

**PUGET SOUND  
BUSINESS JOURNAL**

2026

SEATTLE  
**ORBIE**  
AWARDS

The annual Seattle ORBIE® Awards honors chief information officers and chief information security officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate, CISO Global, CISO Large Enterprise & CISO Enterprise Corporate categories will be announced April 16 at The Westin Seattle.

 SEATTLECIO

 PACIFICNORTHWESTCISO



**FROM THE  
CHAIRS**

Great leaders  
never lead alone

**PG 3**



**SEATTLECIO  
LEADERSHIP  
AWARD  
RECIPIENT &  
KEYNOTE**

Gates Foundation CIO (Fmr)  
Sue Taylor on bridging  
technology and business

**PG 4**



**PACIFICNORTHWESTCISO  
LEADERSHIP AWARD  
RECIPIENT**

PACCAR CISO (Ret.) Chuck  
Markarian on building a  
“department of yes”

**PG 5**

# CONGRATULATIONS 2026 SEATTLE ORBIE NOMINEES

<b>BRAD ADAMS</b> Merrill Gardens	<b>JIM DOWNING</b> Carrix	<b>CJ JASKOLL</b> Russell Investments	<b>KULI MAVUWA</b> OR Health and Science University	<b>MICHAEL SCHRAMM</b> OCHIN, Inc
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<b>JAMES ANDERSON</b> Kitsap Bank	<b>JULIE EASTMAN</b> PeaceHealth	<b>BOB JOHNSON</b> Kidder Mathews	<b>CELESTE MCCORMICK</b> Whitworth University	<b>FERMÍN SERNA</b> Databricks
<b>JAY ANDERSON</b> Mars Veterinary Health	<b>DAVID ELFERING</b> Carrix	<b>MARK JOHNSTON</b> TriMet	<b>RYAN MCGRORY</b> Columbia Sportswear	<b>JOHN SHAO</b> Pipe17
<b>OMER AWAN</b> Fred Hutch Cancer Center	<b>JULIE ELLIS</b> The Starbucks Coffee Company	<b>BRIAN JONES</b> Valley Medical Center	<b>TIM MCKNIGHT</b> UnitedHealth Group	<b>GARY SHATSWELL</b> Unilever
<b>TODD BAILEY</b> JPMorgan Chase	<b>KATHLEEN ERICKSON</b> Holland America Cruise Line	<b>JEFFREY JONES</b> Milliman Inc.	<b>SHANE MOHR</b> WaFd Bank	<b>THOMAS SHEEHAN</b> Fred Hutch
<b>SHAMA BANGALORE</b> Crane Aerospace & Electronics	<b>DAVID ESTLICK</b> Chipotle	<b>TAMAR JOYEUX</b> Department of Enterprise Services	<b>JASON MORRIS</b> Nordstrom	<b>JEFF SIMON</b> T-Mobile
<b>PETER BARLOW</b> Pierce County	<b>BENJAMIN EXSTROM</b> Sinceri Senior Living	<b>KALYAN KAKANI</b> Tacoma Public Utilities	<b>REEMA NATH</b> GE Vernova	<b>IAIN SLOAN</b> Washington State Liquor & Cannabis Board
<b>BRIDGET BARNES</b> Oregon Health & Science University	<b>CHRIS FADDEN</b> City of Everett	<b>JASON KEES</b> Fanatics	<b>TRAVIS NATION</b> Seattle University	<b>COLBY SNYDER</b> Mason General Hospital
<b>VIKRAM BASKARAN</b> Alaska Airlines	<b>PAUL FEDERIGHI</b> City of Tacoma	<b>BILL KEHOE</b> State of Washington	<b>ERIC NEIL</b> UW Medicine	<b>JENNIFER STEINMAN</b> Nintendo
<b>CHARLES BEADNALL</b> GoDaddy.com	<b>DOUG FISHER</b> Lenovo	<b>DANIEL KEY</b> City of Tacoma	<b>BENJAMIN NELSON</b> FICO	<b>NANCY STERNITZKY</b> Sound Credit Union
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<b>DAVID BOSSIO</b> Samsara	<b>RYAN FUSSELMAN</b> The Cigna Group	<b>JEFF KIRKPATRICK</b> WinCo Foods	<b>JEFF OLSON</b> Legacy Health	<b>RICH STUBER</b> URM Stores
<b>MICHAEL BRAY</b> Vancouver Clinic	<b>NATE GANDERT</b> Getty Images	<b>PAUL KISICKI</b> Zumiez	<b>MATTHEW ORAM</b> Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	<b>BRIAN TALBERT</b> Alaska Airlines
<b>JANET BROWN</b> Banner Bank	<b>BILL GLASBY</b> Heritage Bank NW	<b>COURTNEY KISSLER-HAWKINS</b> Expeditors	<b>PHILIP OWEN</b> TELUS Health	<b>NATALYA TATARCHUK</b> Activision
<b>CHRISTOPHER BURGER</b> F5	<b>CALLIE GOLDSBY</b> Washington State Department of Commerce	<b>MIKE KNAPICK</b> SanMar	<b>ALEXANDER PADILLA</b> Lululemon Athletica	<b>NICOLE THAI</b> Jade Biosciences
<b>MIKE CARTWRIGHT</b> Snap! Mobile	<b>CHERO GOSWAMI</b> Providence Health & Services	<b>HILIK KOTLER</b> EXPEDIA GROUP	<b>SEAN PATTEN</b> TRA Medical Imaging	<b>SCOTT THOMSON</b> Lynden
<b>DOUG CAVIT</b> Snohomish County	<b>JASON GOWANS</b> Levi Strauss & Company	<b>NATE KURTZ</b> Veeam Software	<b>JACK PETERS</b> EvergreenHealth	<b>ANU TIRUPATHI</b> Farmers New World Life
<b>DARREN CHALLEY</b> Remitly	<b>BENNER GREER</b> The Gates Foundation	<b>SEBASTIAN LANGE</b> SAP	<b>KARL PETERSON</b> Banner Bank	<b>NICOLE TUTT</b> STCU
<b>FRANCISCO CHAVEZ</b> University of Puget Sound	<b>SHAWN GRIFFIN</b> Siemens DI SW	<b>ERWIN LAQUINDANUM</b> NonStop Local KHQ	<b>ERIC PIERCE</b> The Greenbriar Companies	<b>BORRE ULRICHSEN</b> Gonzaga University
<b>RAJ CHUDASAMA</b> Stanley 1913	<b>ANDREW HAMEL</b> IDG	<b>GUILLAUME LEDIEU</b> REI	<b>ALAN PITCHER</b> Peak Credit Union	<b>PAWAN UPPULURI</b> Bezos Academy
<b>ANDREW CHUNG</b> Gesa Credit Union	<b>JAKE HAMMOCK</b> City of Seattle	<b>JENNIFER LESTER</b> Umoja Biopharma	<b>JAVIER POLIT</b> Costco Wholesale	<b>SIMON UPTON</b> Puget Sound Energy
<b>MARK CLANCY</b> T-Mobile	<b>JENS HANSEN</b> Adidas	<b>RANDI LEVIN</b> Sound Transit	<b>SHAWN PRUTSMAN</b> Windermere Real Estate	<b>WAYSON VANNATTA</b> SonicWall
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<b>CHRISTOPHER CONRAD</b> Aritzia	<b>LANCE HATFIELD</b> Blue Cross of ID	<b>SCOTT LINDLEY</b> Kitsap Credit Union	<b>ALLEN RANGE</b> McKinstry	<b>GIL VEGA</b> Veeam
<b>FRANK COSTILLA</b> Virginia Mason Franciscan Health	<b>STEPHEN HEARD</b> King County	<b>MUJIB LODHI</b> Seattle City Light	<b>MIKE RATLIFF</b> Providence	<b>JOE VETTO</b> Bloodworks Northwest
<b>GREG CRARY</b> Horizon Credit Union	<b>STEVEN HELLYER</b> King County Housing Authority	<b>SHERRIE LOSEY-LLG</b> Thurston County	<b>AARON REICH</b> Avanade	<b>RAVI WARAN</b> Clearwater Paper
<b>DAVID CROSS</b> Atlassian	<b>BEN HESELTON</b> Lamb Weston	<b>TIMOTHY LOVELL</b> Precision Castparts	<b>ELYSE ROSENBERG</b> City of Portland	<b>SCOTT WATERS</b> Multicare Health System / Overlake Medical Center & Clinics
<b>AUGIE D'AGOSTINO</b> UW Medicine	<b>JEFF HIGGINS</b> Seattle Mariners	<b>MICHELE MALLORY</b> PCC Community Markets	<b>CHRISTOPHER ROSS</b> Clover Health	<b>GARRETT WHITNEY</b> Delta Dental of Washington
<b>CHRIS DALTON</b> Weyerhaeuser	<b>JON HOCUT</b> Brooks Running	<b>CHUCK MARKARIAN</b> PACCAR	<b>JIM RYAN</b> AAA Washington	<b>DAVE WOLF</b> WaFd Bank
<b>BEN DE BONT</b> ServiceNow	<b>ART HU</b> Lenovo	<b>LEONIE MARKGRAF</b> The Odom Corporation	<b>HITESH SACHAN</b> Milliman	<b>NANCY WOLFF</b> Columbia Hospitality
<b>EDDIE DELIC</b> Ben Bridge Jeweler	<b>MICHAEL HUGHES</b> Nordstrom	<b>SENTHIL MASILAMANI</b> Washington State Department of Ecology	<b>CHAIM SANDERS</b> Lyft	<b>ADRIAN YBARRA</b> Costco Wholesale
<b>ALEX DI GIACOMO</b> Sound Transit	<b>DEREK INGALLS</b> Amazon	<b>CHRIS MASON</b> Sonos	<b>HABIB SARKIS</b> Boeing	<b>GREG ZWEIGLE</b> Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories
<b>JEFF DIRKS</b> True Blue, Inc.	<b>REHAN JADDI</b> Rent the Runway	<b>PAUL MATTHEWS</b> OCHIN	<b>VINAY SAYALA</b> Sea Mar Community Health Centers	

## Great leaders never lead alone

Even the strongest executives can feel isolated at times. When chief information officers (CIOs) and chief information security officers (CISOs) face challenges with trusted peers, isolation transforms into clarity and confidence.

SeattleCIO and PacificNorthwestCISO bring together top CIOs and CISOs from Seattle'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 CIOs and CISOs with over 2,000 C-suite executives across more than 50 chapters,

spanning public, private, and nonprofit organizations across North America. Beyond technology and security executives, Inspire also serves communities for 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 Seattle ORBIE Awards to meet and support these outstanding technology and security leaders.

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

Sincerely,



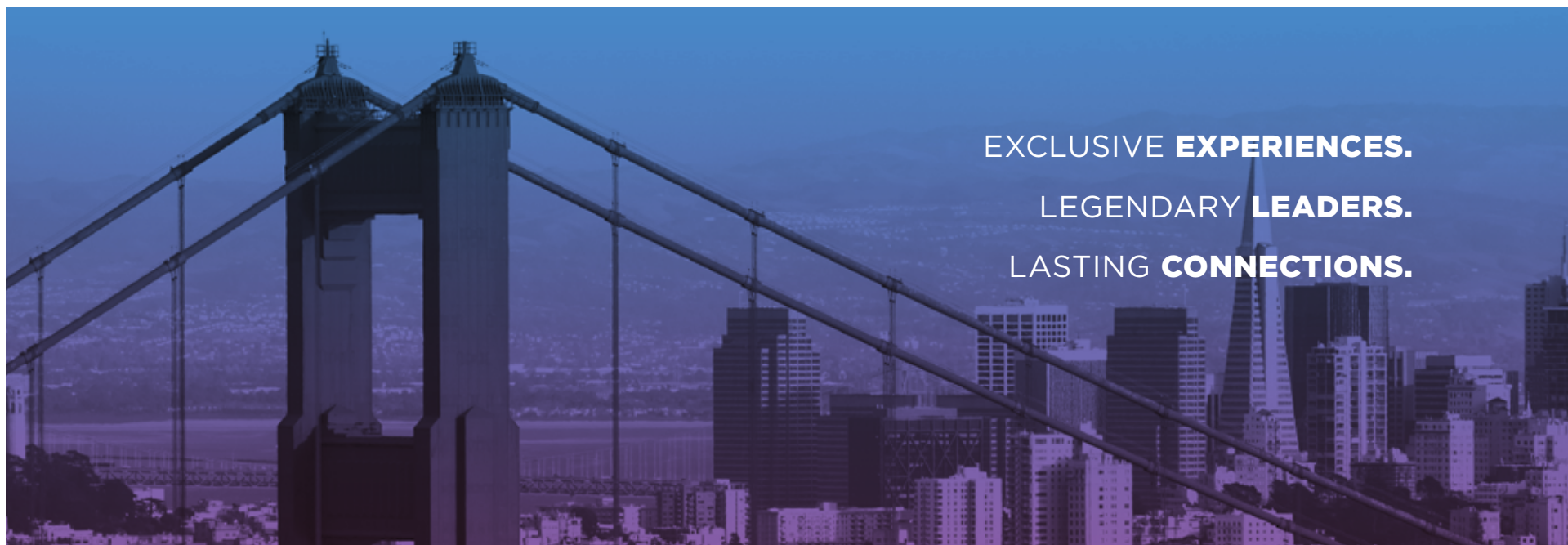
**Laurent Rotival**

2026 Chair, SeattleCIO  
Executive Vice President & Chief  
Information Officer,  
Cambia Health Solutions



**Chuck Markarian**

2026 Chair, PacificNorthwestCISO  
Chief Information Security Officer (Ret.),  
PAACAR



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# Sue Taylor

Chief Information Officer (Fmr) | Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

## Gates Foundation CIO (Fmr) on bridging technology and business

By The Business Journals Content Studio

Throughout her distinguished career, Sue Taylor has led organizations through complex strategic digital transformations across a wide range of roles. Most recently, she served as Chief Information Officer for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, retiring from the position in 2021. In recognition of her impactful leadership, she has been named the recipient of the SeattleCIO Leadership Award at the 2026 Seattle ORBIE Awards.

This award honors current and former CIOs who demonstrate a proven track record of successful technology leadership, make significant contributions to the Seattle technology and business community, and inspire others through their work. Taylor will be recognized at the ORBIE Awards ceremony on April 16 at The Westin Seattle.

### Learning from others

Prior to her tenure at the Gates Foundation, Taylor held several senior leadership roles, including Vice President of Applications and Business Transformation at Honeywell Automation and Control Solutions; CIO and Vice President of Human Resources at Intermec Technologies; and accounting leadership positions with Fujitsu Business Systems and Allied-Signal. Her career spans corporate and philanthropic sectors, as well as disciplines including technology, human resources, strategic planning, finance, and governance.

Even in retirement, Taylor remains highly engaged. She balances family life with service as a board director, global council member, and customer advisory council participant for organizations such as Boise Cascade, Slalom Consulting, and the Asian Hall of Fame.

**“Whether something isn’t working or there’s a risk of failure, teams need to feel comfortable addressing challenges openly so they can be resolved collaboratively.”**

Despite her extensive experience and deep expertise in business and technology, Taylor emphasizes the importance of humility and continuous learning. She credits her success in part to overcoming the fear associated with new challenges.

“I’m often on the edge of that fear because I’m always seeking to learn something new,” she said. “I know there’s always someone smarter than me — and that’s a good thing. You learn to become comfortable with that and grow from it.”

### Bridging technology and business

Taylor’s career path was shaped by a pivotal conversation early on with a systems analyst colleague. During a visit nearly 40 years ago, she noticed his desk filled with highly technical publications. When she mentioned her preference for reading business-focused outlets like *Fortune* and *Businessweek*, he was surprised.

“That was a turning point,” Taylor recalled. “I realized I was more interested in the business implications of technology than the technical details themselves.”

This realization led her to pursue an MBA from the University of Iowa and to intentionally shape her career around bridging the gap between technology and business.

Taylor considers this ability to translate between technical and business audiences one of her greatest strengths. She notes that IT communications can often be overly technical, which may confuse or alienate business stakeholders.

“I can translate those messages effectively,” she said, “which helps move initiatives forward.”

### Leadership in a rapidly evolving landscape

As interest in artificial intelligence

continues to grow, Taylor believes successful CIOs must remain focused on aligning emerging technologies with clear business strategies.

“The key is understanding your organization’s winning strategy and determining how new technologies like AI can support growth,” she explained.

She also emphasizes the importance of evolving talent strategies. Organizations must recruit individuals who can balance business acumen with rapidly changing technological demands.

“You’re looking for people with strong intuition and analytical thinking,” she said. “They need to be technically capable while also building bridges to practical solutions — all while staying vigilant about regulations, cybersecurity, and compliance.”

### Defining successful leadership

For Taylor, creating a strong organizational culture is fundamental to effective leadership. She highlights the importance of fostering a culture of continuous learning and psychological safety.

“A successful leader creates an environment where people feel safe to speak up,” she said. “Whether something isn’t working or there’s a risk of failure, teams need to feel comfortable addressing challenges openly so they can be resolved collaboratively.”

Reflecting on her career, Taylor takes the greatest pride in the success of those she has mentored.

“I’m most proud of seeing people I’ve worked with grow into vice presidents, CIOs, and other leadership roles,” she said. “Their success is the accomplishment I value most.”



# Chuck Markarian

Chief Information Security Officer (Ret.) | PACCAR

## PACCAR CISO (Ret.) Chuck Markarian on building a “department of yes”

*By The Business Journals Content Studio*

The first employee Chuck Markarian hired after joining PACCAR still works alongside him today — 20 years later. Even as Markarian transitions into retirement this year from his CISO role, he recognizes the ongoing value of the connections he’s made.

“I’ve tried very hard, especially in the Seattle community, to make connections and get to know people,” Markarian said. “It’s helped me get my voice out there, and it’s also helped me pull in others so they could get their voices out there.”

Markarian has spent the last 20 years of his career with PACCAR, a global designer and manufacturer of heavy-duty trucks. He joined the company in 2005 and took on the role of CISO in 2016, where he was tasked with building a security program “almost from scratch,” he said. That buildout is one of the career accomplishments he’s most proud of, according to Markarian. “It’s been a great opportunity, and I couldn’t do it without the team.”

Prior to his work with PACCAR, Markarian worked for AT&T Wireless and Boeing.

Markarian’s success as a leader has been recognized by PacificNorthwestCISO. He will receive the Leadership Award at the 2026 Seattle ORBIE Awards event April 16 at the Westin Seattle.

### Points of pride

Beyond the development of PACCAR’s security program, Markarian is most proud of seeing his team members and direct reports succeed. “I’ve had at least five or six folks

**“You have to be masters of both (the business and technical sides),” Markarian said. “You need to understand where the business is trying to go so you can help ensure the right level of security is there.”**

who have reported to me who have grown into levels equal to or above me in the company, and I love seeing that,” he said. “To think you had some hand in their growth is really cool.”

Markarian’s team members have been able to advance in their careers because their boss championed them for new opportunities, even when it meant that person would leave the division. “I’ve taken a lot of my leaders and said ‘Hey, they’re in a great role for me, I love what they’re doing, and they’re super strong, but I think they could be ready for a next opportunity,” Markarian said.

Markarian also takes pride in the alliances his security team has forged among PACCAR’s other business departments. Markarian has worked to build a culture that characterizes security as a “department of yes.” In other words, rather than tack on the security aspect of a project after the fact, “we have program managers, project managers coming to us before they even initiate their projects to talk about potential security concerns,” he said. Then, Markarian added, it’s on the security folks to say, “Yes, you can do that. Here are the things we need to do to make it secure for you.”

### Challenges facing today’s CISOs

The CISO role has only been around a few decades. It can encompass a particularly challenging set of responsibilities, especially when data breaches happen. In those circumstances, someone must take responsibility, regardless of where the fault might lay. “CISOs are the ones who typically end up fired, taken to court, whatever the case might be,” Markarian said. “It adds a lot of stress to the role.”

Because of that added stress and pressure, the research area of CISO mental health is a strong focus for Markarian — and will continue to be after retirement, he said. “To help CISOs have a healthy mental state, what are some things we can do? That’s one of the things I want to work on,” he said.

Markarian also emphasized how critical it is for today’s CISOs to have a sharp business acumen. In other words, it’s not a job for someone who only has the technical know-how. “You have to be masters of both (the business and technical sides),” Markarian said. “You need to understand where the business is trying to go so you can help ensure the right level of security is there.”

### Reflecting on a fulfilling career

An impending transition to retirement is the perfect time for a look back. For his part, Markarian said learning to become a good leader was perhaps his most valuable lesson. He’s the first to admit he didn’t start out that way: “When I first became a manager, I was terrible. You would not have wanted to work for me.” He remembers trouble with delegating responsibilities and an inclination to avoid conflict. Markarian said he had to learn that “kindness goes a long way. You still have to hold people accountable, but it’s in how you do it.”

That kindness is now what Markarian hopes to be remembered by. “Accomplishments come and go. We need new goals every year, new things to do. But underlying all of that is, how did you treat people?” he said. “That’s hopefully the legacy I can leave.”

# GLOBAL FINALISTS

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



## Jens Hansen

North America CIO,  
Adidas



Jens has been fortunate to serve and lead at organizations such as Microsoft, JP Morgan, the US Army, and now adidas. His roles have ranged from sales operations to mergers and acquisitions to IT leadership. Currently serving as the CIO for adidas North America, Jens enjoys time with his family, mediocre trail running, and extremely poor golf.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Jens has led adidas IT in North America to simultaneously deliver innovative solutions while sunseting legacy “green screen” systems. Innovations have included world-leading Buy with Prime partnerships, automated sales compensation programs, process automation, and even one of the region’s largest high definition screens at the Las Vegas flagship store. At the same time the team has replaced dated and complex technology with simple and agile solutions through “lowcode” applications. All of these successes have been delivered by a diverse and dynamic IT organization with 50% of senior roles filled by females.



## Art Hu

SVP, Global CIO & SSG Chief  
Delivery & Technology  
Officer,  
Lenovo



As Lenovo’s Global CIO, Art leads the enterprise-wide IT organization that provides information services, manages critical operational systems, and drives technology-enabled transformation for Lenovo. With his vision of IT as a strategic partner to the business, he has delivered capabilities that enabled Lenovo to grow from a PC-led company into a global technology solutions leader.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Under my leadership, Lenovo IT team has played a pivotal role in Lenovo’s intelligent transformation, demonstrating industry-wide innovation and delivery excellence. We pioneered Lenovo’s hybrid AI vision, deploying AI across 200+ use cases spanning service delivery, sales, HR, finance, and advancing toward an agentic AI model with enterprise and domain agents. We also embedded AI across the software delivery lifecycle, achieving 15–20% productivity gains and 10% quality improvement. As a strategic partner to internal teams and ecosystems, we translated innovation into scalable hybrid cloud offerings. Operating across 160+ countries, we deliver first-class solutions while enabling Lenovo’s next phase of growth.



## Derek Ingalls

VP, Engine,  
Amazon



Derek Ingalls is the VP of the Engine organization at Amazon, which brings together Intelligent Cloud Control and Amazon IT, teams that keep Amazon running at a global scale. He brings more than 25 years of experience from senior technology leadership roles at Microsoft and Activision Blizzard. Earlier in his career, Derek served as a firefighter for the City of Redmond, an experience that has shaped his people-first leadership philosophy, grounded in trust and service.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Amazon IT drives how 1.5 million Amazonians work and innovate across hundreds of global offices worldwide. The organization unifies technology and operations to deliver enterprise-wide scale, resilience, and agility. The teams create comprehensive, innovative solutions that empower thousands of employees and positively impact millions of customers every day. Under Derek’s leadership, Amazon IT serves as a trusted partner and a force that accelerates business outcomes. Through a culture of operational excellence, collaboration, and people-first leadership, the organization ensures technology functions as a strategic engine shaping Amazon’s productivity, innovation, and growth for the decade ahead.



## Nate Kurtz

CIO,  
Veeam Software



Nate Kurtz is Veeam Software’s Chief Information Officer and he leads the Corporate Technology team. Prior to Veeam, Nate spent over 20 years at F5 Networks, KPMG LLP, and Arthur Andersen LLP. Nate started his career in the U.S. Army and was a member of the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State. Nate is a graduate of the University of Washington and the Foster School of Business.

**SUCCESS STORY:** As CIO of Veeam Software, Nate Kurtz has been at the forefront of the technical transformation to enable Veeam’s rapid growth and prized position as #1 in their market. From system rationalization and consolidation to deploying new and innovative solutions, Veeam is poised for continued success. Nate is a people centric leader who builds a culture of fun, excitement, and excellence. His goal is to make everyone on the team the best versions of themselves. That strong foundation provides an environment where each person can produce innovative results to drive Veeam forward.



## Rebecca Straka

CIO,  
Weyerhaeuser Company



Rebecca Straka is the Chief Information Officer at Weyerhaeuser Company since 2019. She has over 30 years of IT industry experience leading diverse, global teams and large, complex technology and business programs requiring significant change and investment. Rebecca is active in SeattleCIO, UW Tacoma Milgard School of Business, and IGNITE Worldwide programs. She is a proud graduate of Washington State University holding a degree in business and has a master’s degree in leadership from WGU.

**SUCCESS STORY:** My success story boils down into three areas: Build and develop a great team, take on the difficult challenges, and lead with integrity. I have leaned on these three anchors to guide my career and they have served me well. Part of my success is building teams which are diverse in skillsets and experiences and developing them. Vendor partners are critical team members of the extended team, critical to our delivery as well. These teams take on complex challenges, delivered quality services, and executed against business initiatives. Leading with integrity creates an environment of trust, positivity, and transparency.

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## Congratulations to the 2026 Seattle CIO of the Year® Award winners and nominees.

Comcast Business has been a proud sponsor of the ORBIE® Awards for 10 years, supporting global enterprises with a full suite of advanced technology and secure networking solutions.

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**ORBIE**  
AWARDS

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# LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

ORGANIZATIONS OVER \$3 BILLION  
ANNUAL REVENUE



## Kristie Duffin

CTO,  
Cascade Asset  
Management Company



Kristie Duffin is Head of Technology for Cascade Asset Management, the investment firm supporting Bill Gates and the Gates Foundation. Kristie joined Cascade in 2016 to drive the strategy for cloud infrastructure, cybersecurity, data management, and application platforms. Previously Kristie was Managing Director at BlackRock in Seattle and London. Kristie is on multiple University of Washington boards and graduated from the University's Foster School of Business with both a BA and a Technology MBA.

**SUCCESS STORY:** One of our team's strategic objectives is to be forward-thinking and future-proof. That can be hard when keeping our assets safe from risks is a core company priority. I am however proud of the work my team has done over the last 10 years as we modernized our operations into the cloud, created a user-loved, fully integrated reporting platform and built a top-tier cybersecurity program. Best of all we have positioned ourselves as a technology forward company aligned with the computing roots of our principal client.



## Callie Goldsby

CIO,  
Washington State  
Department of Commerce



Callie Goldsby is Chief Information Officer for the Washington State Department of Commerce, with 27 years of public sector technology leadership. She leads enterprise modernization that strengthens service delivery, builds trust, and advances responsible AI innovation. Known for servant and transformative leadership, developing high-performing teams and mentoring future IT leaders, Callie brings a collaborative, people-first approach to technology leadership that delivers measurable, mission-driven impact for Washington's communities.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Over the past year, my team at the Washington State Department of Commerce reshaped how technology advances our mission to serve communities statewide. After joining in March 2025, I assessed IT maturity and set a clear vision to evolve from a traditional government IT function into a modern, mission-driven organization. We turned around a stalled One Washington Workday implementation by rebuilding governance, project management, and accountability, positioning Commerce for an on-time go-live. In parallel, I launched a Microsoft 365 Copilot Community of Practice, engaging over 130 employees in responsible, hands-on AI adoption. These efforts are driving change, innovation, and trust.



## Stephen Heard

CIO,  
King County



Stephen Heard is the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and director of the King County Department of Information Technology (KCIT) supporting King County employees, residents, and other government agencies with a wide array of innovative technology services. Prior to becoming CIO, Stephen served as Chief Technology Officer for the County. Prior to his county service, Stephen worked in the private sector, including technical and leadership roles within the financial services and consumer products industries.

**SUCCESS STORY:** King County Information Technology (KCIT) is proud to announce the creation of the AI Investment Fund, designed to improve service delivery and optimize internal operations through the responsible application of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). For the 2026/27 budget biennium, the AI Center of Excellence will finance 4 to 8 proposals to stimulate AI-related research that supports agency missions, reduces costs, and enhances operational efficiency.



## Mike Knapick

CIO,  
SanMar



Mike began his career with Andersen Consulting working with High Tech clients eventually joining Expedia to manage a team within their IT organization. At Expedia Mike had a number of roles and was eventually named Expedia's CIO. Following Expedia's change in ownership to IAC, Mike briefly returned to consulting before joining Isilon Systems in Seattle as their senior IT leader. In 2014, Mike joined SanMar Corp as their CIO.

**SUCCESS STORY:** The SanMar IT team successfully delivered impactful projects including launching our most automated distribution center and enhancing our Business to Business website to include AI enabled search and access to our 3D image catalog. At the same time the team completed significant improvements to our IT processes including establishing KPIs to monitor our progress. This led to a sharp increase in our on time delivery for IT projects for the entire company.



## Randi Levin

CIO,  
Sound Transit



Randi Levin is Chief Information Officer at Sound Transit, leading enterprise technology strategy and operations for one of the nation's largest public transportation agencies, Sound Transit. She brings a distinguished career in IT leadership, with senior roles supporting the White House, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and the City of Los Angeles. Randi is recognized for executive-level judgment, mission-driven leadership, and delivering complex technology transformation at scale.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Under my leadership, IT delivered critical infrastructure in preparation for new light rail service from Bellevue to Redmond, including networking, cybersecurity testing, passenger information systems, and digital updates to support a seamless rider launch. The team ensured systems readiness across stations and operations to enable safe, reliable service from day one. We also implemented wind and wave monitoring software for the upcoming cross-lake bridge, strengthening operational safety, resilience, and long-term asset protection. Additionally, we launched a new Ride Guide to support more accurate, reliable trip planning for riders.



## Scott Waters

CIO, MultiCare Health  
System / Overlake Medical  
Center & Clinics



Scott Waters is the CIO for Overlake Medical Center & Clinics and interim CIO of MultiCare Health System, where he leads enterprise information services, cybersecurity, digital transformation, and clinical technology strategy across a large, multi-hospital health system. He is responsible for aligning technology investments with patient care, operational excellence, and organizational resilience. A seasoned healthcare IT executive, Scott is known for collaborative leadership and delivering secure, innovative, and patient-centered technology solutions.

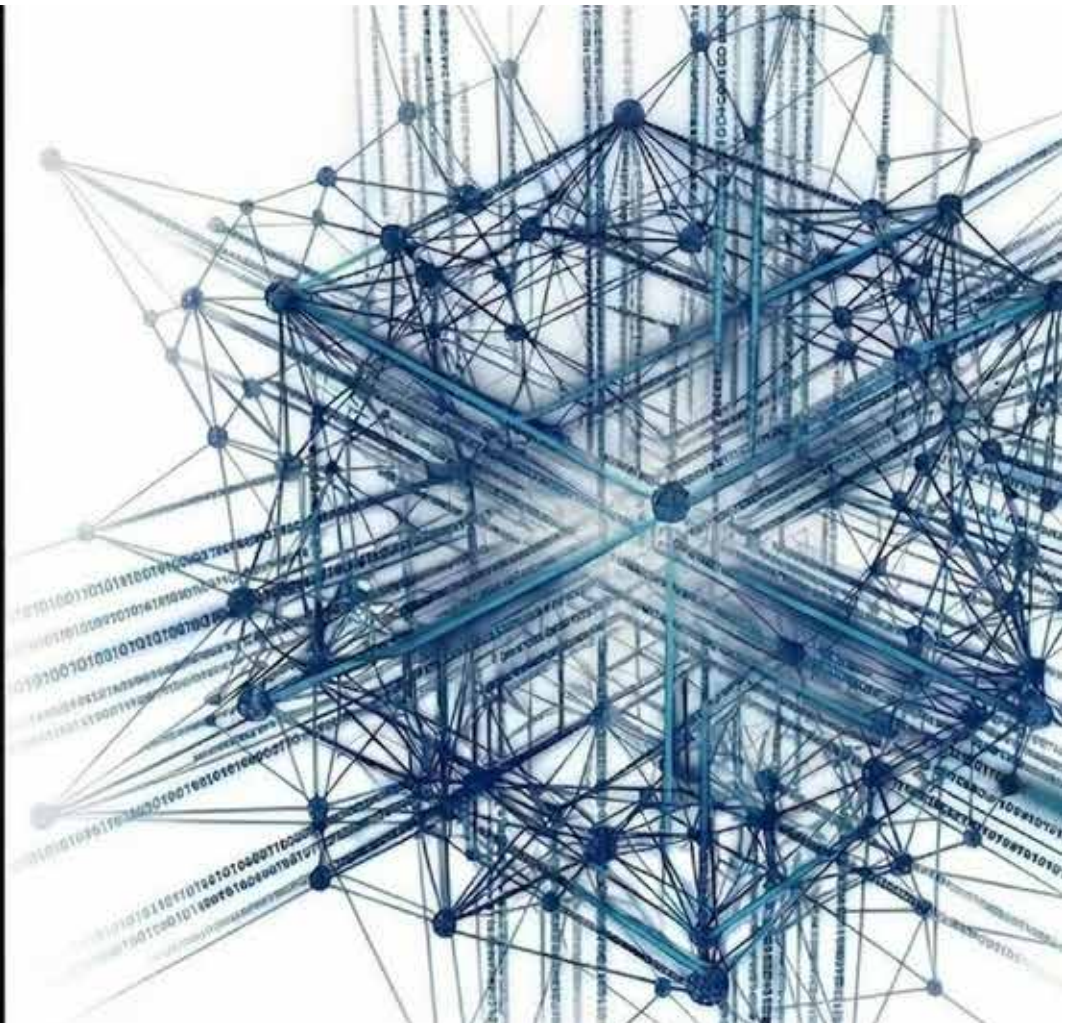
**SUCCESS STORY:** IS&T for both Overlake and MultiCare Health System delivered measurable improvements in experience, reliability, and financial performance. We reduced clinician burden and restored joy in practice through innovations like Ambient Clinical Documentation, while patient portal enhancements saved thousands of staff hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars. Operational support improved via service desk modernization, driving faster resolution and higher satisfaction. We invested in people—enhancing mentorships, training, and high potential programs. Strong financial stewardship enabled cost reductions, automation, and contract savings reinvested in care. These results reflect trust built, lives improved, and a durable foundation for growth.



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our entire community.



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## Congratulations, Janet!

Your dedication, talent and leadership distinguish you as a true industry leader. We're honored to celebrate this well-deserved nomination with you.



**Janet Brown**

Executive Vice President  
Chief Information Officer



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# ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

ORGANIZATIONS OVER \$800 MILLION  
ANNUAL REVENUE



## Omer Awan

CIO,  
Fred Hutch Cancer Center



Omer Awan leads Fred Hutch's efforts to leverage IT to support and advance the organization as CIO. Omer joined Fred Hutch from Atrium Health in Charlotte, NC where he served as Chief Data & Digital Officer. Omer previously served as the CIO and Senior IT Leader at several health systems. Omer has undergraduate degrees in accounting and computer science, has a master's degree in business administration, and completed post graduate work at MIT and Harvard.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Led the integration of cutting-edge technologies at Fred Hutch, including AI/ML, ambient AI, telemedicine, digital health platforms, which have revolutionized the way we deliver care to our patients. One notable project was the implementation of an ambient AI solution that dramatically reduced the documentation burden for the clinicians by almost half and improving clinical satisfaction and streamlined workflows, enhancing patient satisfaction and operational efficiency. Fred Hutch has undergone a comprehensive digital transformation, aligning IT infrastructure with our mission to support pioneering cancer research. This transformation has enabled us to accelerate breakthrough discoveries and foster a collaborative, data-driven research environment.



## Kalyan Kakani

CIO,  
Tacoma Public Utilities



Kalyan Kakani is a transformative technology executive whose career spans more than 25 years across IT, OT, and enterprise innovation in the utility/energy domain. As CIO at Tacoma Public Utilities, he leads one of the region's most ambitious technology modernizations. Kalyan's leadership journey has taken him through some of the Northwest's most influential energy organizations, including Seattle City Light, Puget Sound Energy, and CRC of Nevada.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Under Kalyan's collaborative leadership, TPU has undergone a profound technology transformation. Side-by-side with other teams, he led the AMI deployment for Power and Water—now celebrated as a model for enterprise modernization. With business partners, he delivered a next-generation enterprise GIS solutions on ESRI platform and guided TPU through its migration to S/4HANA and SAP Service Cloud. Last year, he united IT/OT, operations, and engineering to shape Utility Technology Modernization 2.0—anchored in data, architecture, and cybersecurity principles, with a bold vision for AI maturity and a five-year technology roadmap. His teams eliminated backlog, elevated service excellence, and built TPU's digital future—together.



## Daniel Key

CIO & IT Director,  
City of Tacoma



Daniel is a senior technology and operational executive supporting the public interest by equipping communities and individuals with effective technology and information services. He is currently Technology Director and CIO for the City of Tacoma, WA, where he is responsible for information strategy and enterprise service delivery. He has an extensive history building highly capable and resilient teams in multiple technology domains and business verticals.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Our transformation into a value-hungry "captive vendor" continues to return dividends. Our Product based operating model has increased the perceived value of IT by five-fold in as many years. This performance has given our stakeholders confidence to double the total investment in digital services over recent budget cycles. We have returned that confidence with our best performing portfolio in over 20 years. We delivered over 250 unique capability improvements furthering our strategic goals. Examples include ERP transformation, Utility CRM, new public website and domain, enhanced permitting processes, and core infrastructure uplift for security and resiliency.



## Nathan Ramachandran

EVP & CTO,  
BECU



Across Accenture and major U.S. banks, Nathan has dedicated his career transforming technology in service of people and expanding hope through financial empowerment. He holds advanced degrees in mathematics, software engineering, and cost management accounting. Nathan Ramachandran, BECU's Chief Technology Officer, brings 20+ years of financial-services innovation rooted in personal resilience and life-changing support of a credit union. He leads the modernization of BECU's platforms to create meaningful, digital-first, human-always experiences for 1.5 million members.

**SUCCESS STORY:** BECU, a not-for-profit credit union serving Washington for 90 years, is committed to improving members' financial well-being. As a long-standing institution with complex legacy systems, adaptability is essential. We are modernizing our technology to enhance efficiency, stability, and data governance so we can deliver a better member experience. I developed a strategy to unify systems into a real-time, event-driven, cloud-integrated, GenAI-enabled ecosystem that supports seamless, omnichannel interactions. With strengthened operational excellence and data-driven accountability, we bring people, processes, and technology together to create a unified, personalized, digital-first, human-always member experience.



## Anu Tirupathi

Head of Life Insurance IT,  
Farmers New World Life



I am a technology transformation leader with a proven track record of modernizing complex IT environments to enable business strategy and growth. I specialize in leading large scale change, re-architecting platforms, and delivering end to end digital and operational transformation. Known for partnering closely with business leaders, I focus on driving efficiency, scalability, and measurable outcomes while improving customer and user experiences.

**SUCCESS STORY:** I'm grateful to be part of a transformational journey in the life insurance industry alongside an exceptional team. Together, we navigated a comprehensive technology overhaul and launched a new platform while maintaining continuity for our agents and customers. By re-architecting legacy systems and adopting a flexible, secure, cloud-enabled foundation, we enabled greater digitization, automation, and efficiency. This work goes beyond technology, it reflects a shared commitment to improving the customer experience and strengthening the business for the future. I'm proud of what we've accomplished and excited to continue this journey together.



## Ravi Waran

VP & CIO,  
Clearwater Paper Corporation



Ravi Waran has been VP and CIO since 2017 at Clearwater Paper, a premier independent supplier of paperboard packaging products. He was CIO at Albemarle, a leading specialty chemical company, and CIO at Air Liquide Americas, the global leader in industrial gases. Waran has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, a master's in industrial and operations engineering from the University of Michigan, and pursued doctoral study at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Our team led a comprehensive transformation that positioned IT as a strategic driver of enterprise performance. We reduced costs by one-third through vendor consolidation and an optimized operating model, unified IT and OT governance to strengthen cybersecurity, and advanced factory automation through close collaboration with engineering. We moved ERP, user productivity apps and telephony to the cloud and beat our target for consistent 99.5% uptime across all platforms. We also delivered a simultaneous billion-dollar acquisition and billion-dollar divestiture, on time and on budget in under a year with no business interruptions.

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# LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

ORGANIZATIONS OVER \$400 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



**Janet Brown**

EVP & CIO,  
Banner Bank



I provide direction and oversight of Information Technology and Cyber Security including emerging technology such as Gen AI/AI. I have more than 30 years' in IT in the insurance, healthcare and legal claims industries. I attended Washington State University & served on active duty in the US Marine Corps and am a Desert Storm Veteran. I was a board member for Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center and volunteered with organizations both in the US and abroad.

**SUCCESS STORY:** I am a true believer in the acronym of TEAM, "Together Everyone Achieves More." Having a diverse group of colleagues, that works well together, actively listens, seeking to understand the business needs allows us to achieve, and do more to move the organization forward. Our commitment is to be proactive in delivering cost-effective solutions and services in partnership with our business colleagues, build a culture that provides development and growth opportunities for our employees, increase our value by maintaining a highly capable and responsive team, and continuously maintain a scalable, secure and reliable production environment.



**Raj Chudasama**

CIO,  
Stanley 1913



Raj Chudasama currently serves as the CIO for Global Digital Technologies at Stanley 1913. He leverages his extensive leadership experience in engineering and general management to drive digital transformation and new product development. Raj has a proven track record of successfully leading large-scale digital transformations for both B2C and B2B segments. His approach focuses on implementing agile methodologies and best software engineering practices, resulting in significant cost reductions, improved security, and enhanced reliability.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Under Raj's leadership, Stanley 1913's Technology organization delivered major advancements that strengthened the company's digital backbone and enabled scalable growth. The team modernized core platforms across supply chain, ERP, and customer experience, improving efficiency and resilience. They launched a new order management system, accelerated eCommerce expansion, and implemented a secure, cloud-native architecture. Raj also championed Integrated Business Planning, creating a unified, financially integrated model that improved visibility and optimized inventory. These efforts, along with new AI and automation capabilities, enhanced customer experience, reduced cost leakage, and supported global expansion.



**Eddie Delic**

VP, Technology & Digital  
Experiences,  
Ben Bridge Jewelers



Eddie Delic transforms enterprise technology organizations across retail and manufacturing. From architecting high-volume transaction platforms to enabling VIP selling rooms where technology serves the relationship, his career has been defined by turning complexity into competitive advantage. As VP of Technology & Digital Experiences at Ben Bridge Jeweler, he led a technology transformation—delivering a modern ERP, AI-enabled data warehouse, and record ecommerce growth in under three years. Eddie cultivates teams that own outcomes and deliver business results.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Ben Bridge has served customers with excellence for over 110 years, but the technology organization needed a vision to match that heritage. In under three years, we transformed it. We brought a stalled ERP/POS initiative to pilot in seven months. We launched Salesforce CRM from scratch with adoption that exceeded expectations. We partnered with Microsoft on an AI-enabled data warehouse and with Comcast to modernize store connectivity—enabling the tools our associates rely on daily. Record online sales. IT costs dropped. Five audits remediated, security posture elevated to new standards. Most importantly, we built a team that owns outcomes, not tasks.



**Chris Fadden**

IT Director,  
City of Everett



Chris Fadden is an accomplished IT professional, serving as the IT Director for the City of Everett, WA, with extensive experience in technology leadership and governance. Specializing in public-sector stewardship, Chris drives innovation and operational excellence while ensuring secure, scalable solutions. Known for strategic vision and collaborative leadership, Chris partners with executive teams to align technology initiatives with organizational goals, communicate benefits in clear, accessible terms, and build resident trust through transparency and reliability.

**SUCCESS STORY:** I've had the honor of working alongside a team committed to innovation and progress. Together, we've delivered transformative initiatives that enhance city services and internal operations. We modernized Everett's network infrastructure, improving reliability, reducing disruptions, with a \$1M projected savings over seven years. We strengthened cybersecurity with strategic partnerships and expanded automation in our 311 program, improving responsiveness and transparency for residents. Finally, we emerged as a statewide leader in responsible AI adoption, pioneering Microsoft Copilot and empowering City employees as "Champions" to drive productivity and service delivery. I'm proud to lead a team shaping a smarter, more connected Everett.



**Michele Mallory**

VP, IT & Business Planning,  
PCC Community Markets



I am a Technology Executive with a passion for learning and applying new insights to systems, processes, and teams. My strength is harnessing strategic technology investments to deliver measurable business results while managing costs and risks. I leverage data as a strategic asset to drive deeper business insights and inform strategic decisions. I am a dynamic and skilled communicator with strong problem solving, team building, and continuous process improvement skills.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Over the past 4 years, the PCC IT team has stabilized core systems, secured and surfaced key business data, and implemented the new capabilities required to modernize the co-op's customer and staff experience. These improvements will allow PCC to personalize the shopping experience for co-op members, increase donations collected for local food system partners, and improve every customer touchpoint across channels. In addition, the systems delivered will improve in-stock conditions to drive more sales, streamline the ordering process, and reduce the labor required to maintain store level pricing.



**Borre Ulrichsen**

CIO,  
Gonzaga University



Borre Ulrichsen is the CIO at Gonzaga University. Previously, he was the CIO and AVP for IT Services at California State University, East Bay (2011-2016) and the Director of Information Systems Projects at San Francisco State University (2002-2011). Prior to this, he held various IT leadership roles in the private sector. Borre earned his MBA (Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley) and his Master's Degree in Engineering (the Norwegian University of Science and Technology).

**SUCCESS STORY:** Under my leadership, ITS evolved into a strategic partner through our Run, Optimize, and Innovate framework. Our cornerstone achievement is the Zags Relationship Management (ZRM) platform, unifying student success, advancement, and marketing. By providing a "single pane of glass" view of the constituent journey, ZRM enables personalized engagement and proactive support. This initiative automates manual processes and drives data-driven decision-making, directly advancing Gonzaga's mission of cura personalis. These efforts ensure technology serves as a powerful foundation for a transformative Jesuit education and sustained institutional growth.

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# CORPORATE FINALISTS

ORGANIZATIONS UP TO \$400 MILLION  
ANNUAL REVENUE



**Mike  
Cartwright**

CTO,  
Snap! Mobile Inc.



Mike is the Chief Technology Officer at Snap! Mobile, where he leads Engineering, DevOps, and Security. He focuses on building scalable tools that enable schools and communities to fund and sustain after-school programs nationwide. He brings global experience across SaaS, ecommerce, fintech, and travel, previously serving as VP of Technology at Expedia and co-founding two startups. He is passionate about building strong teams, simplifying complex systems, and connecting technology decisions to real business outcomes.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Over the past year, Snap! Mobile surpassed \$1 billion raised for school teams and clubs nationwide. Engineering and Product partnered to launch Snap! Mobile One, unifying five acquisitions into a single platform with shared services and launching our first mobile app. The team modernized the platform by migrating to Kubernetes on Google Cloud, improving scalability and reliability while reducing infrastructure costs by more than 40%. We also aligned to NIST CSF 2, embedding security into everyday development and operations to support long-term trust, innovation, and growth for schools and communities.



**Andrew  
Chung**

CIO,  
Gesa Credit Union



Andrew Chung leads Gesa Credit Union's technology strategy as Chief Information Officer, overseeing IT, Information Security, Physical Security, RPA, and Fraud for 312,000+ members across 45 branches. He built Gesa's Data Analytics and Development functions from scratch while scaling technology through four M&As and \$800 million to \$6.5 billion in growth. Andrew serves on the executive committee of America's Credit Union Technology Council and holds MIS degrees from San Jose State and Florida State Universities.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Under my leadership, Gesa's IT department has supported growth from \$800 million to \$6.5 billion in assets through M&As, organic expansion, and technological innovation. This required building capabilities from scratch: establishing Data Analytics and Development teams, leading complex system integrations that united organizational cultures and technology platforms, and developing infrastructure that sustained rapid growth while protecting member data and maintaining uninterrupted member service. In 2025 alone, we prevented over \$1 million in fraud, maintained 99.999% system uptime across all production environments, and deployed 73 automated bots saving 13.44 FTEs monthly. Growth and stability coexist when the foundation is built right.



**Bob  
Johnson**

SVP, Technology &  
Enterprise Data,  
Kidder Mathews



Bob Johnson is Senior Vice President of Technology & Enterprise Data at Kidder Mathews. With more than 33 years in commercial real estate technology leadership—including roles at CBRE and Cushman & Wakefield—he leads enterprise technology strategy, data innovation, application development, cybersecurity, and digital transformation driving growth. He is known for aligning technology investment with business outcomes, advancing responsible AI innovation, building high-performing teams, and contributing thought leadership on technology's evolving role in real estate.

**SUCCESS STORY:** At Kidder Mathews, I'm privileged to lead an award-winning technology team that has helped redefine how innovation supports commercial real estate. Together, we built an integrated digital data platform that enhances client insight, operational efficiency, and strategic decision-making across the firm. The team also modernized our technology foundation through cloud adoption, strengthened cybersecurity, and optimized workflow automation—improving reliability, collaboration, and productivity. What truly distinguishes this group is its people-first, "Orange Glove" service mindset that combines technical excellence with empathy and accountability. Our work has made technology a consistent business accelerator and competitive advantage.



**Scott  
Lindley**

CIO,  
Kitsap Credit Union



Scott Lindley is the Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer of Kitsap Credit Union, bringing over 32 years of technology and financial-services leadership. He drives growth, stability, and modernization for the credit union. Known for strong decision-making, business acuity, and a member- and employee-centric approach, he specializes in security, resilience, and digital transformation. Scott Lindley holds an MBA in Technology Management and serves on the Olympic College Foundation board.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Kitsap Credit Union (KCU) is the first credit union in Washington State to receive approval from the regulators to make an equity investment under the newly expanded authority granted by law (RCW 31.12.436), which provides state-chartered credit unions with broader investment powers. This move marks a new era in credit union innovation and engagement with emerging technologies. The investment provides a design partnership with Fintech, focusing on an enterprise-ready AI and data orchestration company. The investment will directly support KCU's mission to modernize operations, increase efficiency, and enhance the member experience through AI systems and real-time data tools.



**Nicole  
Thai**

VP, IT,  
Jade Biosciences



Nicole is an experienced IT leader with over 25 years in the biotech and life sciences sector. Her background spans private, public, and highly regulated organizations, where she has led IT functions of all sizes. She has built IT infrastructure from the ground up, guided large cross-site teams, and supported complex, fast-growing environments. Nicole's breadth of expertise and leadership has consistently enabled organizations to scale securely and effectively.

**SUCCESS STORY:** A significant achievement was made possible by the exceptional talent and dedication of our IT team. Together, we built a secure, scalable, resilient, and robust IT infrastructure, transforming it into a strategic enabler that supported the company's growth from a small biotech to a thriving enterprise of more than 300 employees in four years. Through technical excellence and a deeply collaborative approach, our team laid the technological foundation that enabled the organization to reach critical milestones, culminating in the successful completion of clinical trials and the FDA approval of a long-awaited treatment for patients with IgA Nephropathy.



**Joe  
Vetto**

CIO,  
Bloodworks Northwest



Joe Vetto is Chief Information Officer at Bloodworks Northwest, where he brings a results-driven approach to leadership and innovation. His strategic vision, operational expertise, and commitment to digital transformation have consistently delivered value to the organizations he serves. Joe has led enterprise-wide technology initiatives across multiple industries, modernized IT infrastructures, and championed data-driven decision-making. He is known for building high-performing teams and aligning technology strategy with organizational goals in complex, regulated environments.

**SUCCESS STORY:** One of our most meaningful accomplishments has been transforming IT into a trusted strategic partner. When I joined, IT was often viewed primarily as a support function, which limited how effectively we could partner with the business. By building a strong team, empowering people to make decisions, and fostering open communication and accountability, we changed how the organization engaged with IT. Today, the team works proactively to anticipate needs, solve complex problems, and deliver meaningful outcomes. Satisfaction among internal partners has improved, team engagement is higher, and IT is now viewed as an essential partner in advancing the organization's mission.



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# CISO GLOBAL FINALISTS

ORGANIZATIONS OVER \$30 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS



**Julie Ellis**

SVP & CISO,  
Starbucks Coffee Company



Julie Ellis is a senior technology and security executive recognized for advancing enterprise cybersecurity as a strategic business enabler. She leads large-scale transformation across risk, resilience, and governance, partnering with global executive leaders to protect critical assets while accelerating innovation. Julie is known for building trusted, high-performing teams, modernizing security capabilities, and delivering measurable outcomes that strengthen organizational confidence, agility, and long-term brand strength.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Our cybersecurity team has strengthened its foundation by aligning our enterprise policy framework to external standards, which ensures we evaluate, govern and protect capabilities efficiently and consistently. Our global model with regional cybersecurity leaders improves visibility, standardizes services, and supports comprehensive risk reporting. We adopted quantitative key risk indicators to sharpen operational clarity and drive decisions. Through global training initiatives, we are building a cybersecurity-first mindset across the company, and our team maintains strong engagement with technology and cross-functional partners [employees] to ensure risk is identified early and embedded into business planning.



**Doug Fisher**

Chief Security & AI Officer,  
Lenovo



Doug Fisher, Lenovo's Senior Vice President and first Chief Security Officer (2020), became the company's first Chief AI Officer in 2024. He oversees global security, supply-chain integrity, infrastructure and product protection, and leads Lenovo's AI governance and policy. A respected enterprise software leader, he previously spent 24 years at Intel in senior roles. He began his career in the U.S. Navy and holds degrees from Oregon State University and Stanford University.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Doug Fisher leads Lenovo's global security and AI governance organization, directing hundreds of experts and an enterprise-wide mission to protect more than a billion customers. He has unified security standards, strengthened product and supply chain integrity, and built real-time threat monitoring capabilities that stop attacks before they reach users. Under his leadership, security has become a strategic business enabler. In 2024, his role expanded to include AI governance aligned with Lenovo's Hybrid AI vision, ensuring every AI initiative meets rigorous privacy, legal, and ethical requirements and reinforcing trust in Lenovo's worldwide mission to protect more than a billion customers.



**Adam Sealey**

CISO,  
NIKE Inc.



Adam Sealey is the Global CISO for NIKE, Inc. Over a 13-year tenure, he has led the evolution of the enterprise's security posture from its foundational stages to a global operation protecting a \$46.3B brand. Adam's leadership style is defined by a commitment to unlocking human potential and fostering curiosity. By building a stable, high-performance team rooted in integrity and kindness, he ensures that technology empowers innovation and earns consumer trust.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Over 13 years, I have shaped NIKE's cybersecurity from an 8-person team into a global organization of over 400 professionals. While the threat landscape has grown more complex, my focus has been on operational discipline, managing double-digit threat increases with a clear eye on measurement with a flat-to-negative budget. This efficiency allowed us to secure \$12B in holiday revenue while achieving a sub-24-hour recovery during a major 2024 global outage. By prioritizing a culture of curiosity over traditional compliance, I have built a long-tenured leadership team, ensuring that security serves as a foundational pillar for every Athlete\*.



**Adrian Ybarra**

Deputy CISO,  
Costco Wholesale



Adrian joined Costco as the Manager for the Penetration Testing Team, his role quickly expanded as he established Costco's Cyber Threat Hunt, Cyber Threat Intelligence and Red Teams. Shortly thereafter Adrian was promoted to Director, Strategy, Security Architecture and Business Enablement where he led the development of Costco's enterprise Security Strategy. He was promoted to his current position in 2023 where he leads Costco's cybersecurity functions globally.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Over the last 4 years, We truly built a world class organization for Costco Wholesale. During this time, we have rebuilt and redesign the Information Security organization with all of the teams and capabilities required to serve this retail giant. Our teams have driven many modernization and transformation initiatives across the enterprise to include a modern security architecture, modern network infrastructure and secure development practices. Most importantly, we have built a fully capable high performing team that fosters innovation and continuous improvement.

# Congratulations to the 2026 Pacific Northwest CISO of the Year® Award winners and nominees.

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AWARDS

## Congratulations to F5 CISO Christopher Burger!

2026 Pacific  
Northwest ORBIE  
Awards Finalist



# CISO LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

ORGANIZATIONS OVER \$3  
BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



**Christopher  
Burger**

CISO,  
F5



For over 25 years, Christopher has been at the forefront of technology and information security operations. He has led cybersecurity teams in the highly regulated financial services and telecommunications industries and has most recently been the CISO at a technology consulting services company. Over the course of his career, he has held leadership roles at Washington Mutual, Corbis, Clearwire, Russell Investments, and Slalom.

**SUCCESS STORY:** In 2025, we disclosed a major security incident involving a sophisticated nation-state threat actor. I'm proud of how F5 teams swiftly mobilized and collaborated to restore trust and permanently strengthen security. Notably, we partnered with CrowdStrike to bring advanced endpoint visibility to F5 BIG-IP devices, becoming the first in the industry to run EDR on network edge devices. This innovative solution, now available to customers, sets a new industry standard, demonstrating our commitment to resilience and security leadership.



**Jake  
Hammock**

CISO & Assistant CTO,  
Security & Infrastructure  
Director, City of Seattle



Jake Hammock is the CISO, Assistant CTO and Director of Security & Infrastructure for the City of Seattle, leading 150+ staff and an \$80M portfolio spanning cybersecurity, infrastructure, service reliability, and communications. A former U.S. Army Cyber Warfare Officer, Jake serves on the Coalition of City CISOs, Washington Technology Services Board Security Subcommittee, and Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network board, and volunteers as a licensed amateur radio operator supporting the City's Auxiliary Communications Service.

**SUCCESS STORY:** I modernized Seattle's cybersecurity governance into one policy framework with enforceable standards and created the Cyber Health Index, a cyber posture scoring system. I established a vulnerability remediation control board, implemented AI security governance, designed Zero Trust architecture bridging secure authentication to legacy applications, and structured a Service Reliability Operations Center with defined service level objectives. In 2025, Priority 1 incidents fell 47% and major incidents 57%, with zero cybersecurity breaches and a 3% cyber insurance premium reduction. Secured \$500K in remedies after a third-party incident and delivered \$1.6M cost avoidance through infrastructure modernization with a peer local government partner.



**Adrian  
Mayers**

VP & CISO,  
Premera Blue Cross



Dr. Adrian M. Mayers is a digital business and cyber risk management executive with over 28 years of experience creating, innovating, and influencing key business strategies for public and private companies operating in consumer electronics, healthcare, insurance, and software sectors. His academic achievements include a Doctorate in Business Administration specializing in International Business from Northcentral University. His research interests are focused on AI, digital business strategy, cyber warfare, national security, intelligence analysis, and foreign policy.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Our team achieved several landmark accomplishments that advanced our organization's cybersecurity posture and operational agility. Recently, we led a comprehensive transformation, evolving our cybersecurity program into a dynamic cyber risk management function. This strategic shift proactively addressed emerging business challenges, a rapidly intensifying threat landscape, and complex regulatory demands. By realigning teams, optimizing processes, and rationalizing technologies, we were able to enhance resilience and agility, but also redefined what cyber means at Premera. Another pivotal achievement involved championing the adoption of generative AI. By deploying this capability we empowered our entire workforce to embrace AI-driven productivity, creativity, and competence.



**Mike  
Ratliff**

SVP & CISO,  
Providence



Mike Ratliff is the SVP and Chief Information Security Officer at Providence, one of the nation's largest health systems. A U.S. Navy combat veteran turned healthcare security executive, he brings over three decades of operational discipline to protecting 50+ hospitals, 1,000+ clinics, and the 120,000+ caregivers who serve some of America's most vulnerable communities.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Over the last year, our team didn't just improve cybersecurity, we rebuilt how Providence thinks about risk. We transformed governance into a real-time intelligence engine, launched AI security frameworks grounded in NIST and OWASP, and built CyberHealth. A decision platform unifying 200+ metrics across 50+ sources. The result: leaders making informed risk decisions in real time, exception backlogs shrinking, and a clear path to NIST CSF maturity 3.5. This wasn't a technology project. It was a cultural shift on proving that cybersecurity, done right, isn't a barrier to care. It's the foundation care is built on.



**Chaim  
Sanders**

CISO,  
Lyft



Chaim Sanders is a security practitioner who discovered a knack for leadership and became a CISO. He is currently the CISO at Lyft. His background is a chaotic mix of academia, offensive security, and deep research. This variety forces him to look at security problems through the lens of a builder, a breaker, and a budget-holder simultaneously. He remains pragmatically cynical about the state of computing security, but now has the opportunity to change it.

**SUCCESS STORY:** My journey through security consulting, research, and academia before Lyft shaped my technical-first philosophy: individual success required understanding threats as deeply as the adversary, but leadership requires more - harnessing that depth to drive the business and enable growth. By aligning security with Lyft's mission, my team overcomes complex challenges, from global expansion to autonomous vehicles. This success relies not only on my team but on our entire ecosystem of partners and vendors. Ultimately, I measure my impact by the "multiplier-effect": mentoring students, supporting continuous learning, and empowering practitioners, ensures we're not just protecting a company, but securing the digital future.



**Brian  
Talbert**

CISO,  
Alaska Airlines



Brian Talbert is the Chief Information Security Officer for Alaska Air Group, leading enterprise-wide cybersecurity and technology risk management across Alaska Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, and Horizon Air. With more than 25 years of experience, Brian is known for building strong, collaborative teams and aligning cybersecurity to operational resilience and business priorities. He serves on the Airlines for America Cybersecurity Council and the Board of Directors for the Aviation Information Sharing and Analysis Center (A-ISAC).

**SUCCESS STORY:** Our greatest accomplishment was realized through the uniting of the Alaska and Hawaiian cybersecurity teams into a single organization protecting the combined airline. While the rest of company proceeded with a long, phased approach, I accelerated cybersecurity integration to reduce risk and build shared accountability from the start. By intentionally blending leaders and teams across both legacies and emphasizing culture, trust, and common operating models, we created a unified organization. When the team was later tested during a critical cyber event, they operated seamlessly and won, proving that strong culture and unity are operational strengths that materially improve resilience.

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ORGANIZATIONS UP TO \$3 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



**Michael Bray**  
CISO,  
Vancouver Clinic



Michael Bray is Chief Information Security Officer for The Vancouver Clinic, the largest independent, physician-owned medical group in the Pacific Northwest. He leads the enterprise-wide security program, ensuring compliance, resilience, and a culture of cybersecurity awareness. With CISM, CRISC, and CISSP certifications, Michael is active in ISACA, ISSA, and InfraGard, serves on multiple GRC committees, and is recognized for mentoring, thought leadership, and advancing security programs that protect patient care and organizational growth.

**SUCCESS STORY:** I built a resilient, enterprise-wide cybersecurity program that strengthens patient care and supports our organizational growth. By embedding security into strategy and fostering a culture of accountability, I've enabled teams to operate confidently even amid evolving threats. My focus has been turning security into a strategic partner, not a barrier, ensuring operations continue without disruption while risks are mitigated. Through this approach, we protect sensitive data, empower staff, and demonstrate that strong cybersecurity can drive both safety and business success.



**Darren Challey**  
CISO,  
Remitly



Darren Challey has been Remitly's Chief Information Security Officer for two years and was previously employed by Amazon for 7.5 years in cyber and physical security roles. Prior to Amazon, Darren was CISO at Expedia for 4.5 years and began his career at GE supporting the Naval Nuclear program and he held many roles there. He has a master's degree in Computer and Systems Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and maintains CISSP and CISA certifications.

**SUCCESS STORY:** I am incredibly thankful for having the strong business partnerships I enjoy. Those partners and I conducted site visits to our own customer success centers in addition to our business partners outsourcing sites. During shadowing sessions we conducted, we identified concerning process gaps and, as a result, the VP of Customer Success, the CIO, and myself co-authored a decision memo proposing investment to provide non-phishable, hardware-based multifactor tokens to all users (full time or contract) and also providing Remitly owned and managed hardware for all users. This was a substantial investment but we, together, made a compelling and successful case!



**Alex Di Giacomo**  
CISO,  
Sound Transit



Mr. Di Giacomo is a highly accomplished cybersecurity executive with over 27 years of experience in engineering, InfoSec, and technology management. As Sound Transit's CISO, he built a top-tier program recognized for excellence. He is passionate about positioning cybersecurity as a valued enabler to organizational success by bridging the gap between stakeholders with and without expertise in the field. Fluent in several languages, he brings a global, strategic perspective to advancing cybersecurity maturity and resilience.

**SUCCESS STORY:** As Sound Transit's first Chief Information Security Officer, I led a high-performing team to create a nationally recognized cybersecurity program with a CMMI maturity score of 3.9. Noteworthy achievements include trailblazing security testing of critical onboard train systems, pioneering transit industry adoption of the FAIR model for risk quantification, and deploying modern security controls for legacy operational technology systems. Through innovation and collaboration, we set a benchmark for peer agencies and elevated Sound Transit into a national cybersecurity leader in the transit industry, empowering safer, more reliable, and innovative public transportation.



**Jon Hocut**  
Director, IS,  
Brooks Running



Jon is an experienced cyber security leader with a strong background in global IT infrastructure. Skilled in building and maturing IT Security programs, Jon has helped the likes of NBCOlympics.com, the San Francisco 49ers, Stanley, and Brooks Running protect their businesses. Jon also serves as a leadership sponsor for the Brooks Rainbow Alliance, Vocation & Education (BRAVE) ERG at Brooks Running, providing guidance, advice, and support to the ERG leaders.

**SUCCESS STORY:** I took a department focused on checkbox compliance and created a risk management program. Our mission is to maintain business viability by protecting it against existential threats like ransomware. Everything we do rolls up to that goal. We partner within the business to achieve optimal business outcomes that are win/win for all. That requires manager-level communication from my team, so I recruit for empathy, compassion, and communication skills. I have helped our teams, processes, and procedures mature from an ad-hoc approach to something between controlled and managed. Procedures are aligned with policy and have accountability processes.



**Ron Jimerson**  
CISO,  
Port of Seattle



As the Chief Information Security Officer for the Port of Seattle, Ron Jimerson leads cybersecurity strategies across Aviation, Maritime, and corporate operations. He supports regional trade and transportation security. With over 24 years in IT/cybersecurity, he specializes in risk management, security architecture, incident response, governance, and resiliency. A former CISO for the City of Tacoma and Air Force cyber operations officer, he holds advanced degrees, national certifications, and industry credentials including CISSP and CISM.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Leading my team through a significant cyber-attack has become one of the most historic success stories in the Port's history. Despite having a mature security posture, an advanced threat actor created a multitude of service disruptions which interrupted airline travel, seaport operations, and corporate functions. My staff responded around the clock working with key technical staff and emergency personnel to isolate the threat actor and mitigate further disruptions. Leveraging existing and new security tools, operations across the port were restored with minimal service disruptions. This helped the external relations team assure public confidence remained intact.



**Mark Johnston**  
CISO,  
TriMet



Mark serves as CISO for TriMet, protecting the technology and critical infrastructure that keep Portland moving. With decades of information technology (IT) and operational technology (OT) security experience, including more than ten years in public service, he has led cybersecurity programs in complex, highly regulated environments. His leadership has advanced standards cybersecurity and risk management practices shared across the transit industry. He holds two patents and instructs public sector cyber resilience at Portland State University.

**SUCCESS STORY:** Under my leadership, TriMet's cybersecurity team achieved transformative results despite its small size. We established a standards based cybersecurity program and risk management framework aligned with enterprise decision making and shared these practices with peer transit agencies to strengthen industry collaboration. Measurable improvements were achieved across IT and operational technology (OT) through strong partnerships and cross functional coordination. By bridging IT and OT disciplines, our work established governance and response practices tailored to transit infrastructure, protecting essential services, supporting compliance, and enabling TriMet to adopt new technologies securely while serving hundreds of thousands of riders daily.

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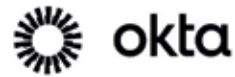
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