Smart Grid. They mapped that all out or, as Dramis puts it, "mapped it all the way back." The goal is to accumulate the necessary background, relationships and experiences that allow a person to feel fulfilled at the end of his or her work life.

Suddenly, the man had a plan. And it just so happened that his company also was adding a new joint venture that involved the Smart Grid and mobile technology, so he transferred into it and worked there for three years. He later signed on with another mobile company as a contract engineer in a flex job assignment so he could carve out the time to get his master's degree from Georgia Tech. "He even sent me a text message with a picture of his master's degree and said, 'This is from my plan,'" Dramis said.

With the master's degree in hand, the man was able to land a job in Washington, D.C. where he worked in the public policy arena for

several years. After that, he achieved his dream – his business life goal – and got to work on developing a prototype regional Smart Grid.

Dramis draws his wisdom from a career that spans more than 50 years and much of it can be found in his three books. "The CIO Handbook" details his strategic planning methodology. "Creating An Intentional Business Life" outlines his mentoring process. "The Four Secrets Of Retention" details the leadership techniques he has used to retain highly marketable people.

"My discussions with CIOs now is less about how technology is changing the world or how the pandemic has accelerated technology. CIOs play a critical role. All of us who are in the chair as head of technology have to deal with that.

"What I'm trying to say to people at the senior level is, 'You have the ability to touch people's lives in a meaningful way.' Help them find something in this job which is a building block for them so they can find purpose in their work that aligns with their value system or family and spiritual goals. They'll then become so engaged in their job that you won't have to worry about them leaving, at least immediately. But if they do someday, you'll know they feel a sense of purpose and you were able to contribute to helping them achieve their business life goal." ■

— this calls for confetti.

We congratulate Kim Snipes, KeyBank’s Consumer Bank Divisional CIO, for being recognized as a Large Enterprise Finalist for the 2022 Ohio ORBIE Awards. Kim leads a diverse and talented team and we thank them for everything they do to push innovation and raise the bar at KeyBank.



Kim Snipes

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Congratulations!

Ohio CIO of the Year ORBIE Award Finalist

Sallie K. Arnett, M.S., RHIA, CHCIO
Licking Memorial Health Systems
Vice President Information Systems



Licking Memorial Health Systems

LMHealth.org

2022 CIO OF THE YEAR



Jim Fowler

Executive Vice President and
Nationwide Chief Technology Officer

Q&A: Ohio CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards Leadership Recipient

Jim Fowler was more than two dozen years into a technology career when he was approached by a recruiter who wanted him to work at a company that sat well below his employer on the Fortune 500 list. At the time he was General Electric's CIO and led the company's global information technology strategy, services, operations and internal digital transformation program.

Nationwide Insurance was on the hunt for a new executive vice president and chief technology officer. Fowler wasn't really interested, but he took a meeting with CEO Kirt Walker, Property & Casualty President Mark Berven and Chief Legal Officer Mark Howard.

"All of them made an invitation to me to help them disrupt themselves and our industry before it disrupts Nationwide," Fowler recalls. "That sentiment was echoed by members of the Board of Directors. In 25 years of working in technology to support businesses, I had never seen a management team as engaged and invested in the idea that technology is going to change the way we work, the products we sell, and the expectations of the customers we serve."

Fowler, who joined Nationwide in 2018, recently talked with The Business Journals about his role at the insurance giant. He is the 2022 Ohio CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards Leadership Recipient.

Q: In the four years at Nationwide, what are some of the accomplishments you are most proud of?

Fowler: We have rewritten or reimplemented almost every core system of record inside the company. This has left us with a single system of record for each product that we are now leveraging to digitally enable every product and process we have. We've gone from almost zero API (application programming interface) transactions three years ago to over 10 billion transactions a year with over 40% of those happening between Nationwide and its customers and partners. These changes were one of the major factors in 2021's

business performance being the highest top- and bottom-line performance the company has ever seen.

Q: Most people would describe Nationwide as an insurance company that uses technology to deliver its products and services. But you believe Nationwide is technology enabled and people connected in selling products to protect its members. What is your role as a catalyst in this shift?

Fowler: When I accepted this role, I called a friend who was in the industry for advice on how to go from a large industrial manufacturing company to insurance and financial services. He gave me some great advice – "Think about your job like a manufacturing engineer, not a technology leader." The product you are producing is a promise to protect people's businesses and futures with extraordinary care. The applications that the technology team runs are the manufacturing and service plants. The capabilities within those applications are the machines in the plant.

As CTO, it's my job to make sure the plants are always running efficiently and to act as the engineering leader educating product owners on what can be produced in the plants. It's also my responsibility to make sure we have the future capacity and capabilities the business needs when they need it. Ultimately, Nationwide is automating the ordinary activities we do so that we can humanize the extraordinary moments that really matter. People connected, technology enabled!

Q: Attracting and retaining top-tier technology talent was important to organizations even before the pandemic accelerated the adoption of digital technologies. What are you and your team at Nationwide doing to cultivate and inspire the next generation of tech leaders?

Fowler: Our people are our competitive advantage, so we have always had a strong focus on investing in them to help them succeed.

In January of 2020, to help prepare our workforce for the future, Nationwide invested \$160 million over five years to help our associates upskill and reskill themselves in digital literacy and future capabilities. We call this the Future of Work. It helps them explore new learning focused on the skills of the future, and career progression opportunities, while also building digital literacy skills so they can keep pace with the technological change that's reshaping all industries.

Following the launch of the Future of Work, Nationwide added a full career planning training initiative that is self-directed in five key areas:

1. Identify your strengths
2. Plan your future
3. Explore your possibilities
4. Expand your network
5. Make your move

We are working to enhance the program to include courses associates can take to help them become eligible for promotions and move upward in their career.

In 2022, Nationwide launched The Future Ready Leader program, a fully virtual development program for people leaders. Nationwide also has a variety of associate resource groups that offer networking opportunities, developmental opportunities and exposure to our executive leaders.

We're also using innovative ways to recruit – strengthening strategic partnerships, apprenticeships, and internships; offering sign-on packages, and added workplace flexibility.

Nationwide also has a goal of cultivating diverse tech talent, and one of the ways we do that is by working with outside partner organizations to help us with diverse hiring.

Nationwide has also partnered with leading financial services organizations, associations and historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to form the Financial Alliance for Racial Equity. ■



**Ultimately,
Nationwide is
automating the
ordinary activities
we do so that we
can humanize the
extraordinary
moments that
really matter.
People connected,
technology
enabled!**

JIM FOWLER

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2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

SUPER GLOBAL

OVER \$5 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS

**David Burns**

CIO | GE Aviation

- Began career with GE in 1998
- In his more than 23 years with GE, David has held roles supporting multiple GE businesses, including Aviation, Lighting, Capital, Corporate, Energy, Oil & Gas, and Transportation.
- David has a bachelor's degree in Information Technology and Operations/Strategic Management from Boston College.

SUCCESS STORY

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought hardship to all, with the aerospace industry among the most negatively impacted. Decisive actions needed to be taken to preserve cash while setting GE Aviation up to lead the industry recovery. Since the start of the pandemic, under David Burns' leadership, the GE Aviation IT team has preserved significant cash, while delivering on several major digital transformations to set the business up for success. Five large-scale mainframe systems have been transitioned into an ERP, product monitoring solutions have been modernized in the cloud, and the cybersecurity posture of the company has been materially improved.

**Kristy Folkwein**

SVP & CIO | ADM

- Before joining ADM in 2016, Folkwein served as senior vice president and chief information officer, Global Business Services, at Dow Corning. Prior to her time at Dow Corning, Folkwein was vice president of information technology at Ashland, Inc., where she helped lead eight successful implementations of SAP within North America, Europe, Middle East and Africa, and Asia Pacific.

SUCCESS STORY

What I am most proud of is the ADM team – my colleagues from around the world who have come ready and willing to roll up their sleeves and build a new ADM. Together, we have aligned processes, data, and technology to create an agile platform that supports the company as it enters a new era of transformation and growth. This work isn't easy. It's challenging and complex but through it, we've built a legacy that will last far after this work has been completed.

**Brian Rice**

EVP, CIO & Global Business Services | Cardinal Health

- In addition to his day-to-day responsibilities, Rice is co-lead for the Cardinal Health Change Leadership Coalition, co-lead for Cardinal Health Innovation and is an executive sponsor of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiative. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Covall, a Central Ohio-based collaborative organization created to solve common artificial intelligence and cybersecurity challenges.

SUCCESS STORY

Brian Rice is accelerating Cardinal Health's digital transformation through efforts including:

- The establishment of Cardinal Health's first Augmented Intelligence team, responsible for artificial intelligence, machine learning, and automation capabilities.
- Transformation of the Pharmaceutical Segment with the implementation of a SAP Pharmaceutical Modernization Program, one of the biggest SAP implementations in the world today.
- A reinvigoration of Fuse by Cardinal Health, a world-class growth engine. Fuse supports Cardinal Health's mission to advance healthcare and improve the lives of patients around the globe by empowering existing commercial technologies, while sparking the creation of new healthcare delivery models across the company's differentiated portfolio.

**Steven Zerby**

SVP & CIO | Owens Corning

- As part of a 30+ year career evaluating, selecting, and deploying enterprise technology and building award-winning teams, Mr. Zerby has led the Global Information Services organization which includes all Owens Corning information, cybersecurity, analytics, digital and advanced manufacturing technology, across 33 countries, since his appointment in 2013.

SUCCESS STORY

The evolution of our IT team and as a great place to work is the accomplishment I am most proud of... In 2013, we began to build a culture and mindset focused on teamwork and connection of people; in 2019 we were named the #1 Best Place to Work in IT, in America, by Computerworld, and repeated that ranking in 2021. We have industry top quartile retention, including retaining 100% of our college hires for the last 7 years, with a single exception. Building an organization of accomplishment, humility, and a focus on teamwork has been a terrifically satisfying accomplishment.



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"Twilio is ranked #1 for market share in Customer Data Platforms."

- IDC, "Worldwide Customer Data Platform Market Shares, 2020"*

*IDC "Worldwide Customer Data Platform Market Shares, 2020: The Flight to First-Party Data Is On, and CDPs Win Big," published July 2021 - ID #US48052920e

2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

GLOBAL

OVER \$1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS

**Sheryl Haislet**

CIO | Vertiv

■ Before joining Vertiv, Sheryl served as CIO and VP of Digital Office for Adient, a tier-one automotive supplier. Prior to that, she held various positions at Johnson Controls, including CIO for the company's Power Solutions division, where she helped drive commercial excellence programs and an SAP system implementation.

SUCCESS STORY

Leading a new focus on technology investments to digitize processes for direct customers and partners has made a big impact on user experience, sales, and our bottom line. The strategy includes implementation of a new partner portal, product configurators, enhanced digital marketing, action-oriented dashboards, and an augmented reality app to view our products in 3D from anywhere. This success comes at a time when we simultaneously readied and enabled work-from-home policies during the pandemic, worked to become SOX compliant as a new publicly traded company, and implemented IT base budget savings of 10%.

**Chris Nehez**

VP IT & CIO | Swagelok Company

■ Prior to Swagelok, Chris served as vice president of IT and chief information officer at Oatey Company, a leading global manufacturer of plumbing products. He has also held leadership roles at Ernst & Young, Eaton Corporation, and Pentair/ERICO International.

SUCCESS STORY

Swagelok's information technology team transformed how it serves the business. Through a complete re-organization, we changed our focus from IT processes to business alignment and outcomes. The success we had moving through that change—using a solutions-minded approach and being better listeners—positioned us to do great things for Swagelok at a time when every associate was being stretched to do more. Significant accomplishments, including our migration from a company-run data center to a highly secure co-location facility, were delivered amidst historic customer demand. That success is a testament to the strength and versatility of our people.

**Kevin Vasconi**

CIO | The Wendy's Company

■ Prior to joining the Company, Kevin served as Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer at Domino's Pizza, Inc. At Domino's, he served on the executive leadership team and was responsible for developing and leading all domestic and international technology capabilities.

SUCCESS STORY

■ My team is focused on bringing more Wendy's to more people in more places without compromising on food quality and service customers expect. I am proud of Wendy's partnership with Google Cloud, which enhances the Wendy's restaurant experience by leveraging Google Cloud's data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and hybrid cloud tools to create new ways customers can order food in the drive thru, on their mobile devices and more.

■ Wendy's customers have high expectations about food quality, frictionless ordering and service speed. The latest technologies enable us to be innovative and better address customers' expectations.

**Chandra Yadati**

CIO | Ferro Corporation

■ Mr. Yadati has many years of global IT leadership experience at Fortune 500 companies like World Fuel Services, The Sherwin-Williams Company and GE. He has led large teams and worked directly with the business. He has worked in environments with stringent regulatory and compliance needs.

SUCCESS STORY

Ferro had no CIO for several years prior to my appointment that left a significant lacuna in the technology strategy and IT organization. Since then, I have built strong relationships with the business team, aligned IT strategy to the business strategy, established a strong global team, eliminated underperforming vendors, and elevated the status of IT in the organization as a valued partner. We completed multiple acquisition integrations and a major divestiture of the tile business. The carveout involved building a completely new infrastructure and clone of applications that was achieved on time, under budget, and zero issues at closing.



LEADERSHIP *Unscripted*

Leadership Unscripted is InspireCIO's quarterly national program where members connect, build relationships and meet leading CIO's from chapters across the country.

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2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

LARGE ENTERPRISE

OVER \$4 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

**Robert Brizendine**VP & CIO and Board Advisory |
American Honda Motor

■ Brizendine has been with Honda since 1988 and has held positions of senior leadership in IT strategic planning and application development. He has led Honda in North America through several major IT consolidation activities across R&D, Manufacturing and Sales.

SUCCESS STORY

The most important contribution I help realize is aligning the power of IT to the most critical matters of the company. It means getting several things right:

- earning the trust from top executives to develop an aligned IT strategy, deliver on our commitments, and ensure stability of services deployed
- ensuring innovations are done with the necessary "risk and compliance" aspects and with an eye on new levels of efficiency to help fuel the growth
- ensuring the "ways of working" promote high engagement of our workforce, especially in the "remote" world we operate,
- ensuring our staff feels a sense of purpose

**Matt Kull**

CIO | Cleveland Clinic

■ Prior to his role at Cleveland Clinic, Mr. Kull served as Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer for Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas, Texas. While at Parkland, Matthew lead the technology efforts within the construction of Parkland's new, fully digital, 2.7 million square foot hospital campus.

SUCCESS STORY

I am honored to serve at Cleveland Clinic. Many of our innovations make headlines; however, our lesser-known achievements are often the most impactful. For me, the implementation of virtual hospital visitation at the onset of COVID-19 stands out the most. Our teams deployed secure video connections within days, just in time for mandated visitor restrictions. The very next day, an elderly patient passed, but not alone. Using our technology, her entire family was able to say goodbye and share in her final moments. These stories drive my passion for the work – using technology to bridge gaps and put Patients First.

**Sandy Rapp**SVP & CIO | TravelCenters of
America

■ Rapp has more than 30 years of experience in managing IT systems with leading companies, including The Timken Company, OE Connection, KeyBank, National City Bank, American Greetings, and Ernst and Young.

SUCCESS STORY

Establishing transparency, engagement and offering new opportunities has allowed us to chart the path to a reimagined IT. Now the Technology Team, we are experiencing an evolution, positioning ourselves for continuous innovation. We are implementing advanced technology while reimagining processes. Seeing individuals blossom as thought leaders, shifting from nervousness to excitement about new technology and finding their voice to effect change is the greatest accomplishment, and will pay dividends for years to come for all stakeholders. This new cultural foundation celebrates diversity and inclusion, enabling us to tackle the most challenging issues because we face them together, as a team.

**John Rathje**

VP IT & CIO | Kent State University

■ Prior to joining Kent State, John spent 15 years in informational technology roles in higher education. Most recently he served as the Assistant Vice Chancellor and CIO at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR).

SUCCESS STORY

My success story is really less about me, and more about people who have been a part of my professional journey. People I have learned from and leaned on for advice. People who have taken my thoughts and improved them in our solutions. Any successes I claim at Kent State come as a result of people who have come together as a team to create a world class IT organization. This is my success story – building, supporting, and leading a talented team that I trust and know will do the right things in the right way for our mission.

**Kimberly Snipes**EVP, CIO Consumer, Digital and
Investment Technology & Services
Key Bank

■ Snipes has over 25 years of experience in the IT industry with 18 years focused on IT solutions for the Banking Industry.

SUCCESS STORY

The launch of Key's national digital bank for Doctors is the most significant accomplishments in my career at Key. In 2020, Key made a public statement to our investors that we would launch a fully digital bank tailored for Doctors. In less than a year, this new growth vector was achieved by leverage Key's strong existing technology (core systems, API framework and strong online and mobile digital servicing capabilities) and talent to integrate with Laurel Road's sales and origination technology. By successfully blending the two cultures, we delivered a new affinity solution at a speed unmatched in the industry.

**Devon Valencia**

CIO | CareSource

■ Most recently, she worked for Blue Shield of California as the vice president of enterprise program delivery, applications and Medi-Cal technology, providing leadership for the \$20 billion company with four million members.

SUCCESS STORY

Devon Valencia leads all aspects of information technology and informatics within the organization and is responsible for setting the strategy for the company's systems and technical infrastructure, systems development and information technology operations. She also manages the implementation of system enhancements and serves as the HIPAA security officer to ensure compliance with all applicable provisions.

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2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

ENTERPRISE

OVER \$2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

**Jay Brown**

SVP & CIO | UCHealth

■ Mr. Brown joined UC Health in 2001 as the information technology Director responsible for all enterprise applications at the Health Alliance. Mr. Brown came to UC Health from Ernst & Young, E&Y, where he was a Senior Manager in the Healthcare IT practice based in Cincinnati and Chicago.

SUCCESS STORY

Significantly improving our organization's ability to provide better healthcare by the successful implementation and optimization of an electronic health record (EHR) application across our entire integrated health system while working collaboratively with clinical leadership to ensure the highest-level adoption of information technology as evidenced by HIMSS Level 7 facility award. Replacing paper records with the EHR has streamlined patient's access to care and their records. Digitizing the health record has created discrete data allowing care teams to manage patient populations, improve continuity of care, increase safety, and enable the use of artificial intelligence.

**Varadheesh Chennakrishnan**

CIO | Joann Stores

■ Prior to joining JOANN, Chennakrishnan served 9 years in various roles of increasing responsibility at Ulta Beauty, including Senior Vice President, Applications & Enterprise Architecture, Vice President, Applications & Enterprise Architecture, and Vice President, IT Services.

SUCCESS STORY

Joann gave me this existing opportunity to lead the IT and Supply Chain organizations and be part of a great leadership team. As a team we were able to successfully navigate COVID which required us to work on people, process and technology to support the needs of the customer. All this was possible only because we have a high performing fully engaged Joann team. Thank you for recognizing me for what I and Joann have been able to achieve.

**Andy Lehman**

SVP & CIO | Kettering Health

■ In his role, Mr. Lehman oversees the development of the overall strategic plan and financial goals for Information Systems (IS), as well as the daily operations for IS. He has a BS, Chemistry from the University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia, and an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University.

SUCCESS STORY

The most significant accomplishment is delivering a service that ultimately brings health and healing to our community. Kettering Health's Information Systems division, which I am blessed to lead, serves those who serve and in doing so, cares for our neighbors. Anyone who has arrived at the emergency room or walked into a hospital in need of care understands the significance of the services delivered by Kettering Health. Information technology underpins and enables those services when our friends and family within our community need help and are at their most vulnerable.

**Harun Rashid**

VP of IS & CIO | Akron Children's Hospital

■ Rashid has been recognized as one of the Top 100 CIOs in the country by CIO Magazine. He holds Bachelor of Science degrees in information systems and business management from the University of Alabama and earned an Executive Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Arkansas.

SUCCESS STORY

Future IT leaders has to support business strategy, digital transformation, and assist with redefining business strategy. CIO's must be ready to adept to communicating, leading and total transparency, have the courage to take on the hard tasks, be a change agent to drive business changes. Solution have to be developed with speed and agility, and yet flexible to adapt to rapid changes.

This philosophy led to our telehealth preparedness and to successfully deliver medicine to patients and families in the comfort of their homes during a pandemic, just like we would have within the walls of our hospitals and clinics.

**Greg Tacchetti**

Chief Information & Strategy Officer | State Auto Mutual Insurance Co

■ He was named "One of the top 15 People to Watch in Insurance Technology" in 2015 by Insurance Networking News, 2014 winner of the IASA Technology Innovation Award. In 2019, the State Auto team earned a CIO100 top innovation award, and Greg was named the Most Admired CIO for Central Ohio in 2020 and 2021.

SUCCESS STORY

Over the last six years, a lot changed at State Auto. I am most proud of the team that has been built, and the culture we have created to support this team. We completely digitally transformed a small midwest 100 year old insurance company into a cutting edge technology shop that is creating cloud native, consumer centric products. These products are not only driving material improvements to our operating results, they are also now running at a much lower cost point, while releasing code in much higher velocity and volume. These successes all tie back to culture.

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2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

LARGE CORPORATE

OVER \$700 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

**Sallie Arnett**VP IS & CIO | Licking Memorial
Health Systems

■ In 2017, 2018, and 2019, *Becker's Hospital Review* recognized Sallie as one of the Community Hospital CIOs to Know. Acknowledged as one of the leading technology executives in Central Ohio, she was named a 2018 Central Ohio Tech Power Players honoree by *Lead Tribune Media*.

SUCCESS STORY

My father received a late diagnosis of a life-threatening condition called Sepsis, which sadly resulted in his death. To help other families avoid this situation, I've spent several years collaborating with clinical leaders at LMH on a strategic initiative aimed at reducing Sepsis deaths. Teaming up with clinical leadership, I learned about their challenges identifying and treating Sepsis and applied technology to help address their needs. In the first year of the project, we reduced the percentage of sepsis-related deaths from 27% to below 9% with a 70% decrease in Sepsis mortality. Resulting in over 250 lives saved so far.

**John Fleischer**

SVP & CIO | CBIZ

■ Mr. Fleischer is a Distinguished Military Graduate of Princeton University and has a Master of Business Administration degree from The Ohio State University. He is also an Honor Graduate of both the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the US Army Logistics Management College.

SUCCESS STORY

I am most proud of a multiyear transformation of the CBIZ IT culture and technology. We started out with fragmented processes; disparate business systems; an unmanaged, aging, and underperforming network; minimal security measures; and IT perceived as being reactive to business needs. We have closed most of the gaps and implemented common processes across the organization; deployed modern, integrated business systems providing reliable, consistent management reporting; created secure, reliable end user and network environments; established robust, appropriate, and comprehensive security measures; and instituted a strong service focus on enabling and supporting the business.

**Anthony Laska**EVP & CIO | Encova Mutual
Insurance Group

■ Laska has 220 associates that work between Columbus, Ohio and Charleston, WV. In addition, his project teams use approximately 200 contractors that are primarily off-shore. The company has \$1.1 billion in premium and \$1.5 billion in surplus.

SUCCESS STORY

My greatest accomplishment in my current role is the integration and consolidation of all IT functions and associates across two locations. This is significant because I had to terminate 55 associates that I came to personally know and trust. While business decisions aren't personal, giving the termination message was heart-breaking, but required. I proceeded with the plan and we reduced our IT expense-to-premium ratio from over 9% to 5.8%. As for the associates, I committed to give them recommendations and help them find jobs and they did. It was a difficult task with a rewarding outcome for all.

**Elbridge Locklear**

SVP & CIO | Summa Health System

■ Locklear has more than 25 years of diverse leadership experience delivering innovative solutions by providing strategic technology vision, development, implementation and oversight for all information systems. He most recently was at Novant Health in North Carolina.

SUCCESS STORY

One of my largest contributions to date was the recommendation to go to an Epic direct model (not an Epic connect shared model), a \$30M+ initiative. This new model would deliver millions in returns every year following implementation. This recommendation met the board's needs of increased patient, provider, team member and broker (health plan) engagement. The decision to move forward was not taken lightly. This vision and decision are the foundation for a journey toward a Summa that harnesses digital technologies in smart ways for the benefit of our patients, clinicians, and communities for years to come.

**David Seidl**

VP for IT & CIO | Miami University

■ Prior to his arrival at Miami University in 2018, David served as Senior Director for Campus Technology Services at the University of Notre Dame where he co-led Notre Dame's move to the cloud and oversaw cloud operations, ERP, databases, identity management, and a broad range of other technologies and services.

SUCCESS STORY

When I arrived at Miami, IT needed to become engaged across campus. We weren't involved in the University's strategic planning team, the Deans had never had a CIO visit them, let alone spend time with them on a regular basis to talk about strategy, and IT itself was viewed as a utility instead of as a partner.

Last year, IT Services was named a best place to work in IT. Now our staff serve on committees and teams across campus including the University Senate. We've been recognized as leaders in institutional diversity efforts, and have strong partnerships University wide.

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2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

CORPORATE

UP TO \$700 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

**David Blum**

CIO | Hylant

Blum has also held the Chief Information Officer role at Highlights Corporation, The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business and Zane State College, along with multiple leadership positions at SBC Communications/AT&T.

SUCCESS STORY

Driven by passion around entrepreneurship, my greatest accomplishment as CIO at Hylant is launching and leading our innovation lab and BrokerTech Ventures efforts, the world's first broker-led insurtech investment fund and startup accelerator program focused on delivering innovation to the insurance broker industry. This program provides for the best insurance and technology minds to collaborate and bring to market leading-edge ideas and solutions. The cutting-edge technologies coming out of the innovation lab add value to our clients so they can see risk sooner, quickly take approaches to mitigate risk, and in the end, save time and money – and possibly lives.

**Venki Rao**

VP & CTO | CAS, A Division Of American Chemical Society

Venki spent over 16 years with General Electric Company (GE) in variety of senior leadership roles and most recently held the position of Global Chief Information Officer of the Digital Energy Division, leading all aspects of the digital initiatives & transformation for the business.

SUCCESS STORY

Venki Rao is an industry experienced, high-integrity & collaborative leader who values building relationships with colleagues within the organization and the industry.

He is currently the CTO for CAS, a Division of the American Chemical Society (ACS), a global organization. He is responsible for all aspects of design, development, hosting and maintaining the scientific software solutions. He is also responsible for Shared Services across ACS, including Information Security, Infrastructure, Business Systems and Workplace Technology.

Prior to joining CAS, he had CIO roles in manufacturing, healthcare and utilities industries. He also has consulting experience. He is a resident of Columbus, OH.

**James Wellman**

CIO | Blanchard Valley Health System

Wellman is currently the Chair of Communications for the Findlay Rotary, Healthcare giving leader for United Way Hancock County, Board of Raise the Bar Hancock County and the Findlay Miracle League. Nationally he is on the advisory board for Health Connect Partners and Vizient GPO IT Council.

SUCCESS STORY

In the past year our covid response with IT has been a great team accomplishment. We moved from a zero telehealth system to seeing over 500 patients a day within weeks of inception. We worked with our nursing team to provide telecommunications for patients and families to help reduce the effects of isolation. Transitioned hundreds of associates to remote workforce with minimal issues on all fronts. My role was to remove obstacles and support the team in their mission to move quickly via an emergency incident command system. We continue to refine and improve these systems daily.

**Robert Zahn**

CIO | AAA, Ohio Automotive Club

Robert also provides leadership to the National AAA organization by serving on the Technology & Digital Channel Subcommittee, Information Security Advisory Group, Technology Subcommittee, and the Innovation committee.

SUCCESS STORY

Over the past 20 years, I have taken what began with a skeletal team of six associates and a department consisting of old IBM mainframes, Lotus Notes email, and a token ring network and built a highly trained, cohesive, and diverse team of customer-focused team members with leading-edge technologies in order to support our internal staff, business leaders, and the Members of AAA. Investing time, training, and mentoring my team, obtaining great vendor partners, and having great mentors have led to my success. I hope my leadership legacy can be described as "leaving IT better than when I arrived".



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