

PHILADELPHIA
BUSINESS JOURNAL

2025

PHILADELPHIA ORBIE® AWARDS

The annual Philadelphia ORBIE® Awards honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Super Global, Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate, & Nonprofit/Public Sector & categories will be announced October 3 at Marriott Philadelphia Downtown.



**FROM THE CHAIR
JOSHUA BEEMAN**

Great CIOs Understand
How Connections Drive
Transformation



**LEADERSHIP AWARD
RECIPIENT & KEYNOTE
KELLY LYMAN**

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FROM THE CHAIR

Great CIOs Understand How Connections Drive Transformation

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

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

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

The Inspire Leadership Network connects CIOs with over 1,700 lifelong learners across more than

40 chapters. From public and private companies to government, education, healthcare, and nonprofits, we exist to help members navigate and thrive in a uniquely challenging executive role.

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

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

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



Sincerely

Joshua Beeman

2025 Chair, PhillyCIO

Assoc. CIO & Assoc. VP for IT, University of Pennsylvania



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2025 LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT & KEYNOTE

Kelly Lyman

CIO (RET.) | EXELON

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Mike Crisafulli

CIO,
Comcast



As the Chief Information Officer at Comcast Cable, he leads his team in shaping the future of connectivity by spearheading large-scale digital transformations across web, mobile, and desktop platforms, utilizing agile methodologies and continuous innovation to deploy services swiftly and effectively.

SUCCESS STORY

More recently, we've undertaken a bold shift—transitioning over 600 engineers to an AI-First Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC). This transformation goes far beyond code assistance; it reimagines the entire engineering process end-to-end. The credit goes to the incredible innovation and leadership of the team. Their courage to redefine hundreds of roles and evolve our core engineering model has been nothing short of remarkable. This shift is fundamentally reshaping our workforce and how we build software. Within just six months, we're seeing this transformation scale across thousands of engineers—positioning us strongly for an AI-first future.



Samantha Davis

CIO, Americas,
Arkema



I'm an energetic IT executive with over 20 years of experience across retail, logistics, and manufacturing. After two decades at Walmart, three years as VP of Infrastructure and IT PMO at Geodis, I now serve as CIO Americas for Arkema. I thrive on curiosity and collaboration, fostering innovation, developing talent, and solving complex challenges. Empowering my teams to grow, deliver measurable value, and drive lasting business impact is the most rewarding part of my role.

SUCCESS STORY

I have fostered a culture of leadership growth and innovation built on a try/fail/try-again mindset and customer centric approach. We empowered team members to step outside their comfort zones, experiment with new tools, and deliver real impact—like a machine learning solution that cut R&D spectral data analysis from months to weeks. This environment of delivery and collaboration has accelerated both business results and talent growth, with five U.S. team members advancing into global leadership roles. Combining innovation with intentional leadership development, we've built a confident, connected IT organization that drives measurable business value. During his tenure, he developed a responsive.



Fran Geatens

VP, Technology
Infrastructure, Operations
& Experience, Merck &
Co., Inc.



Fran Geatens is Chief Technology Officer and Senior Vice President at Merck. In this role, Fran is accountable for Merck's long-term technology vision and strategy, while driving innovation and stewarding the digital foundation that enables the company to save and improve lives around the world. Fran's team is at the forefront of driving digital transformation that includes technology modernization, cloud and AI transformation, organization agility, and digital fluency.

SUCCESS STORY

Merck's cloud acceleration program transformed the company's IT landscape, modernizing the technical environment and revolutionizing how teams work. It enabled faster innovation through Agile, DevOps, and automation, while fostering a culture of continuous learning via a dedicated academy to up-skill employees. These capabilities have helped accelerate drug discovery and development—delivering on Merck's purpose to save and improve lives.



John Koerwer

Global CIO,
UGI Corporation



John Koerwer is Chief Information Officer of UGI Corporation, overseeing global IT strategy, operations, and services. He joined UGI in 2016 as VP of IT for UGI International and later became Group CIO. With over 30 years in IT, he has led numerous major transformations with diverse global teams. Prior to UGI, he held leadership roles at The Linde Group in Munich, Germany. He holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Villanova University.

SUCCESS STORY

I have successfully transformed UGI's Information Technology function into a unified Global IT organization. This involved consolidating eight separate IT groups and numerous disparate IT and Active Directory (AD) domains into a single, cohesive team operating under a common global strategy. This multi-year journey has brought us down to just two email and AD domains, with plans to merge them into one in the coming year. Throughout this transformation, we built strong global teams in IT infrastructure and cybersecurity while continuing to support the distinct application portfolios of our diverse business units.



Raju Sankuratri

CIO, Global Supply Chain &
GPOs, Aramark + Avendra
International



Raju is a technology executive recognized for driving enterprise transformation, innovation, and measurable business impact. As CIO, he has led modernization, AI-driven insights, and a shift to a product-based operating model, improving agility, compliance, and efficiency. Raju is known for blending strategic vision with a culture of learning, collaboration, and high performance. His leadership equips teams to innovate rapidly, strengthens client trust, and positions the enterprise to anticipate and lead market change.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, our technology team drove a transformational agenda to develop industry-leading, next generation data & technology platforms through modernization, AI integration, and a shift to a product-based model. Our Data Harmonization program unified enterprise procurement data, enabling faster, smarter decisions. Our Mosaic AI initiative leveraged harmonized data and streamlined sourcing, contract intelligence, and audit analytics — cutting cycle times, boosting compliance, and driving procurement efficiency. These initiatives earned us a CIO 100 Award and recognition in industry forums. By aligning technology strategy with business outcomes, we improved agility, reduced costs, and enhanced client value — delivering measurable impact across the organization.



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Dave Beltz

VP, CIO,
Trinseo



Dave Beltz joined Trinseo in May 2024 and is the Vice President, Chief Information Officer. Dave has been a senior technology leader for a number of years and has led enterprise-wide digital transformations for multi-billion-dollar organizations such as Covanta and Versum Materials where he served as CIO, as well as Air Products, where he had a 25-year career. In every position Dave has held, he has delivered value to the business.

SUCCESS STORY

I talked to our R&D leadership several times about the value I felt AI could bring to their organization. Our Sustainability team really stepped up with a vision of AI helping them streamline responses to customer questionnaires. While the implementation is still in its infancy, the effort has provided insight into the possibilities, and we are now developing the R&D roadmap to become a Digital R&D organization.



Puneet Kaushik

CIO,
BAYADA Home Healthcare



Puneet Kaushik is the Chief Information Officer at BAYADA Home Healthcare. He has over 15 years of experience in technology, with a focus on digital transformation and cloud migration. He has led the implementation of several large-scale IT projects, including the migration of BAYADA's core systems to the cloud. He is passionate about leveraging technology to improve patient care and operational efficiency.

SUCCESS STORY

One of our greatest successes has been transforming IT into a trusted partner and collaborator that drives meaningful change across ACR's global operations. We have built a modern, integrated technology ecosystem that improves the experience for customers, employees, and partners while moving beyond siloed application-based thinking. Using cloud platforms, automation, AI, and advanced analytics, we reduce manual work, raise data quality, and speed decisions. This same approach is guiding how we bring newly acquired businesses onto our standards and platforms, building trust across different cultures, strengthening our ability to scale, improving profitability, and creating a foundation that directly supports ACR's growth strategy.



Milt Simonds

CIO,
Crane NXT



Milt Simonds is an accomplished technology executive with over two decades of experience leading large ERP transformation projects and driving digital transformation. As Chief Information Officer at Crane NXT he oversees global information systems strategy, organizational design and operations, along with enterprise architecture, focused on driving technology alignment with business goals. Milt blends deep technical knowledge and ability to communicate effectively within the C-suite, representing IT as an organization focused on driving positive business outcomes.

SUCCESS STORY

One major accomplishment my team was responsible for was planning and executing the separation of one company into two publicly traded companies over the period of 12 months (March 2022 - April 2023). The effort of identifying, standing up and migrating a complete replica IT environment allowed for the separation to occur on time and on budget. The end result of this project was to significantly enhance shareholder value and provide the foundation for an exciting journey for Crane NXT.



Cheryl Stouch

SVP & CIO, IT,
Endo USA, Inc.



Cheryl Stouch is a visionary technology executive known for her transformative impact on digital innovation, leveraging technology to drive process excellence and operational efficiency. Building on her management consulting and pharmaceutical experience, Cheryl aligns technology strategy with business goals, fosters cross-functional collaboration, and leads with empathy and purpose. Her dedication to mentoring and professional networks has shaped a more inclusive workplace and strengthened her ability to lead with empathy, active listening, and strategic vision.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, the Digital Ask Me Anything (DAMA) program transformed IT's engagement model to proactive partners who meet the business where they are. Actively engaging with enterprise team members to understand their needs and provide tailored solutions. DAMA sessions became a platform for upskilling, where team members could ask questions and learn from IT experts. Recognized by Microsoft, this program laid the groundwork for the GenAI DAMA Program, boosting productivity and efficiency. The DAMA program epitomizes my commitment to transformation, learning, and excellence, demonstrating how IT can lead in enabling business needs and fostering growth.



Thai Vong

CIO,
ACR



Thai Vong, CIO at ACR, drives measurable business growth through M&A integration, ERP modernization, AI/ML, digital transformation, and automation. With over 20 years of experience across manufacturing, supply chain, logistics, financial services, life sciences, and consulting, he leads global technology strategy covering infrastructure, applications, data, and cybersecurity. Recognized for building high-performing teams and re-defining IT as a trusted business partner, he holds MSIS and BSIS degrees from Drexel University.

SUCCESS STORY

Our greatest success has been transforming IT into a trusted partner and collaborator that drives meaningful change across ACR's global operations. We have built a modern, integrated technology ecosystem that improves the experience for customers, employees, and partners while moving beyond siloed application-based thinking. Using cloud platforms, automation, AI, and advanced analytics, we reduce manual work, raise data quality, and speed decisions. This same approach is guiding how we bring newly acquired businesses onto our standards and platforms, building trust across different cultures, strengthening our ability to scale, improving profitability, and creating a foundation that directly supports ACR's growth strategy.



Tom Yucis

VP, CIO,
Axalta Coating Systems



Tom Yucis is the VP, Global Chief Information Officer at Axalta Coatings Systems. He has spent eleven years with Axalta, serving numerous roles within the IT organization. Prior to joining Axalta, Tom served in multiple IT roles at Dow Chemical and Rohm and Haas. He started his career at PricewaterhouseCoopers within the organization's audit practice. Tom has a B.S. in Accounting from Towson University and a Master of Accountancy from the University of Tennessee.

SUCCESS STORY

What I'm most proud of is leading my team's transformation into a high-functioning organization over the past two years. After three CIO transitions and a tough SAP rollout that hit engagement hard, we set out to rebuild. We focused on building trust, alignment with Axalta's strategy, behaviors, and values, plus team empowerment in decision-making. We enabled several grassroots initiatives, built a diverse engagement team, improved communication, and created new ways to recognize individual and team achievements. These efforts drove a 7% boost in formal engagement scores, positioning IT to better enable business growth.

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Sushma Akunuru

SVP, CIO,
Independence Blue Cross



Sushma Akunuru is SVP and CIO at Independence Blue Cross, leading IT, cybersecurity, data, and digital transformation. With 20+ years in healthcare and finance, she drives innovation and customer-focused solutions. She serves on multiple advisory boards and champions women in tech and STEM. She leads IBX's Women in Tech events, chairs the Asian American ERG, and supports STEM education for underprivileged children. She holds an MBA from Wharton and a master's from Osmania University.

SUCCESS STORY

As CIO at IBX, I led all technology aspects of a \$500M multi-year platform transformation across 100+ projects, modernizing healthcare delivery platforms and delivering improved customer experience. I oversee a team of 1,500+ teammates and 50+ vendors, reducing annual costs by \$20M. We migrated to AWS, Google Cloud, built AI-ready platforms, and embraced a digital- and mobile-first strategy leading to the record app ratings for IBX. I championed GenAI adoption, driving measurable impact across many areas. By cultivating a culture of accountability and agility, I built a high-performing team and positioned IBX for long-term growth in a competitive healthcare market.



Jay Cavalcanto

CIO,
Constellation Energy



Jay Cavalcanto currently serves as a Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer for Constellation. He is responsible for the strategic direction of Constellation's technology, operations, cyber security and growth of digital platforms that enable Constellation. Notably, he led the ambitious project of separating Constellation from its former company, overseeing the migration of users and applications to a new, modern, and secure environment without incurring technical debt.

SUCCESS STORY

Our most significant accomplishment is the successful separation from our prior company, which required building independent IT capabilities across infrastructure, cybersecurity, and applications. This milestone not only saved millions in service fees but also positioned Constellation for growth and transformation. It was a true enterprise-wide effort that showcased our team's resilience, technical excellence, and commitment to delivering business value on time and under budget.



Jennifer Charters

EVP & CIO,
Lincoln Financial



Jennifer Charters is EVP and CIO at Lincoln Financial, leading enterprise-wide IT and digital strategy. With over 30 years in financial services and telecom, she's held CIO roles at Flagstar Bank and Ally Financial and began her career at Accenture. She holds a computer science degree from Michigan State University and an MBA from the University of Michigan. She's also a four-time Ironman finisher, triathlon enthusiast, and serves on the board of the T200 organization.

SUCCESS STORY

Our IT team has driven significant transformation through innovation. We consolidated data centers, accelerated cloud migration, and are exiting costly mainframe environments, resulting in significant cost savings and faster deployment. We strengthened our disaster recovery strategy to ensure resilience and regulatory compliance. Most notably, we launched an enterprise AI strategy, enabling employees with knowledge assistants and enhanced code development. This is improving efficiency and accelerating delivery, positioning Lincoln to fully embrace AI and future innovation.



John Collier

CIO / SVP,
Wawa, Inc.



John Collier is a value-driven innovative leader and entrepreneur with extensive cross-industry technology design and development experience. He started his career as designer and continues to influence technology at Fortune 500 companies throughout his career. Currently, Mr. Collier is Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer at Wawa, Inc. He is responsible for the overall strategic direction for Wawa's expanding technology and business services. John leads technology strategy, development, implementation and ongoing operations for Wawa, Inc.

SUCCESS STORY

We have achieved a series of transformative accomplishments, each marking a significant milestone in Wawa's journey towards innovation and excellence. We have spearheaded a transformation within the retail sector, fundamentally altering the business's operational and customer engagement models through the integration of advanced digital experiences and platforms. We are not only improving efficiency and competitiveness, but positioning Wawa as a leader in the retail industry by enabling us to better understand, serve and anticipate our customers' needs. Our work underlines our strategic vision, executional excellence, and innovative spirit, collectively contributing to Wawa's growth, competitiveness, and our focus on our customer.



Rob Frieman

CIO,
Urban Outfitters, Inc.



Rob Frieman is the Chief Information Officer of URBN, a global portfolio of lifestyle brands including Anthropologie, Free People, Urban Outfitters, and Nuuly. Rob joined URBN in 2014 and assumed his current role in 2022, where he has global oversight of all URBN corporate systems, customer-facing infrastructure, and external services and partnerships. Rob is a proud Philadelphia native. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his family and running the trails of the Wissahickon.

SUCCESS STORY

At URBN, everything we do is designed to deliver best-in-class experiences for our customers. Recently, we opened one of the most technologically advanced distribution centers in our industry. My team and I worked closely with our logistics and supply chain partners to implement allocation optimization systems, which reduce delivery expenses, help minimize potential product markdowns, and improve the customer experience. The URBN technology team is made up of some of the most innovative and creative minds in tech. It's an honor to get to come to work every day and lead this team.



Luis Taveras

SVP & CIO, Thomas
Jefferson University



Dr. Luis Taveras is a seasoned leader in information technology and innovation, with over four decades of experience driving transformative strategies across healthcare, consulting, and technology sectors. Holding a Ph.D. in Management and Information Systems, he is recognized for his expertise in IT governance, system integration, and building high-performance teams.

SUCCESS STORY

What I'm most proud of is the culture we've built—one rooted in teamwork, accountability, and continuous communication. A key example is our Daily Service Review (DSR) call, held every morning. Approximately 30 IS&T leaders join to share updates from their respective areas, giving me a clear view of overnight developments and current priorities. Beyond operational awareness, these calls foster connection. We hear each other's voices, share spontaneous conversations, and more—building camaraderie and trust. It is one of the many ways we've cultivated a collaborative and responsive culture across the organization.



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Linda Montella-Carter

SVP, CIO,
PTC Therapeutics Inc.



A passion for helping people is what drives Linda as SVP & CIO at PTC Therapeutics. With over 30 years' experience she is recognized for her strategic and collaborative leadership and vision. Linda has extensive experience in pharmaceutical and manufacturing environments, and deployment of global technology solutions. Linda earned her MBA from Seton Hall University, attended the Executive Development Program at The Wharton School and is an active committee member of BioNJ Women in STEM.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, our IT team has fully embraced PTC's mission, transforming from a reactive group to strategic technology partners. We've leveraged generative AI to enhance drug discovery, development, and commercialization; resulting in significant financial savings and improved efficiencies. Our robust cybersecurity measures, based on the NIST framework, have fortified our systems, ensuring data protection and compliance. These efforts have not only helped to expedite drug delivery to patients but also made our IT team a vital, sought-after business partner, contributing to one of the lowest turnover rates in the company.



Sanjay Pandey

EVP & CIO,
Donegal Insurance Group



Sanjay Pandey is EVP and CIO of Donegal Insurance Group, where he leads enterprise technology strategy and innovation. A transformational leader and change agent, he has spearheaded multiple modernization and data transformation initiatives over two decades. Under his leadership, Donegal's technology is rated among the best by independent agents. A fitness enthusiast, Sanjay lives in Lancaster, PA, with his wife and is a proud father of two sons pursuing careers in science and research.

SUCCESS STORY

Sanjay Pandey led a multi-year digital transformation at Donegal Insurance Group, modernizing legacy systems, launching a scalable data platform, and integrating AI-driven capabilities. Under his leadership, over 40% of small commercial policies now process automatically, and product launch cycles were reduced by 12 months. These innovations enhanced operational efficiency, improved customer and agent satisfaction, and enabled faster market response. Sanjay's servant leadership style and commitment to team success helped deliver every milestone on time and on budget, positioning IT as a strategic driver of growth and innovation within the organization.



Barbara Romano

VP, CIO,
South Jersey Industries



Barbara Romano is an accomplished CIO who has led technology-enabled transformation across multiple business sectors. As CIO of South Jersey Industries, she has led multi-billion-dollar acquisition integrations and spearheaded the modernization of IT systems. Barbara has overseen more than \$150M in capital programs, driving strategic alignment between technology and business goals while delivering measurable impact in cost savings, risk mitigation, and operational resiliency. Barbara has also held leadership roles at QVC and CNH Global.

SUCCESS STORY

Every step in my career journey prepared me for my role as CIO at SJI. I worked with many incredible leaders and mentors along the way. During my tenure at SJI, and the support of the executive leadership team, I've been able to transform a small IT department into a high-performing team supporting an \$8B energy services company. I'm most proud of the shift we've made to a service-driven team delivering demonstrable business value across the organization. I'm hopeful my commitment to mentorship and the development of my team. I have a lasting, positive impact on future leaders in technology.



Karla Viglasky

CIO, Evans Network of Companies



John Collier is a value-driven innovative leader and entrepreneur with extensive cross-industry technology design and development experience. He started his career as designer and continues to influence technology at Fortune 500 companies throughout his career. Currently, Mr. Collier is Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer at Wawa, Inc. He is responsible for the overall strategic direction for Wawa's expanding technology and business services. John leads technology strategy, development, implementation and ongoing operations for Wawa, Inc.

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Sankara Viswanathan

CIO,
Day & Zimmermann Inc



Sankara Viswanathan (Vishi) is the Chief Information Officer at Day & Zimmermann. A collaborative and people-focused leader, Vishi brings over 25 years of experience guiding enterprise-wide transformation, building high-performing teams, and aligning technology with business strategy. He is known for enabling cross-functional partnerships, driving operational excellence, and elevating IT from a service function to a strategic enabler. Vishi holds a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Madras and an MBA from Villanova University.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, Day & Zimmermann transformed from a transactional support function into a strategic innovation engine. By aligning technology with business goals, the team delivered tangible business value through AI/ML, automation, and integrated platforms serving 37,000+ employees globally. A strong focus on talent development, diversity, and inclusion fueled a culture of growth and retention. From cybersecurity excellence to new revenue-generating service models using drones and data, IT has become a driver of enterprise agility and customer success—empowering the company to accelerate the next generation of innovation with purpose, efficiency, and people at the core.



Greg Zeh

SVP & CIO,
Weis Markets Inc



Greg is the senior vice president, chief information officer for Weis Markets. With over 25 years of experience, Greg is a visionary leader in technology and finance. As CIO he focuses on solutions that enhance customer experiences, unlock business opportunities, manage risks, and boost shareholder value. Greg excels in strategic planning, cultural change, team building, and organizational transformations. Greg has led complex business and technology transformations with significant scale and focus on sustainable growth.

SUCCESS STORY

In a highly competitive retail landscape, Weis Markets' mission is simple: to deliver an exceptional shopping experience by offering the best service, value, quality, and freshest products. The talented members of our technology team are the driving force behind this commitment and our success with customers. Our achievements are the result of focused prioritization, outstanding support, and seamless collaboration with the business. I am incredibly proud of our team's accomplishments; they are the cornerstone of our success. #ProudtoBeWeisIT

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LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

OVER \$500 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



David Armstrong

CIO,
The Judge Group



David Armstrong is energized by challenges and driven by an authentic desire to serve others and drive innovation. Shaped by his global experience in information technology, David remains focused on where he can provide real world value for the staffing and services industry and developing the next generation of talent that will continue to innovate,

SUCCESS STORY

My path to success was paved by learning. In order to be successful, I had to learn to be my authentic self. Not everyone is going to like you and that's something I had to come to terms with. Imposter syndrome is real, I learned to embrace it and conquer it. And finally, I learned being humble and kind doesn't make you weak, it makes you human and people relate to that.



Michael Cortino

CIO,
InterDigital



I am experienced in driving shareholder value and profitability by aligning business and IT strategies, global organizational development, and implementing technology solutions. I am recognized for collaborative leadership, communication and relationship management skills in cross-functional and international teams. I take pride in my mentoring and coaching skills that ultimately help in attracting, retaining and developing high-performing teams.

SUCCESS STORY

A business analyst team I inherited when joining a new organization was comprised of four business analysts, each at very different points in their career. One of the junior BA's was difficult to work with and abrasive. After a 1-1 career discussion, I learned she viewed her role as a "job", not a career. We collaborated on a new development plan for her and identified stretch opportunities. She dove in headfirst and quickly rose to become the lead BA on the team. She has continuously progressed her career and is now at the Director level.



Shawn Eads

CIO, Penn Engineering
& Manufacturing
Corporation



Shawn Eads is a transformative technology executive with over 20 years of experience in digital strategy, AI innovation, and enterprise modernization. He has led global initiatives in predictive analytics, intelligent automation, and IT transformation across manufacturing, utilities, and consulting. Known for driving operational excellence and scalable innovation, Shawn builds tech-forward organizations that deliver measurable business value and position IT as a strategic partner in accelerating growth and digital leadership.

SUCCESS STORY

Over the past five years, I've led PennEngineering's transformation of IT from a support function to a strategic enabler of innovation. Guided by a five-pillar strategy, we launched a multi-phase AI program spanning data visualization, engineering, and machine learning, enabling predictive quality, autonomous quoting, and GenAI-powered experiences. We modernized ERP systems, built a cloud-based data platform, and connected global manufacturing equipment to drive real-time insights and efficiency. Today, IT is a trusted business partner, delivering measurable impact on growth, operational excellence, and digital transformation across the enterprise.



Rebecca Gasser

Partner & CIO,
FGS Global



Rebecca serves as Global CIO of FGS Global where she brings over 20 years in Technology leadership, collaborating closely with the business to transform strategy into goals aligned with cost-effective solutions to realize value, provide an exceptional employee experience and unlock productivity. Prior to FGS, she served as Global CIO at Omnicom Health Group, VP of IT at Ferrandino and Son and the Head of Product, Platforms for GlaxoSmithKline.

SUCCESS STORY

I unified our regional IT operations into a single global team led by skilled experts with deep technical knowledge. Together, we addressed our biggest challenges by consolidating our infrastructure and implementing global systems to enable faster, scalable collaboration, operations and growth. We are about half way through our technology transformation with everyone aligned and working hard to achieve our goals to serve our firm.



Alex Prohorov

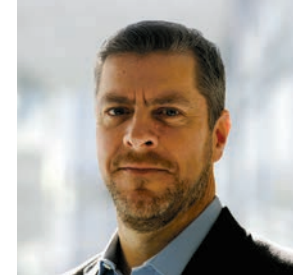
CIO,
TRAC Intermodal



Alex Prohorov is a dynamic IT executive with over two decades of experience driving digital transformation, innovation, and operational excellence. As CIO at TRAC Intermodal, he has led large-scale cloud, AI, and cybersecurity initiatives while managing \$50M+ budgets and 100+ staff. Known for aligning IT strategy with business goals, Alex is passionate about building high-performing teams and delivering measurable business value through technology. He holds a Master's in Software Engineering from Drexel University.

SUCCESS STORY

My success story is rooted in three core traits: hard work, intellectual curiosity, and the mentorship I've received from exceptional leaders throughout my 25+ year journey in technology. From early roles in development to leading enterprise-wide digital transformations as CIO, every step was shaped by relentless effort, a passion for learning, and the guidance of those who challenged and inspired me. Their influence helped me navigate complexity, grow with purpose, and lead with vision. These traits, and the leaders who nurtured them, continue to fuel my drive to create lasting impact through technology, innovation, and strategic business alignment.



Michael Sokorai

SVP, Global IT,
Hill International



Proven technology leader with 25+ years experience integrating business and IT strategies and a track record of consistently driving growth. Demonstrated ability to build, develop, and support highly efficient and cost-effective enterprise applications, infrastructure and processes. Skilled in spearheading short- and long-term strategic IT initiatives alongside executive leadership, accelerating business within centralized and de-centralized organizations, and enabling growth through the use of technology.

SUCCESS STORY

The Global IT function has transitioned from a reactive to a proactive role, recently leading a joint IT/Finance/HR transformation project to modernize processes and systems. Since Q1FY2024, IT has engaged more closely with operations and back-office functions, acting as business development or pre-sales engineers. A new intranet and IT self-help site are being deployed to enhance user training and integration. Our largest most recent significant project include a redesigned labor utilization tracking system via PowerBI paired with a project profitability report, resulting in \$5M in annual savings by identifying operational inefficiencies.

As technology evolves, great leadership defines where it goes.

Congratulations to Michael Sokorai, MBA

Senior Vice President, Global Information Technology,
on being named a Philadelphia ORBIE Awards Finalist
in the Large Corporate Category!



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Constellation CIO

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Your leadership to drive technology, empower people, and uplift the communities we serve is building a stronger, smarter, more resilient Constellation as we work to produce reliable, clean and affordable energy for American homes and businesses.



CORPORATE FINALISTS

UP TO \$500 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

2025
ORBIE
AWARDS**Chidi Alams**CIO,
Just Born, Inc.

Transformation executive with a proven track record of leading strategic initiatives that drive operational excellence, organic growth, and digital innovation. Demonstrated success in turn-around and high-growth environments, delivering results through scalable enterprise capabilities and high-performing teams. Deep technology and business leadership experience spanning service and consumer industries—including CPG, retail, financial services, healthcare—with a focus on future-ready operating models powered by AI, automation, and advanced analytics. Experience includes Fortune 500 and private equity-backed organizations.

SUCCESS STORY

Blending vision with execution, we transformed operations on two fronts. In manufacturing, a new execution system brought real-time performance tracking, downtime insights, and empowered frontline teams — all supported by hands-on training that drove lasting adoption. Across the enterprise, we elevated data from static reports to a strategic asset, rolling out modern analytics platforms and upskilling teams to think and act with confidence. The result: faster, sharper decisions, greater efficiency, and a culture energized by data. These initiatives now form the launchpad for an AI-enabled future — where innovation and performance move in lockstep.

**Anil Jampana**Senior Partner, CIO,
Conner Strong & Buckelew

Anil Jampana is a seasoned technology leader with over 30 years of experience in leadership, strategy, and innovation. He has successfully led cross-functional teams, driving product strategy and technical excellence in various industries. Anil's passion lies in leveraging cutting-edge technologies to solve complex business challenges. When he is not immersed in the latest technological advancements, he enjoys listening to books on leadership and strategy, and actively supporting philanthropic causes with an emphasis on disadvantaged children.

SUCCESS STORY

When I joined Conner Strong, IT was viewed as a support function. Five years later, we are a technology-first organization. From launching our internal GPT-powered assistant to embedding AI in client-facing portals and analytics, we've redefined how we operate and serve. AI is now woven into underwriting, claims, and benefits—driving efficiency, insight, and growth. Our teams now realize the power of technology and utilize it effectively in their operations. The constant stream of requests for process modernization speaks volumes about the change. This cultural shift has positioned IT as a strategic enabler of innovation, resilience, and competitive advantage.

**Kathy Junod**Head of Information
Services, Greene Tweed

Kathy is a technology strategist with repeated success visioning game-changing solutions and steering transformational initiatives that propel mid-size enterprises to attain growth objectives. Currently, Kathy is leading the Information Services function at Greene Tweed, completing the first phase of a holistic digital transformation. Kathy also brings leadership experience from previous roles in Pharmaceuticals, Healthcare and as an Adjunct Professor. Kathy Junod holds a BBA from Temple University and a MSIS from Penn State University.

SUCCESS STORY

Transforming a 150 year old manufacturing company digitally and, in a sense, culturally, is not an easy or small task. Under my leadership, within 19 months, we have successfully transformed our technology systems, business processes, data and its governance and prepared our people for a global big bang implementation of SAP S/4HANA ERP, Dassault PLM and Salesforce CRM systems with an additional 15 integrated supporting systems.

**Ravi Raparla**CIO,
David's Bridal

Visionary Digital Technology Executive showcasing over 20 years of driving innovation and delivering products and technology solutions that resonate with users in the retail industry. Strategic executive who leads cross-functional teams to exceed goals and elevate the overall customer experience. Brings an extensive background in technology strategy and cross-functional leadership. Committed to understanding customer needs to improve product usability and user experiences in highly competitive and ever-evolving markets.

SUCCESS STORY

Led transformation across four pillars - efficiency, resilience, innovation and culture grounded in a "more with less" philosophy cutting IT OpEx by 20%. Efficiency efforts (cloud migration, telecom modernization, contract renegotiations) saved millions and accelerated delivery. We migrated 80% of legacy apps to the cloud achieving 99.9% system uptimes, added 24/7 automated security monitoring and cut issue resolution time by 33%. We launched new "Store of the Future" with endless-aisle touchscreens, rolled out a Retail Media Network in 30 days and are deploying an AI-driven planning tool. A "Founder's Mode" culture and high performing teams drove these high impact results.

**Steven Singer**CIO,
Julius Silvert

CIO at Julius Silvert, driving The Sauce transformation across operations, technology, transportation, and digital commerce. Also a college professor mentoring future leaders and a volunteer fire police officer serving the community. Known for leading from the front, staying hands-on during critical moments, and building high-performing teams. Passionate about AI, innovation, and pushing legacy industries forward while staying true to practical execution. Most importantly, avid surfer; devoted to my wife and our three children.

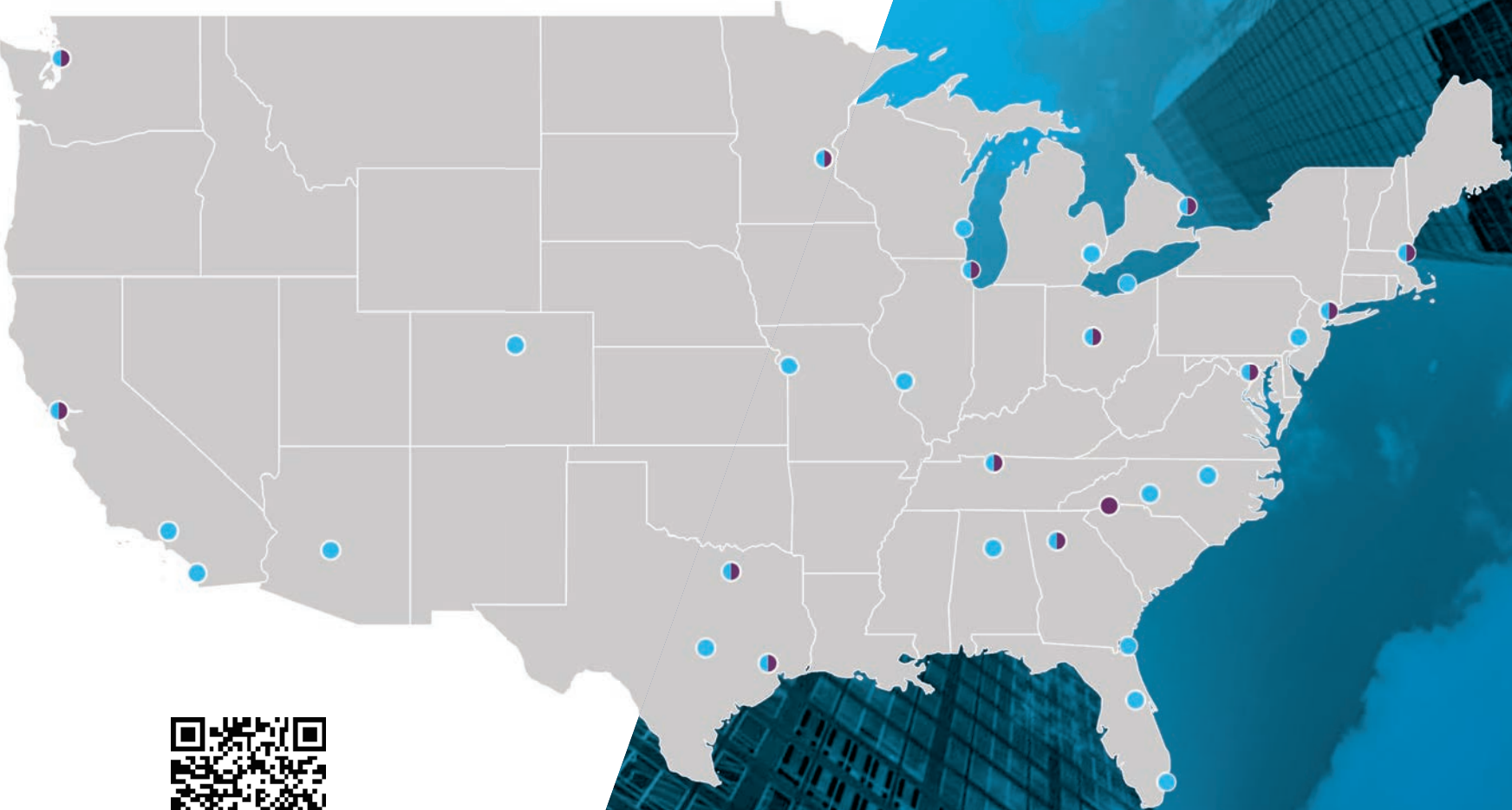
SUCCESS STORY

I have advanced digital commerce, expanded real-time data insights, and improved operational accuracy across our distribution centers. Under my leadership, we built a foundation for AI-driven forecasting and decision-making, ensuring we are ready for the next generation of growth. These efforts are part of our larger transformation, "The Sauce," which is positioning us for even bigger things to come. By pairing innovation with operational excellence, we continue to deliver exceptional value to customers while preparing for the future.

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2025
ORBIE
AWARDS



Joshua Beeman

Interim VP of IT & CIO,
University of Pennsylvania



Joshua Beeman is the interim Chief Information Officer and Vice President for IT at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to this role, he was Penn's Associate CIO and Chief Information Security Officer. He has worked in IT for over thirty years, including at Los Alamos National Laboratory and as a federal cybersecurity consultant. He is on the TAC for both the United States Federal Reserve Bank and the International Computer Science Institute in Berkeley, CA.

SUCCESS STORY

We have revitalized all digital infrastructure at the University in the last decade, while maintaining the same headcount. People first, strong fiscal stewardship, operational excellence and top notch security have enabled growth, agility and cost savings. Creation of high performing leadership teams, a culture of continuous improvement and alignment with the business have resulted in collaborations on some of the most important and transformational university projects: IT strategy aligned with University strategy, sustainable high performance computing programs, AI initiatives, data analytics platforms, cyber security improvements, operational transformation, academic technology investments and much more.



Amaya Capellán

Deputy Secretary for IT/
State CIO, Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania



Amaya Capellán became Pennsylvania's Chief Information Officer in July 2023, leading IT services for all executive agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction. She brings over 20 years of experience driving digital transformation across government, startups, and Fortune 50 companies. Amaya focuses on mission-driven leadership, customer experience, and modernizing government at scale. She holds degrees from Princeton and Wharton and lives in Center City with her wife and son.

SUCCESS STORY

Our team launched and scaled the Commonwealth Office of Digital Experience (CODE PA), aligning with Governor Shapiro's vision for a human-centered government. Since its launch in 2023, CODE PA has grown to 30+ staff and modernized 63 agency websites using an accessible, resident-first design system. We've improved digital tools, streamlined permitting processes, and set clear strategic priorities across IT. In anticipation of the 2024 national election, we proactively strengthened cybersecurity, ensuring a secure and uneventful Election Day. These accomplishments reflect our team's dedication to innovation, trust, and delivering better digital services to all Pennsylvanians.



Melanie Harris

CIO, School District of
Philadelphia



Melanie Harris has been with the School District of Philadelphia since January 1999, becoming the Chief Information Officer in 2007. In this role, she leads a team of over 200 employees and contractors that are responsible for all aspects of technology and IT Security, including but limited to the infrastructure needed to support over 300 locations and the systems, support and training that power over the education of over 114,000 students in 247 schools.

SUCCESS STORY

At the onset of the Pandemic, the School District was not prepared for remote online learning. Within 2 months, my team and I led the purchase and distribution of over 100,000 Chromebooks, in 247 locations. IT also supported the creation of online lesson plans for grades K-12 in five subjects so that teachers had material for online learning. We stood up the first Family Technology Hotline and created four Family Technology Centers for families to go and receive/exchange/repair a Chromebook. In partnership with the City of Philadelphia, two of these sites offered free hotspots/low cost cable.



Allen Mehta

CIO, Philadelphia
International Airport



Allen Mehta is the Chief Information Officer for the City of Philadelphia Department of Aviation, overseeing IT infrastructure, network security, telecom, cloud services, CCTV, access control, and more at Philadelphia International Airport and Northeast Philadelphia Airport. In 2023 and 2024, he was honored with a Titan 100 award for exceptional leadership. With over 35 years in IT, he is a visionary leader, ensuring reliable infrastructure and spearheading innovative technology initiatives.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, the PHL IT Department achieved key milestones that improved efficiency, passenger experience, and cybersecurity. We modernized the airport's network with a high-speed, redundant backbone and hot failover data centers to enhance reliability and enable smart airport initiatives. We implemented a NIST-aligned cybersecurity framework, including a new SOC and regular penetration testing. Digital services such as a mobile-friendly website and real-time TSA Wartimes, updates improved passenger satisfaction. We also launched data analytics tools for operational insights, and Flights gate Management. During COVID-19, we swiftly deployed secure remote work infrastructure, ensuring uninterrupted operations and collaboration across airport departments.



Melissa Scott

CIO,
City of Philadelphia



Melissa Scott, Philadelphia's CIO, is a visionary leader transforming city services through cutting-edge technology. She pioneered virtual inspections, modernized voting systems, and launched revenue-generating tax software. Her strategic leadership blends innovation, efficiency, and data security, aligning tech with civic goals. With deep public-private experience and degrees from Howard and Eastern Universities, Melissa empowers teams to push boundaries and deliver impactful, resident-focused solutions that redefine government service delivery.

SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, PhillyStat360 launched in September 2024 as a cornerstone of Mayor Cherelle L. Parker's administration and a breakthrough for the Office of Innovation and Technology. This public-facing platform delivers real-time performance data across departments, empowering City employees to make smarter, faster decisions. It replaces siloed systems with a transparent, unified dashboard that drives accountability, efficiency, and strategic alignment. More than a tech upgrade, PhillyStat360 represents a cultural shift toward data-informed governance—building a more responsive, equitable city by putting actionable insights directly into the hands of those who serve Philadelphia every day.



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ARKEMA

Congratulations to **Samantha Davis** on being a finalist for a **2025 Orbie Award** in the **Super Global category** for your work as Chief Information Officer, Arkema Americas



Your leadership and innovation are an inspiration to your fellow Arkema employees and to your industry peers around the world.

Good luck to all the finalists.

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*Congratulations to our CIO,
Sankara "Vishi" Viswanathan, on
being named a 2025 Philadelphia
CIO ORBIE Enterprise Finalist!*



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Congratulations to Conner Strong's **Anil Jampana** on being named a corporate finalist in the 2025 Philadelphia CIO ORBIE® Awards.



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AWARDS



Celebrating Excellence

SJI congratulates Barbara Romano, Vice President & Chief Information Officer, on being named a finalist for the **2025 Philadelphia ORBIE Awards**. We celebrate your incredible achievements, extraordinary leadership, and commitment to excellence.

sjindustries.com





CONGRATULATIONS

GREG ZEH

Senior Vice President / Chief Information Officer
Weis Markets®

2025 ORBIE FINALIST



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