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OHIO CISO
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AWARDS

The annual OhioCISO ORBIE[®] Awards honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate & Corporate categories will be announced February 19 at The Renaissance Downtown Columbus.



CHAIR

24 Ohio CISOs Are
Better Together



**LEADERSHIP AWARD
RECIPIENT & KEYNOTE**

United Airlines VP & CISO Deneen
DeFiore on leading with trust

CONGRATULATIONS 2026 OHIOCISO ORBIE NOMINEES

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TriHealth

CARLY DEVLIN
Clark Schaefer Hackett

MICHAEL HAAS
The Kroger Co.

JAMES KELLEY
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Lubrizol

RAKESH SHARMA
Cleveland Clinic

BRIAN BAACKE
Nationwide Children's Hospital

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CHARLES MEYERS
ProMedica Health System

DOUG SIZEMORE
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(fmr)

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CBC Companies

JAKE LORZ
Cintas

BRIAN MINICK
Fifth Third Bank

MICHAEL SPEAS
Western & Southern Financial
Group

KURT BERBERICH
Worthington Enterprises

DANE DURBIN
Scotts Miracle-Gro

LISA HECKLER
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KRISTIN LOWERY
American Electric Power
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KEVIN MORAN
The Marzetti Company

SEAN SWEENEY
Cincinnati Financial Corporation

MICHAEL BERRY
Kettering Health

MARK EARLY
Adena Health System

JARED HOFFMAN
Denison University

WILLIAM MCCASTER
Northpointe Bank

RICHARD NAGLE
The Ohio State University

ILIJA VADJON
The Wendy's Company

ANTHONY BIEGACKI
Covelli Enterprises

ANTHONY FISIC
Battelle

NAVPREET JATANA
Huntington Bank

CATHERINE MCCULLY
Procter & Gamble

MATTHEW NEELY
Progressive Insurance

JOHN VIRDEN
Miami University

KATRINA BISCAY
University of Cincinnati

MATTHEW GABEL
Premier Bank

GREG JOURNEY
The MetroHealth System

CHRIS MCFARLAND
Abercrombie & Fitch

GREGORY PEEBLES
UofL Health

RACHEL BUSH
Nationwide

AMY GEIGER
Truist

DARRELL KEELING
Parkview Health

SHAWN MCMILLIAN
altafiber

TINA PRICE
OCLC

BRIAN WAELTZ
Cardinal Health

GARY CLARK
NetJets

MIKE GOMEZ
Bon Secours Mercy Health

MIKE KELLEY
TQL

JOHN MELNICK
ArcelorMittal

DEEPESH RANDERI
Akron Children's Hospital

SWATHI WEST
Summa Health

GREAT LEADERS NEVER LEAD ALONE

The pace of business has never been faster. As a CIO, what makes the difference isn't simply expertise—it's having the right relationships, conversations, and insights at the right time.

Inspire Leadership Network gives you access to exceptional peers, remarkable events, and practical insights—so you can turn today's challenges into tomorrow's wins.

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24 Ohio CISOs Are Better Together

OhioCISO brings together top CISOs from Ohio's leading organizations to build meaningful relationships, share what's working, and create real business value. While industries and organization sizes may differ, the challenges of leadership—and the power of connection—are universal.

The Inspire Leadership Network connects CISOs with over 2,000 C-suite executives across more than 50 chapters, spanning public, private, and nonprofit organizations across North America. Beyond CISOs, Inspire also serves communities for chief information officers (CIOs) and chief marketing officers (CMOs).

For more than 25 years, the ORBIE Awards have

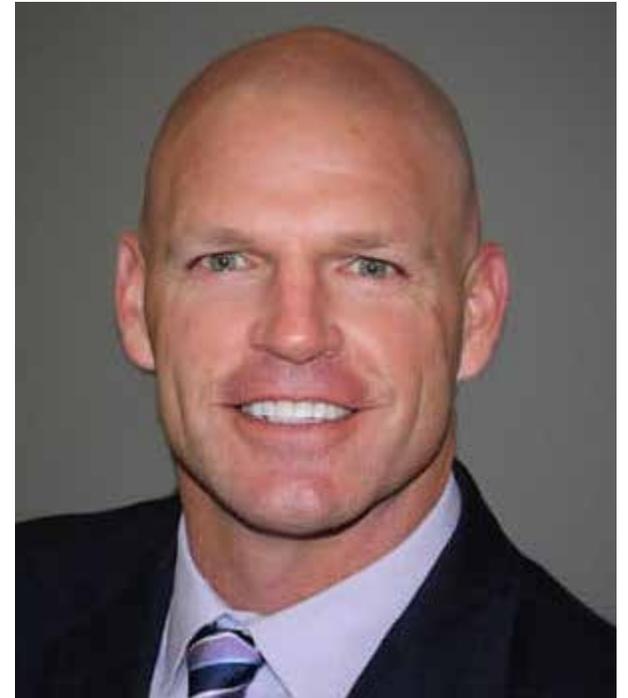
honored C-suite executives for leadership, innovation, and excellence. I encourage you to attend the 2026 OhioCISO ORBIE Awards to meet and support these outstanding security leaders.

On behalf of OhioCISO, congratulations to all nominees and finalists on these achievements. Special thanks to the awards partners, chapter underwriters, and staff whose support makes the OhioCISO ORBIE Awards possible.

Sincerely,

Mark Tomallo

2026 Chair, OhioCISO
SVP & CISO, Victoria's Secret & Co.



CONGRATULATIONS

JAKE LORZ

2026 OhioCISO ORBIE Awards
Global Finalist

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Deneen DeFiore

VP & CISO | United Airlines

United Airlines CISO Deneen DeFiore on leading with trust: Technical excellence is not enough

By The Business Journals
Content Studio

When Deneen DeFiore looks back on her career, the shape it takes is not a straight line.

Instead, it has been a series of moments where the scope of her work expanded, the stakes rose and the definition of leadership shifted.

“The most consistent lesson across all these moments is that leadership is about trust — trust with your teams to execute, trust with peers to challenge and collaborate, and trust with customers and regulators that you are doing the right things for the right reasons,” she said. “Titles and accolades matter far less than whether people believe you will lead with clarity, integrity and calm when it matters most.”

DeFiore has a track record of doing just that. She spent nearly two decades at General Electric before becoming vice president and chief information security officer at United Airlines. She is widely recognized for guiding global organizations and their senior leaders through complex decisions at the intersection of cybersecurity, technology, compliance and digital risk.

In recognition of these efforts, DeFiore will receive the Leadership Award as part of the

2026 OhioCISO ORBIE Awards on Feb. 19 at The Renaissance Downtown Columbus. The program honors CIOs who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership.

CISOs need more than technical expertise

Over the course of DeFiore’s career,

information security has shifted from a largely technical and reactive function to a core business and operational capability.

“Early on, security was often applied after decisions were made,” she said. “Today, it is embedded in how organizations design systems, enable innovation and manage risk, and it must clearly articulate value in business terms.”

That means technical excellence alone is not enough — a lesson DeFiore learned early on.

“I built my foundation deeply in cybersecurity, risk and technology, but the real inflection point came when I was asked to translate that work into business outcomes,” she said. “When conversations moved from tools and controls to resilience, trust and growth, my impact changed. I learned credibility is built not just by knowing the details but by helping leaders make confident decisions in moments of uncertainty.”

Another key lesson learned: Preparation matters more than perfection.

“At United Airlines, cybersecurity is inseparable from safety, operations, customer trust and brand,” she said. “You do not rise to the occasion in a crisis. You fall back on how well you have aligned teams, clarified decision rights and practiced together ahead of time.”

CISOs today are operating in an environment of unprecedented complexity, DeFiore said. That has created new challenges for both leaders and the companies they serve.

“The attack surface continues to expand. Regulatory and technology demands are accelerating, and disruption is no longer a theoretical risk,” she said. “CISOs are expected to protect the

organization while enabling innovation, strengthening resilience and communicating clearly with executives, boards and regulators.”

With those challenges also come significant opportunities, she said.

“Cybersecurity now plays a central role in shaping digital strategy and operational resilience,” she said. “CISOs have a seat at the table to influence how organizations modernize, manage risk and build trust, rather than simply reacting to threats.”

AI is a defining factor on both sides of the equation, according to DeFiore.

“Adversaries are using it to scale and automate attacks, while defenders are leveraging it to improve speed, insight and prioritization,” she said. “The differentiator is not adoption alone, but responsible governance and disciplined judgment.”

Given these challenges and opportunities, DeFiore encourages the next generation of CISO leaders to invest as much in leadership and communication as in technical expertise.

“Understand the business. Learn how risk is evaluated at the executive and board level, and build strong partnerships across the enterprise,” she said. “The role today is about enabling the organization to operate with confidence through disruption, not just preventing incidents.”

DeFiore supports this within her own organization by building a culture of continuous learning.

“The threat landscape and technology environment evolve too quickly for static skill sets,” she said. “Creating opportunities to learn, adapt and stretch into new areas helps leaders develop sound judgment and long-term resilience.”

“Cybersecurity is ultimately a people-centered discipline”

Over the years, the scope of DeFiore’s experience and expertise has continued to expand. She’s a sought-after member of key industry boards and advisory groups, including the Aviation Information Sharing and Analysis Center and the Airlines for America Cybersecurity Committee. In 2022, she was appointed to the President’s National Infrastructure Advisory Council, advising the White House on reducing physical and cyber risks to U.S. critical infrastructure. And she has been recognized as a CSO Hall of Fame inductee for her leadership in advancing cybersecurity and risk management.

As she prepares to add another accolade to her resume, she sees this recognition as a reflection of the work of her team and her partners.

“To me, this recognition reinforces that cybersecurity is ultimately a people-centered discipline,” she said. “It acknowledges the progress we’ve made in strengthening resilience, advancing responsible AI and creating meaningful pathways for diverse talent. And it serves as a reminder that our responsibility is not only to secure today’s systems but to develop the leaders who will secure tomorrow’s.”

She explained the key components of success in these endeavors most often come down to a few key elements.

“Be brilliant at the basics, stay grounded in purpose and never lose sight of the human impact behind every risk decision you make,” she said.

Congratulations & Thank You, Shawn!

Your leadership, expertise, and commitment to excellence truly set the standard. We're proud to celebrate you and your achievements.

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elevating connection



✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧

CONGRATULATIONS!

AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP



KEVIN MORAN
VICE PRESIDENT
INFRASTRUCTURE & SECURITY

Marzetti
The Better Food Company

Congratulations to **Tina Price**

on being named as a finalist for the
2026 OhioCISO ORBIE Awards



OCLC is a nonprofit library technology organization providing services to 200,000 libraries worldwide.

GLOBAL FINALISTS

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



Kurt Berberich

Global CISO,
Worthington Enterprises



Kurt Berberich is the Global Chief Information Security Officer at Worthington Enterprises, where he leads cybersecurity, IT governance, identity and access management and compliance. Under his leadership, the organization has implemented innovative AI-based security solutions. Kurt leads a high-performance team using a people-first leadership philosophy-based style. Guided by the principle of treating people the way they want to be treated, his relationship-driven, results-based leadership philosophy emphasizes service, mentorship, and growth in helping others.

SUCCESS STORY: During the separation of the former Worthington Industries into two standalone public companies, I led the global cybersecurity, compliance, and governance transformation on an aggressive timeline. The work was completed securely, on time, and within budget. Increased risks during the transition of a large public company, there were not any major events that impacted production or the separation timeline. Since becoming Worthington Enterprises, we've created a high-performing team that is integrating AI-driven security solutions to supplement our comprehensive security program. My team plays a critical role in enabling our organization's mission to securely innovate, modernize through Artificial Intelligence.



Dane Durbin

CISO,
Scotts Miracle-Gro



Results-driven Information Security leader focused on enabling Scotts' transformation through resilient, business-aligned cybersecurity. Leads a high-performing team dedicated to protecting our manufacturing operations, strengthening data security for AI innovation, and partnering across the organization to implement security solutions that appropriately address risk without over-compensating. Known for a humble, supportive leadership style, strong communication, and a commitment to developing talent. Passionate about building trusted relationships that help the company innovate confidently and operate securely.

SUCCESS STORY: One of our associates recently shared a story about how our security training helped them spot a sophisticated scam targeting their personal accounts. Because they recognized the red flags from training and awareness programs, they were able to stop the attack before any loss occurred. The event highlights the real-world impact of our team's efforts. Not just protecting the company, but empowering employees to protect themselves. Moments like this show that investing in training and awareness pays off, creating a security-conscious culture that benefits both our people and the business.



Jacob Lorz

VP & CISO,
Cintas



Jacob (Jake) Lorz is Vice President of IT and CISO at Cintas, driving enterprise-wide strategy for cybersecurity, infrastructure, and end-user support. Since joining in 2021, he has led transformative initiatives that align technology with business objectives, strengthen risk management, and optimize operations. With over 20 years of experience, Jake is a recognized cybersecurity practitioner and leader serving on multiple advisory boards. He holds multiple advanced degrees and security certifications, including CISSP, CISM, and CRISC.

SUCCESS STORY: Cintas transformed vulnerability management into a proactive strength, advancing cybersecurity maturity and business resiliency. By enforcing aggressive patching cadences and strict SLA timelines, we achieved near 100% compliance across all categories over the past year. Zero-day vulnerabilities are patched same-day or within two days, reducing exposure windows and preventing disruptions. Automated workflows and governance ensure consistency, enabling uninterrupted operations and reliable service to our customers. Guided by a spirit of positive discontent, we continually challenge the status quo, driving innovation and safeguarding the enterprise in an evolving threat landscape.



Todd Mesick

CISO,
Lubrizol



Security executive with years of information, facility security experience and proven success in cybersecurity, enterprise risk management, crisis management, physical security and compliance. Strong ability to build and lead a security organization to meet designated goals and expectations. Extensive background in developing and implementing solutions that enhance business objectives and deliver on the mission. Demonstrated skills in managing major security programs from concept to completion ensuring on-time, on-budget, and on-target delivery.

SUCCESS STORY: I have successfully driven several industry certifications that have allowed my company the right to produce in several markets. This has secured business and brought a lot of confidence from our customers. In addition, we have established a top tier standing with our parent company and industry partners.



Rakesh Sharma

VP & CISO,
Cleveland Clinic



Rakesh is a seasoned executive with 20+ years leading transformational security initiatives and building world class teams. He helps businesses in regulated global markets dynamically manage risk in a rapidly evolving threat landscape while enabling the adoption of emerging technologies. As a trusted advisor, he communicates complex cybersecurity concepts clearly, positioning security as a catalyst for innovation. His approach enables leaders to navigate risk confidently, drive transformative solutions, and align security investments with strategic goals.

SUCCESS STORY: Under my leadership, we strengthened enterprise security, mitigated risk, and ensured continuity of patient care. We established an 8-hour RTO for critical systems, modernized email security for 90,000 caregivers to stop phishing and BEC threats, and strengthened supply chain resilience with a cross-functional council and proactive supplier resiliency program. By launching a Detection Engineering function, we moved from reactive monitoring to threat-informed detection, reducing dwell time across high-risk areas. These efforts modernized defenses, accelerated response, and tightened operational readiness through innovation, ensuring uninterrupted patient care, empowered caregivers, and a trusted, highly secure healthcare enterprise.

LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$8 MILLION
ANNUAL REVENUE



Holly Drake

State CISO (fmr),
State of Ohio



Holly Drake serves as State Chief Information Security Officer and supports the state's innovation and missions by providing secure services to Ohio citizens. As the Chief Privacy Officers at The Ohio State University, she built a bespoke privacy program and led the cybersecurity governance teams. Prior to her time in public service, Ms. Drake developed and managed privacy and cyber governance initiatives at two Fortune 100 financial services companies.

SUCCESS STORY: I led an all-encompassing team and technology transformation. My strategy to drive continuous cyber improvement started with restructuring and re-training the team. This supercharged cyber team launched three major cyber tool replacements. To successfully drive this much change across state agencies, I laser-focused on communication and cultivating change champions. From Coffee with the CISO to team meetings, I relentlessly explained the why, how, when and what of these initiatives. Now, armed with our transformed team and services, we optimized prevention, detection and response against threat actors operating in this new landscape.



Michael Haas

VP & CISO,
The Kroger Co.



Michael Haas is Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer for The Kroger Co. He is responsible for the company's cybersecurity, physical security, and security compliance across AEP. This includes leading security strategy and architecture to reduce risks of security incidents to protect AEP and provide incident response to ensure reliability of the Bulk Electric System (BES). Michael also serves as the NERC CIP Senior Manager to ensure compliance for security related standards across grid assets.

SUCCESS STORY: As I joined AEP early last year, I focused our security efforts into areas of high inherent risk to strengthen our controls. We made strong traction in a short amount of time. We expanded new controls across access management with an increased focus on privileged access. This ensures that our most sensitive systems and data are safeguarded. We adopted sophisticated new vulnerability management solutions including new technologies to protect the grid. We improved our security training to improve our employees' skills. These efforts combined have enabled us to protect our customers way of life.



Kristin Lowery

VP & Chief Security
Officer (fmr),
American Electric Power



Kristin Lowery is Vice President and Chief Security Officer for American Electric Power. She is responsible for the company's cybersecurity, physical security, and security compliance across AEP. This includes leading security strategy and architecture to reduce risks of security incidents to protect AEP and provide incident response to ensure reliability of the Bulk Electric System (BES). Kristin also serves as the NERC CIP Senior Manager to ensure compliance for security related standards across grid assets.

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Richard Nagle

AVP & CISO,
The Ohio State University



Rich Nagle has a unique perspective on IT and security through experiences across a variety of industries over 30 years. He was named Ohio State's CISO in February 2021. Before Ohio State, he served as a leader in information systems and security for software development, finance, banking, manufacturing and distribution industries. Rich's experiences include security, information risk, IAM, infrastructure management, purchasing operations, IT asset management, project management, business analysis, user training and operational initiatives.

SUCCESS STORY: Our Disaster Recovery program has been refocused on critical infrastructure and applications to maximize resilience. This effort significantly enhanced plans, addressing key areas in AD, I&AM and network services, ensuring we are prepared as possible for any disaster. Additionally, we implemented After Action Reviews (AARs) across the university for all large-scale incidents, beyond just security. Unlike a typical Root Cause Analysis (RCA), AARs document both challenges and positive actions that led to successful resolution. These AARs promote continuous improvement, identify efficiencies, and operationalize successful practices, as demonstrated by the lessons learned from a recent network outage at our Medical Center.

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$3 MILLION
ANNUAL REVENUE



Greg Allender

CISO,
TriHealth



Greg Allender is a cybersecurity executive with deep technical and business expertise, leading security programs for healthcare and global organizations during the past 20 years. Greg specializes in risk management, compliance, cloud, digital forensics, and business continuity, holding advanced degrees and top industry certifications. Greg was recognized as a Top Global CISO in 2024.

SUCCESS STORY: I am deeply honored to be considered for this award. My success stems from attracting top talent, forging strategic partnerships, embracing new technologies, and a relentless drive to learn and innovate. In this field, it takes a village - our adversaries are formidable. This recognition belongs to the TriHealth Board and Executive Leadership Team, our trusted vendors, and my exceptional staff, whose unwavering support made it possible. Thank you all!



Katrina Biscay

CISO,
University of Cincinnati



Katrina is an international award-winning information security and technology executive with experience across multiple industries. She currently serves as the Chief Information Security Officer at the University of Cincinnati. Katrina holds a BS in Computer Science from Xavier University, an MS in Digital Forensic Science from Champlain College, and numerous industry certifications. In 2023, Katrina was honored as the Information Security Officer of the Year at the international Women in Governance, Risk and Compliance awards.

SUCCESS STORY: Creative solutions and radical transparency are what information security departments need to keep up with business goals and industry challenges. The University of Cincinnati's Office of Information Security embodies this shifting philosophy. From an innovative student-led SOC, to one of the first in the nation cloud CMMC enclaves, to providing additional business value with security toolsets and data, the UC team is up to the challenge. Under Katrina Biscay's leadership, UC's information security program has been a leader in innovation, showcasing the challenges, capabilities, and rewards that come with supporting a large public academic and research institution.



Carla Donev

VP, Security & CISO,
NiSource



Carla Donev is Vice President Security and Chief Information Security Officer at NiSource, leading enterprise cybersecurity, operational technology, IAM, and physical security. With over 25 years' experience at various companies, she is recognized for building high-performing teams and advancing security strategies. Carla holds a BA from Baldwin-Wallace University, CISA, CRISC, and CISSP certifications, and serves as a Founding Director on the Board of Fortuna Bank.

SUCCESS STORY: Throughout my career, I've focused on building high-performing teams by hiring for character, adaptability, and problem-solving, not just technical skills. At NiSource, I've created a culture of mentorship and continuous growth, empowering team members to lead projects and expand their capabilities. One standout success was transforming a candidate with limited cybersecurity experience into a key leader through guidance and opportunity. My leadership is rooted in advice I received in 2013: 'Who is on your Mount Rushmore?', a reminder to seek honest counsel and build trusted relationships. I share this principle with every team, fostering resilience and excellence.



Navpreet Jatana

EVP & CISO,
Huntington Bank



Navpreet Jatana currently serves as the EVP & Chief Information Security Officer at Huntington Bank, a Top 10 financial institution. He is responsible for the overall cybersecurity strategy, governance, and operational resilience. With over two decades of experience, Navpreet specializes in building and maturing cybersecurity programs that effectively balance risk reduction with business enablement while keeping the user experience front-and-center. Fun facts: he likes dancing and loves connecting our cybersecurity community.

SUCCESS STORY: Many describe success through the products they've implemented and the problems they've solved. I think of success as the potential unlocked within people and how I've helped accelerate their careers. People leave leaders, not jobs. The accomplishment I'm most proud of: only one cybersecurity professional voluntarily leaving our team in nearly four years. That spoke to the trust-based culture we cultivated, people being themselves and having fun while doing serious work, and ensuring that folks felt empowered to deal with problems proactively.

LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

OVER \$1 MILLION
ANNUAL REVENUE**Michael Berry**
CISO,
Kettering Health

Michael Berry serves as the Chief Information Security Officer at Kettering Health, where he leads enterprise cybersecurity strategy & oversees risk management, incident response, & regulatory compliance. Acting as a key liaison among Information Systems, Legal, Compliance, & Public Safety, he drives cross-organizational security alignment. Michael manages a lean, high-impact security team supporting thousands of users across the health system & its affiliates, advancing resilience through strategic modernization, threat intelligence, & continuous improvement.

SUCCESS STORY: As CISO of Kettering Health, I have strengthened our cybersecurity posture through strategic leadership, modernization, & close collaboration across the enterprise. Leading a lean team that supports more than 17,000 employees & extensive affiliate networks, I unified security operations, improved system visibility, & enhanced risk management. After the 2025 cyber event, I guided our regulatory & operational recovery & secured increased executive support. By embracing continual process improvement & value-driven evaluation of our security stack, I advanced support for our layered defense model, not only for our current solutions but looking forward—building a more resilient, enterprise-wide cybersecurity capability.

**Greg Journey**
Executive Director, CISO,
The MetroHealth System

Greg Journey serves as Executive Director and Chief Information Security Officer at The MetroHealth System, overseeing cybersecurity, physical security, and disaster recovery. He has previously worked in similar positions at another healthcare provider and a regional bank, with experience in developing and maturing security programs to manage evolving threats. Greg has a background in consulting, holds an M.S. in Information Technology, and has earned certifications including CISSP, CISM, and other various vendor credentials.

SUCCESS STORY: As a CISO, my responsibility includes increasing leadership's awareness of cybersecurity threats to gain support and funding to improve security and reduce risk each year. In 2025, our team managed the most extensive set of initiatives to date included adding applications to the Centralized Access Logging tool for privacy investigations, consolidated network and EMR logins to reduce password issues, began migration to a new IAM Tool to reduce manual processes, updated SIEM and perimeter firewalls hardware for enhanced security, installed anti-ransomware agents to block attacks, and rolled out badge tap reader access to our largest hospital for efficient clinician access.

**Shawn McMillian**
Chief Security Officer,
Altafiber

Shawn McMillian, Chief Security Officer at altafiber, has over 20 years of experience in regulated and government sectors, specializing in cybersecurity risk management. He previously served as Deputy CISO for a Fortune 500 company and CISO for city government, building robust security programs and high-performing teams. Shawn serves on multiple advisory boards and chairs Miami University's Center for Cybersecurity. A frequent speaker at industry events, he shares insights on emerging threats, compliance, and cybersecurity innovation.

SUCCESS STORY: The altafiber team, spanning the Midwest and Hawaii, achieved a transformative integration of cybersecurity and physical security operations over the last year. This effort was crucial for unifying diverse technologies, processes, and cultures, significantly strengthening the security posture while enabling essential business transitions. This collaboration delivered vital Critical Infrastructure Defense for Hawaii, a strategic Pacific communications hub. The team successfully integrated Hawaiian Telcom's security into our enterprise platform, enabling unified monitoring and rapid response capabilities. This safeguarding protects government, emergency services, and Fortune 50 companies, demonstrating our collective ability to execute in complex, high-stakes environments essential to national security.

**Kevin Moran**
VP, Infrastructure
& Security,
The Marzetti Company

Mr. Moran has been with The Marzetti Company since 2007 and serves as the VP & Chief Information Security Officer. He provides leadership for the continued development of the cybersecurity program. Prior to his current role, Mr. Moran served as Chief Information Officer at The Lancaster Colony Corporation. Prior to joining Marzetti, Mr. Moran served as Senior Director for The Longaberger Company as well as a variety of technical positions within health care and aerospace industry.

SUCCESS STORY: By far, the most significant accomplishment has been building the security team. It begins with our recruiting process and ensuring the candidates and The Marzetti Company culture align. In a period where organizations struggle to find security talent, our small team includes professionals with traditional security backgrounds and non-traditional backgrounds. But regardless of their background and experience, they fit into the culture, which establishes the foundation. The team thrives on helping each other to learn. The energy of the team is contagious. They are a joy to be around, eagerly attack each task with excitement which makes the job easier.

**Deepesh Randeri**
VP, Information Security
& Infrastructure & CISO,
Akron Children's Hospital

Deepesh Randeri is Vice President of Information Security, Infrastructure and CISO at Akron Children's Hospital, with over 30 years in IT, Cybersecurity, Infrastructure, and Risk Management across healthcare and enterprise sectors. A CISSP and CISM-certified leader, Deepesh is recognized for his leadership in innovation and digital transformation, advancing cybersecurity strategies, promoting network resilience. Deepesh's visionary leadership has earned him accolades for excellence in risk reduction, ensuring the protection of patient data and strengthening organizational trust.

SUCCESS STORY: Under my leadership, the teams modernized our security infrastructure by transitioning from legacy tools to an advanced EDR and SIEM solution and implemented an Identity Governance platform, which greatly improved threat visibility and response. Phishing triage was enhanced using AI, machine learning, and user behavior analytics, enabling rapid detection and targeted mitigation. Third-party risk management was streamlined with standardized, risk-tiered assessments and integrated workflows, resulting in faster reviews and stronger alignment across business units. Network redundancy and resilience were strengthened, ensuring uninterrupted access to critical systems and patient data. All this thanks to my team's effort and commitment.

**Swathi West**
CISO,
Summa Health

Swathi West is the System Director, Chief Information Security Officer at Summa Health System, overseeing enterprise cybersecurity, risk management, identity and access governance, and resilience across provider, payer, and joint venture entities. She leads high-performing, diverse teams and drives operational maturity through strong governance, culture, and cross-functional alignment. With experience in consulting, payer and provider environments, and enterprise transformation, she is CHCIO-Eligible, President of Northern Ohio HIMSS, and recognized for measurable improvement, strategic leadership, and advancing cybersecurity awareness.

SUCCESS STORY: As Chief Information Security Officer at Summa Health, I restructured and expanded the cybersecurity team by 70%, while maintaining zero voluntary turnover throughout the transformation. We aligned roles with critical capabilities, including IAM, GRC, SOC, and Program Management, strengthening resilience and operational excellence. We also invested in revamping essential processes resulting in several tangible benefits. For example, our Cybersecurity Incident Response capability now contains specified incident types in minutes rather than days, unplanned downtimes have decreased by over 95% thanks to an IT Change Management overhaul, IAM request fulfillment speed has increased by 300%, earning executive leadership recognition.

CORPORATE FINALISTS

UP TO \$1 MILLION
ANNUAL REVENUE

Carly Devlin
CISO,
Clark Schaefer Hackett



Carly Devlin serves as Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) and Shareholder at Clark Schaefer Hackett, leading the internal security program and IT Risk & Cybersecurity consulting practice. She provides strategic oversight for the firm's information security program while guiding a team that delivers IT risk and cybersecurity services to clients in a variety of industries. A recognized thought leader, she frequently speaks at conferences and events, sharing insights on cybersecurity strategy, risk management, and emerging threats.

SUCCESS STORY: As CISO at Clark Schaefer Hackett, I built the firm's information security program from the ground up, creating a strategic vision and partnering with IT to execute it. Despite a lean team, we've delivered significant results: implementing a NIST-aligned cyber risk framework, establishing security policies and governance, developing and testing incident response and disaster recovery plans, conducting business impact analyses, enhancing security awareness training, launching a client-facing Trust Center, and managing annual penetration testing. These initiatives have strengthened our security posture and fostered a culture of cyber resilience, positioning the firm to confidently manage risk and protect client trust.



William McCaster
SVP & CISO,
Northpointe Bank



William McCaster serves as Northpointe Bank's Chief Information Security Officer, guiding the organization's cybersecurity strategy and driving programs that strengthen resilience modernize controls, and protect customer trust. He partners with business leaders to support secure innovation and deliver strong risk management across lending and banking platforms.

SUCCESS STORY: As Chief Information Security Officer, I have focused on strengthening the bank's security foundation while enabling innovation and operational confidence. My team modernized key controls, improved vulnerability management, advanced governance, and increased the bank's overall resilience. We reduced risk, improved visibility, and supported technology improvements across the organization. I lead with clarity, trust, and development, helping individuals grow into roles that stretch their potential. One team member who began in a junior position now leads core governance work after targeted coaching and increased responsibility.



Tina Price
Executive Director,
Global Security,
OCLC



Tina Price is an accomplished cybersecurity executive with over 20 years experience in information security and regulatory compliance. She leads the global security program at OCLC and previously served as the CISO for an insurance services provider in addition to working for multiple consulting firms. She holds a CISO certificate from Carnegie Mellon University and credentials including CCISO, CISM, CISA, and CDPSE. Her industry experience includes financial, healthcare, insurance, retail, manufacturing, utilities, and government sectors.

SUCCESS STORY: OCLC's Security team advanced enterprise security through modernization, automation, and expanded compliance. Security operations were unified under an AI-enabled SIEM, SOAR, and EDR solution, enhancing endpoint defense and reducing manual alert review and response times. Vulnerability management was streamlined by consolidating disparate vulnerability scanners into one integrated vulnerability management platform, improving visibility and remediation times. The team also elevated compliance from one to twelve certifications, including ISO 27017, ISO 27018, ISO 27701, FedRAMP, and SOC 2. These achievements reflect OCLC's commitment to security excellence, data protection, and operational efficiency while strengthening trust with customers worldwide.



John Virden
AVP & CISO,
Miami University



John is the Chief Information Security Officer at Miami University, leading the cybersecurity strategy to protect the university's information assets and enable secure innovation. With experience spanning the U.S. Navy, Department of Defense consulting, including two years in Afghanistan conducting offensive cyberspace operations, and nearly a decade in higher education, John is recognized for building resilient security programs and fostering collaboration. He also chairs the EDUCAUSE CISO Community Group and Ohio IUC CISO Subcommittee.

SUCCESS STORY: Under my leadership, Miami University's cybersecurity team launched a student-powered Security Operations Center (SOC), enhancing threat detection while providing real-world experience for future cyber professionals. We embedded security into the university's Workday ERP implementation, ensuring compliance and minimizing risk during a major institutional transition. Our identity and access management program streamlined provisioning and strengthened security across critical systems. A university-wide cyber tabletop exercise engaged executive leadership, improving incident response readiness. Beyond campus, I lead statewide collaboration through the Ohio IUC CISO Subcommittee, advancing shared threat intelligence and coordinated strategies across Ohio's public universities.

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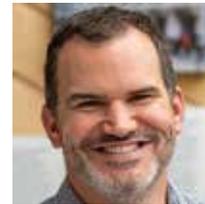
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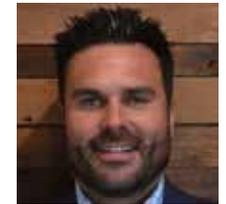
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