

NASHVILLE  
BUSINESS JOURNAL

2025

# TENNESSEE ORBIE AWARDS

The annual Tennessee 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 Large Enterprise & CISO Large Corporate categories will be announced May 2 at Omni Nashville.



#### FROM THE CHAIR

Great Leaders Understand  
How Connections Drive  
Transformation



#### LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT

J. Tod Fetherling on why it's  
critical to focus on strategy,  
innovation, and security

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TENNESSEECIO

# CONGRATULATIONS **2025 TENNESSEE ORBIE NOMINEES**

**MIKE ANDERSON**  
International Paper

**PAM AUSTIN**  
Ballad Health

**ANGEL AYALA**  
Deloitte Government  
& Public Services

**KIMBERLY BAILEY**  
LeMoyneOwen College

**TOM BARNETT**  
Baptist Memorial Health Care

**IDO BIGER**  
Delek US Holding

**KEVIN BLANCHARD**  
Genesco, Inc.

**MICHELLE BORNINKHOF**  
AutoZone

**BRANDON BOWERS**  
Tennessee Supreme Court and  
Administrative Office of the Courts

**ROGER BROTZ**  
Acadia Healthcare

**MARK BRUNS**  
First Bank

**ANTHONY BURWELL**  
State of Tennessee - Human Services

**GENE CHASTAIN**  
Life Care Centers of America

**YVETTE CLARK**  
Middle Tennessee State University

**LARRY COMBS**  
Brown-Forman

**ANDY CORTS**  
OneOncology

**STEVE CROCKER**  
Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare

**LANA DAVENPORT**  
Sylvamo Corporation

**EDUARD DE VRIES SANDS**  
EVERSANA

**STEPHANIE DEDMON**  
State of Tennessee

**BRIAN ELROD**  
St. Jude Children's Research  
Hospital, Inc.

**WILLIAM FIGUEROA**  
Integrated Oncology Network

**STEPH FLOOD**  
Clayton Homes

**ELLIOTT FRANKIN**  
Fortitude-RE

**ANIKA GARDENHIRE**  
Ardent Health

**VIBHA GORE**  
Southern Land Company

**TINA HASKINS-SMITH**  
Methodist LeBonhuer

**TEDDY HAZELWOOD**  
Smyrna Ready Mix Concrete, LLC

**ANDY HEINS**  
Lifepoint Health

**BEN HICKS**  
National HealthCare Corporation

**DARRELL JENKINS**  
Clayton Homes

**KEN JESSEN**  
Dialysis Clinic

**JOEY JOHNSON**  
Premise Health

**TARA JONES**  
Brookdale

**RAO KASIBHOTLA**  
Ryman Hospitality Properties, Inc.

**ADAM KEOWN**  
Eastman Chemical

**GAURAV KHANNA**  
Humana

**WILLIAM KIM**  
Regional One Health

**CRAIG KLOPATEK**  
Humana

**SRIRAM KRISHNASAMY**  
FedEx

**NAGI KUDITHINI**  
Nissan

**JASON LANDRUM**  
Sedgwick

**BRIAN LOFLIN**  
Monogram Health

**JARED MABRY**  
D4C Dental Brands

**venu MADDURI**  
Smith & Wesson

**STEVE MARSHALL**  
Ingram Content Group

**ARNIE MATSON**  
Ducks Unlimited

**HADEN MCWHORTER**  
Premise Health

**HAROLD MOORE**  
Lifeway Christian Resources

**ELIAS OXENDINE IV**  
Tractor Supply

**RAMON PADILLA**  
The University of Tennessee System

**NEAL PATEL**  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**TOM PERRINE**  
TeamHealth

**CLAYTON PHILLIPS**  
West Tennessee Healthcare

**BRETT PHILLIPS**  
Gibson Brands, Inc.

**DAVID PRATS**  
Smith & Wesson

**DAN PRESTEGAARD**  
Specialty Dental Brands

**KIMBERLY PURCELL**  
HCA TriStar Division

**THOMAS RATZ**  
Dollar General

**PARDHA REDDY**  
Asurion

**JAMES RICHARDSON**  
Davita Kidney Care

**TONY ROONEY**  
Sylvamo Corporation

**MELISSA SCHEPPELE**  
A.O. Smith

**AL SMITH**  
LifePoint Health

**ADAM SMITH**  
FedEx

**BONNIE SMITH**  
TD Synnex

**BRANDON STROUD**  
Regal Cineworld

**LEONARD TAN**  
Shelby County Government

**STEVAN TOWNSEND**  
Newport Healthcare

**JOAN VANNESS**  
Monogram Foods

**LASHELL VAUGHN**  
MLGW (Memphis Light, Gas, & Water)

**GRANT VEAZEY**  
Ensemble Health Partners

**KAREN WALKER**  
CBL Properties

**MIKE WARD**  
Covenant Health

**CHAD WASSERMAN**  
HCA Healthcare

**JENNIFER WEAVER**  
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee

**CARMAN WENKOFF**  
Dollar General

**COLLEEN WOLF**  
Highline Warren

**KEVIN WORLEY**  
American Residential Services



## FROM THE CHAIR

# Great Leaders Understand How Connections Drive Transformation

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

TennesseeCIO brings together preeminent Chief Information Officers from Tennessee'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 CIO and CISOs 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 technology executives in Tennessee. On behalf of TennesseeCIO, 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 Tennessee 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

**Al Smith**

2025 Chair, TennesseeCIO

SVP & CIO, LifePoint Health



## Making today's investments in tomorrow's leaders

### World class, case-study based leadership training.

Cohort-based, 6-month leadership experience allowing your team to go further faster.



Scan to Learn More

[INSPIRELEADERSHIPNETWORK.COM/ACADEMY](https://INSPIRELEADERSHIPNETWORK.COM/ACADEMY)

**INSPIRE LEADERSHIP**  
**ACADEMY**



2025 LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

# J. Tod Fetherling

Author & Speaker

## Tech visionary shares lessons on leadership, innovation, and strategy

*By The Business Journals Content Studio*

J. Tod Fetherling has packed a lot of “firsts” into his more than 30-year career in health care, technology and analytics.

In the 1990s, he built one of the first public health portals as director of interactive marketing at HCA Healthcare. As president of America’s Health Network in 1998, Fetherling and his team made internet history with the first live stream of a birth. Later, he served as CEO of Galaxy.com, which offered the first searchable internet directory.

More recently, Fetherling served as president and CEO of the Greater Nashville Technology Council. From 2008 to 2011, he led the organization through significant growth and rebranding. After leaving the technology council, he founded two companies: the health care data analytics company Stratasan and the predictive analytics company Perception Health.

In recognition of this work, which includes several additional roles and accomplishments, TennesseeCIO presented Fetherling with its Leadership Award at the 2025 Tennessee ORBIE Awards. The ORBIE Awards, held at the Omni Nashville Hotel on May 2, honors CIOs and CISOs who drive innovation and transformation at leading organizations.

Fetherling also served as the event’s keynote speaker, sharing his perspective on the increasingly important role of CIOs and CISOs in today’s companies.

“There’s a sense today that we have to use technology more strategically instead of operationally,” he said in an interview ahead of the event.

### How CISOs bring value

Organizations that embrace this strategic approach

have tremendous opportunities. Fetherling pointed to Perception Health, which manages approximately 40 billion medical claims. By using that data as part of a large language model, individuals could query virtually unlimited information about their health status.

“You might have a diagnosis of diabetes on a Tuesday, and you could ask, ‘What is the care pathway for the 200,000 other people that got a diabetic diagnosis on Tuesday?’” he said. “That’s going to be an eye-opening experience for a lot of executives when they can basically ask any question that they want and get back a pretty thoughtful answer from the technology.”

One of the most important roles of a CISO is to support innovation while ensuring the organization’s data and technology are secure, Fetherling said. This means taking a methodical approach to information security and having a robust disaster recovery plan while also embracing AI, machine learning and other new technologies to create opportunities for new products, services and efficiencies.

“The CISO has to become a friend of the organization,” he said. “When they become adversarial with the business, both sides shut down.”

Fetherling said the most effective CISOs function as independent consultants within the C-suite. They report directly to the CEO or COO, stay highly knowledgeable about developments in the field, and provide consultative advice and perspective.

On the security side, CISOs are equipped with larger budgets today to guard against ransomware attacks and other threats, Fetherling said. The goal, particularly in the health care industry, is to replicate an organization’s systems within 24 hours of an issue.

“If you don’t have your data backed up, stored and

ready to go live on a completely different set of computers in 24 hours, you’re not in a good position,” he said. “Continuity planning and disaster recovery become even more critical in this AI-driven world.”

### Advice for emerging leaders

One of the most important things for people interested in pursuing leadership positions in information, technology and analytics, Fetherling said, is to adopt a plan for continued education. He’s seen that personally in his work in the health care industry.

“If you don’t have a learning regimen in place already, you’re behind in technology,” he said. “In health care, you have to be lifelong learners because there’s so much that changes on a day-to-day basis. If you’re not finding some way to keep up with all that, it just is overwhelming.”

It is a lesson Fetherling said he wishes he’d learned earlier in his career.

“I didn’t have a lot of good work-life balance early on in my career,” he said. “I woke up every day and just said, ‘OK, I’m ready for the day. Let’s respond.’”

After using that process through a few startups, Fetherling started looking for a better system. These days, he is committed to what he calls a “power hour,” where he sets aside time each morning to read Scripture, exercise, and spend 30 minutes reading up on new technology and other industry developments through several curated email news platforms.

“You get to see how the innovation is working with entrepreneurs and what areas they’re attacking,” he said. “I find that pretty rewarding.”

The need to stay ahead won’t change any time soon, Fetherling said. “I think the next two to three years are going to be fast and furious.”



**Gift your business  
the power of digital  
tranformation.**

Digital Solutions | Data-driven Insights | Automated Business & IT Workflows

USA | UK | India | Australia | Singapore | Colombia | UAE | Ukraine

[WWW.KANINI.COM](http://WWW.KANINI.COM)

Google Cloud  
Discover what's new at  
[g.co/cloud](http://g.co/cloud)

**The  
new  
way  
to  
cloud.**



# GLOBAL FINALISTS

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



2025  
ORBIE  
AWARDS



## Kevin Blanchard

Global CIO,  
Genesco, Inc.



With 25 years of experience in learning and leading across the technology landscape, I have built and transformed high-performing IT organizations that drive innovation, efficiency, and business growth. My 'leading from the front' philosophy blends deep technical expertise with strategic business acumen, while fostering a culture of people development. Passionate about modernization, operational excellence, and digital transformation, I thrive on turning challenges into opportunities and positioning technology as a key driver of success.

### SUCCESS STORY

During my tenure at Genesco, we have transformed IT's role by fostering a culture of collaboration, accountability, and transparency. Embracing a "leading from the front" philosophy, I have empowered IT leaders to drive innovation and business success. A key focus has been improving initiative scoping, execution, and impact measurement, enabling the successful completion of complex projects. We also fully integrated US and UK IT operations, realizing synergies and expanding opportunities. These efforts have strengthened strategic alignment and positioned IT as a key driver of growth, innovation, and operational excellence—delivering measurable impact across the organization.



## Eduard de Vries Sands

CIO,  
EVERSANA



As an outcome-focused technology leader, I've built a successful career by creating value through product leadership and customer focus. I lead a global team to deliver differentiated outcomes for patients, physicians, clients and employees, and am responsible for overseeing all technology for EVERSANA. I've held leadership positions at Axia Woman's Health, SSM Health, McKinsey & Company, Omnicare and IDEXX Laboratories. I hold a master's degree in applied Analytics as well as an MBA.

### SUCCESS STORY

One of my proudest success stories in my time at EVERSANA is seeing the Information Technology Group embrace the power they have to truly impact the lives of patients through their skillsets. We've been able to do this by keeping the patients we serve at the center of all we do, and you can see the results in the faces of our employees. We are one team located across four continents, serving patients in communities around the world. I am privileged to work directly with our external clients and see the difference our teams make for patients every week.



## Jason Landrum

Global CIO,  
Sedgwick



Jason Landrum is the Global Chief Information Officer at Sedgwick, leading technology strategy, cybersecurity, and infrastructure for its proprietary claims management solutions. With 27+ years of experience, he drives innovation, including Generative AI adoption with Sedgwick's SideKick application. Jason has earned multiple CIO 100 Awards and Business Insurance innovation honors. He holds degrees from University of Wisconsin & the University of Memphis and serves on the Board of Governors for New Memphis, fostering local leadership development.

### SUCCESS STORY

Sedgwick IT has achieved many wins during my tenure as CIO. One key to our success has been our structure. We aligned IT with our operations unit, a model referred to as "fusion teams." This has enabled us to better understand our operations and deliver more value. Another is our proprietary platforms, which has enabled us to introduce new industry innovations. Our development teams work hard because they know they're creating the resources to help people during difficult times. We're also hyper-focused on the user experience in designing systems to be more efficient for everyone in this complex industry.



## Brandon Stroud

CIO,  
Regal Cineworld



I found a love of movies after landing a job at a local Regal Cinema at the age of 16. Two years later I joined the Regal corporate IT department as a summer intern and 20 years later became CIO in 2021. I held different technology roles with Regal before becoming CIO, including desktop support, project management, service delivery, infrastructure, and IT operations. I still love movies, and using technology to better engage our guests.

### SUCCESS STORY

My greatest success was integrating a technology organization that was working in silos across different geographical territories, and transforming into a global structure with new processes that enabled the business to engage IT more effectively. This also enabled the technology team members to be more efficient, made the business more secure, and resulted in cost savings to the business. The credit for these efforts goes to my most important and valued resources - the Regal technology team!

# CONGRATULATIONS TO MTSU'S YVETTE CLARK

Congratulations on being named a 2025 finalist! No IT job is easy, but delivering reliable and secure IT services to the students, faculty, and staff at a large university is particularly challenging. We are proud of your IT leadership at Middle Tennessee State University and thrilled that you are being recognized by your peers.

**MTSU**

I AM *true***BLUE**

0425-1459 / MTSU prohibits discrimination based on sex, race, color, national origin, or other protected categories. Report concerns to the Title VI/IX Coordinator. See the full policy at [mtsu.edu/iec](https://mtsu.edu/iec).



# LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$9 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025  
ORBIE  
AWARDS



## Angel Ayala

CIO,  
Deloitte Government  
& Public Services

**Deloitte.**

Passionate trailblazer in digital transformation, with 15+ years of igniting change through innovation. Expert in crafting groundbreaking digital solutions with an unwavering focus on user experience, pushing the boundaries of what's possible.

### SUCCESS STORY

Our greatest achievement has been cultivating a culture where people thrive through innovation and empowerment. Our team members, emboldened to challenge conventions, have become the true architects of our transformation. Their collaborative spirit and creative confidence have produced solutions that stand at the forefront of AI, Design, and Human Experience. Government Solutions and Innovation wasn't just a name change—it was a declaration of our people-first philosophy. By investing in each individual's growth and encouraging bold thinking, we've created a community where innovation isn't just encouraged—it's expected. This human-centered approach remains the heartbeat of our continued success.



## Ido Biger

CIO,  
Delek US Holdings

**DelekUS**

Ido Biger is a seasoned technology executive with a diversified background spanning multiple industries, including: energy and downstream operations, aviation and transportation, telecommunication, high tech, finance and corporate venture capital. With expertise in digital transformation, technology enablement, and innovation, Ido brings a unique perspective and ability to drive growth and strategic initiatives across various sectors. His main philosophy of leadership comes from being boots on ground and eyes in the skies.

### SUCCESS STORY

The "Eye in the Sky" program is DKT's standout success story for 2024. This initiative delivered significant business value and represented a profound mindset shift. As the first in the industry to implement this program, we overcame initial fears and concerns through a deliberate and incremental approach. By embracing a "why not?" mentality, we challenged assumptions and achieved something truly innovative. This success showcases the power of questioning our own limitations and pushing beyond perceived boundaries.



## Gaurav Khanna

VP & CIO,  
CenterWell Pharmacy,  
Humana

**Humana**

Gaurav Khanna is Vice President, CIO for CenterWell Pharmacy, at Humana. Gaurav joined Humana in January 2023 and leads the strategic vision and execution of technology initiatives that drive business growth and operational excellence. He is responsible for developing and executing a comprehensive technology roadmap aligned with business priorities, optimizing IT investments, and fostering innovation to enhance pharmacy operations, sales, and customer experience while ensuring technology solutions deliver pharmacy services to those we serve.

### SUCCESS STORY

As Vice President and CIO of CenterWell Pharmacy at Humana, I have led a comprehensive digital transformation of our technology and operations, positioning us as a digital-first organization. This has driven significant increases in digital adoption, customer engagement, and revenue growth, along with a rise in digital customer acquisition and customer satisfaction. I also initiated a core systems transformation to modernize legacy platforms, while reducing total cost of ownership and increasing scalability to new revenue streams. We are also developing a modern pharmacy benefits management platform, enhancing provider and patient care focused on medical adherence and improved health outcomes.



## Al Smith

SVP & CIO,  
Lifepoint Health

**Lifepoint Health**

As CIO for Lifepoint Health, Al leads the IS, Innovation and cyber security functions across an organization that spans from coast to coast. He is responsible for implementing technologies that support Lifepoint's mission and drive the company's innovation, operational, and financial excellence. He has 30+ years of industry experience, including roles in healthcare systems, health insurance, and technology consulting. He is a graduate of Michigan State University and the University of North Carolina.

### SUCCESS STORY

Blending the demands of a typical IT shop with leading the digital transformation efforts of Lifepoint, we have worked collaboratively with operational leaders to successfully incubate multiple companies and continue efforts to bring modern technologies across our acute care and post-acute care footprint. These efforts have improved patient access to care in rural America providing virtual resources for critical services for the communities that we serve as well as surgical and operational analytics and AI that have led to operational excellence and the early detection of cancer leading to better outcomes and lives saved for our patients.



## Carman Wenkoff

EVP & CIO,  
Dollar General

**DOLLAR GENERAL**

Carman Wenkoff serves as Dollar General's executive vice president and chief information officer. Carman joined Dollar General in July 2017 and has focused on transforming the Company's technology team and systems to support and enable Dollar General's tremendous growth and strategic initiatives. He created the digital team at DG and is responsible for the vision, delivery and support of all technology for Dollar General's more than 20,500 stores, 32 distribution centers and enterprise technology.

### SUCCESS STORY

Our Technology team at Dollar General fully embraces our mission of Serving Others, aspiring to make a positive difference in the lives of millions of our customers and employees. We do this by challenging ourselves to be the best team in retail technology. One great recent team accomplishment is pioneering a customer-centric AI strategy to optimize inventory forecasting, personalize discounts, and enhance the in-store experience through data consolidation and triangulation. By prioritizing the needs of our customers and employees, and leveraging AI, we're improving the shopping experience and operational efficiency while fostering a culture of innovation, growth and possibility.

NUTANIX

# Your Simplest Path to Enterprise AI is Here.

Quickly integrate, deploy, and scale AI across edge, datacenter, and cloud.

Get started at [nutanix.com/enterprise-ai](https://nutanix.com/enterprise-ai)



Kevin Blanchard  
Global Chief Information Officer  
Genesco Inc.

## Congratulations, Kevin

Being recognized as a Finalist for the Tennessee ORBIE awards as a leading CIO is no surprise to us. Your leadership and innovation keep Genesco and our brands at the forefront of the ever-changing footwear industry.



# ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$3 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025  
ORBIE  
AWARDS



## Tom Barnett

Chief Digital &  
Information Officer,  
Baptist Memorial  
Health Care



Tom Barnett, MBA, is the Chief Information and Digital Officer for Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation, an integrated healthcare delivery network headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee. Tom is responsible for technology, IT security, application services, and digital solutions including digital patient engagement for the 24-hospital health system, ambulatory physicians' group, and Baptist Health Sciences University serving the states of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

### SUCCESS STORY

Over the past year the team and I have modernized our technology infrastructure and voice systems, augmented our IT security, expanded our clinical electronic medical record and began the journey to implement a new enterprise resource planning system. By partnering with caregivers we are streamlining workflows and adding automation to routine clinical tasks while leveraging artificial intelligence to assist in the early detection of lung and breast cancers. By harnessing the power of advanced analytics with the richness of our organizational data we are reaching more patients and propelling Baptist Memorial forward as the premier healthcare provider in the Mid-South.



## Anthony Burwell

CIO,  
State of Tennessee -  
Human Services



Anthony Burwell is the Chief Information Officer for the Tennessee Department of Human Services, leading IT modernization and digital transformation efforts across the agency. With over 20 years of leadership experience, he has driven cloud adoption, enterprise system modernization, and self-service innovations to improve service delivery. Anthony focuses on building high-performing hybrid teams, strengthening IT/business alignment, and leveraging technology to ensure business needs and real value is delivered to the people they serve.

### SUCCESS STORY

I led our digital services modernization initiative, replacing decades-old systems with cloud-based, scalable solutions to improve service delivery and reduce technical debt. This effort streamlined services processing, and expanded self-service options. By leading a cross-functional internal and vendor partner teams - we created a resilient, adaptable IT Enterprise Architecture ecosystem. These innovations have improved efficiency, strengthened security, and enhanced the customer experience.



## Anika Gardenhire

Chief Digital &  
Transformation Officer,  
Ardent Health



As Chief Digital and Transformation Officer at Ardent, Gardenhire leads digital strategy, IT infrastructure, and data governance, ensuring integration with Ardent's strategic goals. She joined Ardent in 2023 after serving as Chief Digital Officer at Centene and holding leadership roles at Intermountain Healthcare. A clinical informatics expert and experienced caregiver, she holds a bachelor's in Nursing from the University of South Carolina and master's degrees from Duke University in clinical informatics and management.

### SUCCESS STORY

In 2023, our team swiftly mitigated a major cybersecurity attack, protecting Ardent's operations with minimal disruption to patient care. We didn't just recover—we rebuilt stronger, implementing advanced security measures. To drive strategic alignment, we launched an Enterprise Project Management Office (EPMO), enhancing governance and execution of high-value initiatives, including our cybersecurity overhaul. These efforts have accelerated Ardent's leadership in remote monitoring, virtual nursing and attending, and AI-driven OR efficiency. Our achievements not only strengthen operational security but also position Ardent for sustained innovation and growth in healthcare's evolving landscape, reflecting our resilience, purpose and commitment to excellence.



## Teddy Hazelwood

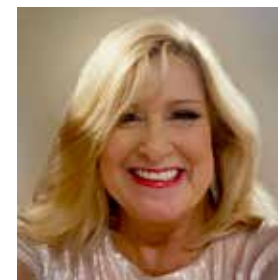
CIO,  
Smyrna Ready Mix  
Concrete, LLC



After I graduated from MTSU in 1992 with a BS in Engineering Technology, I received a promotion to IT Supervisor. Throughout the last 32 years, I have held various IT titles, including Systems Analyst, Network Analyst, Manager, and Director, and have had the opportunity to develop my IT skills globally. In 2017, I got the opportunity to work for SRM Concrete, and in 2020, I was named their CIO. IT has been fun!

### SUCCESS STORY

In high school, I was nominated as most likely to succeed; this seemed like a far-reaching goal. During my senior year, Joy and I got engaged, and I became determined to reach that goal. The next four years included college, marriage, sleepless work nights, and a baby. I graduated from MTSU in May 1992 with a BS in Engineering Technology. The company I worked for during college offered me an IT Supervisor position, which kick-started a career of over 30 years in IT management. Joy and I have been married for 36 years and have 4 children and 15 grandchildren.



## Kimberly Purcell

CIO,  
HCA TriStar Division

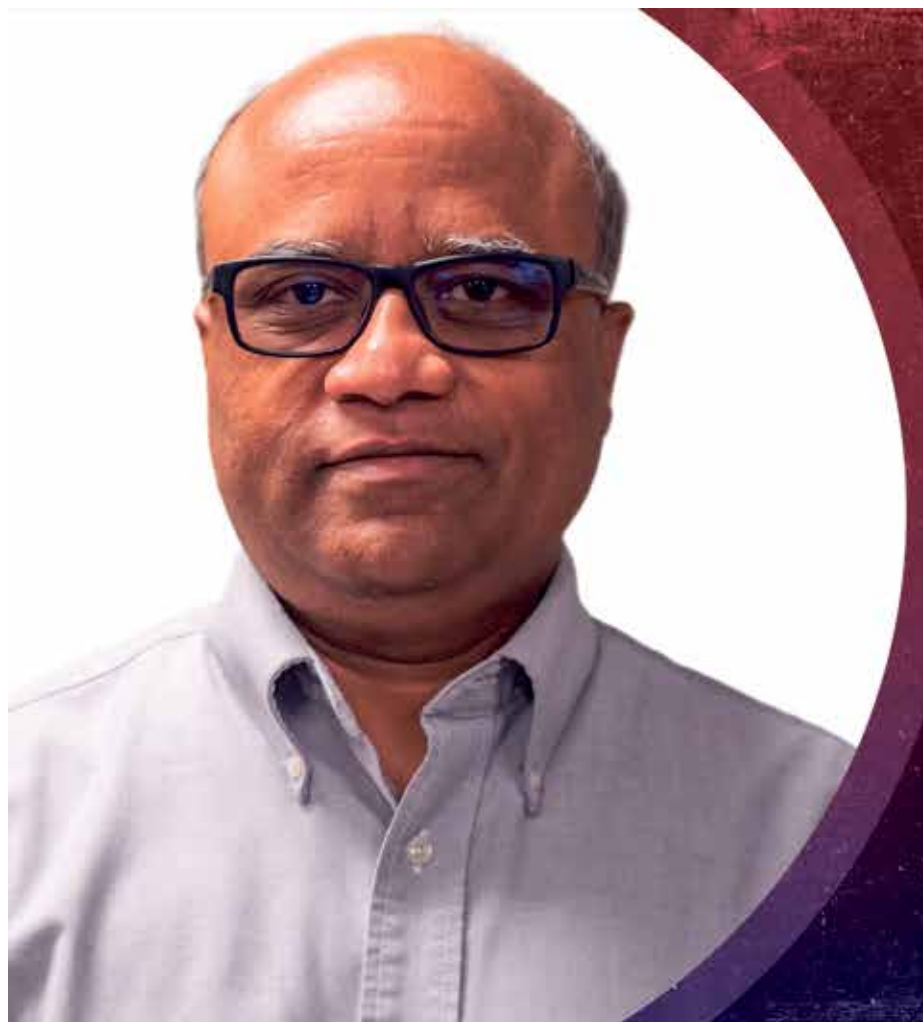


Kim's career in healthcare information technology spans over 30 years. She currently serves as CIO for HCA's TriStar Division. Her areas of responsibility include over 150 sites of care which are comprised of hospitals, ERs, Urgent care, Behavioral Health Facilities, Transfer Center, Supply Chain & Pharmacy Operations, Nurse Residency, Physician Practices, Telehealth partnerships, etc. Kim holds a Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Auburn University.

### SUCCESS STORY

Our TriStar ITG organization is a high performing, mission-motivated division known for our ability to execute and deliver solutions that improve patient care. We are able to leverage the latest technologies to solve healthcare business problems. Delivering care virtually, turning data into actionable information, using automation to create efficiencies, and creating custom clinical alerts are just a few examples of how we are committed to the care and improvement of human life. We have built a rich culture of "Caring Like Family", while maintaining excellent foundational operations such as high employee engagement, low turnover, strong financial stewardship, and organizational accountability.

Master your goals.  
Innovate.  
We'll tackle the rest.



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
SVP & CIO

**RAO  
KASIBHOTLA**

ON BEING A FINALIST FOR  
THE 2025 TENNESSEE  
ORBIE AWARDS

ON BEHALF OF YOUR COLLEAGUES AT

**RYMAN**  
RYMAN HOSPITALITY PROPERTIES, INC.

OPRY ENTERTAINMENT GROUP



# LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

OVER \$1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025  
ORBIE  
AWARDS



**Pam Austin**

**SVP & CIO,  
Ballad Health**



Pam Austin is a 29-year veteran of Ballad Health and is the health system's CIO/SVP. As CIO she has responsibility in governance, strategy, architecture, analytics, security and the optimization of Ballad's technology platforms. Austin has played an essential role in transitioning the entire health system to Epic, the industry's leading electronic medical record system. She holds a MBA and, her professional training includes certifications in project management, lean practices, and HIMSS - CPHIMS certification.

## SUCCESS STORY

In 2020, my CIO appointment came as the world was experiencing the deadliest health crisis (COVID-19) in recent history. Our organization was working its way through merger activities that brought together two health systems in our region. At the same time, we needed to replace 16,000 PCs in order to be technically ready for our Epic deployment. Additionally, Microsoft had set a decommissioning date for Windows 7, resulting in our need to migrate to Windows 10 during this same timeframe. Our IT team delivered—we hit our Epic go-live dates, added 16,000 new PCs, and migrated to Windows 10.



**Rao Kasibhotla**

**SVP & CIO,  
Ryman Hospitality Properties, Inc.**



With over 25 years of leadership experience, I am a seasoned technology leader and worked with several multinational companies of various sizes. I serve as a proficient intermediary between the business and technological realms. I am a digital transformation specialist. I use Peter Drucker's management concepts and Appreciative Inquiry as business analysis tools in my work. I hold an MBA from Duke University and an MS in Management of IT from University of Virginia.

## SUCCESS STORY

Ryman Hospitality Properties is as prestigious as they come in Nashville. With its Gaylord hotels, Grand Ole Opry, Ryman, and several other properties, it is iconic and successful. Company's Board and executives have a strategy to aggressively grow the entertainment division and needed IT strategy to be in place for it. I was hired in early 2019 for the purpose. Core tenets of the new IT strategy is establishing a structured audience engagement system, consolidate various back-office systems and a mature cybersecurity program securing digital footprint and people. Thanks to the leadership's sponsorship, my team successfully delivered on these outcomes.



**Haden McWhorter**

**CIO,  
Premise Health**



In his role as Chief Information Officer for Premise Health, Haden McWhorter leads the organization IT strategy and the technology required to support its vision, mission, and goals. Haden brings more than 30 years of experience in healthcare and technology, including data management and design, software development, and healthcare IT consulting. In 2019, he was recognized by the Greater Nashville Technology Council as their CIO of the Year.

## SUCCESS STORY

Success to me is building strong, empowered teams that drive meaningful enterprise impact. Throughout my career I've prioritized fostering a culture of collaboration, accountability and innovation. By aligning teams around a shared vision, continuous learning, and creating an environment where people feel valued, we've been able to deliver lasting enterprise value. Whether through enhancing operational efficiency or driving strategic initiatives, the real measure of success for me isn't just in the outcomes, it's in the people, the culture we've built and the long term impact we continue to make together.



**Clayton Phillips**

**VP & CIO,  
West Tennessee Healthcare**



Clayton Phillips is an accomplished healthcare CIO known for his strategic leadership and innovative approach to technology in healthcare. With a strong background in information systems management and a track record of driving innovation and operational efficiency, Clayton is dedicated to leveraging technology to improve patient care delivery and support organizational growth. He holds a master's degree in business administration and is passionate about advancing healthcare through technology solutions.

## SUCCESS STORY

Clayton Phillips serves as Vice President/Chief Information Officer at West Tennessee Healthcare, overseeing the strategic use of technology to improve patient care and operational effectiveness. With over three decades of IT experience spanning the military, government, education, and healthcare sectors, this leader has spearheaded innovative projects delivering positive business results. His leadership at West Tennessee Healthcare has propelled advancements in patient care through cutting-edge technology. Recognized for adeptly implementing successful IT strategies and driving favorable business outcomes, he is a seasoned leader committed to leveraging technology for organizational excellence.



# CONVERGE25

HOSTED BY NEWYORKCIO AND NEWYORKCISO

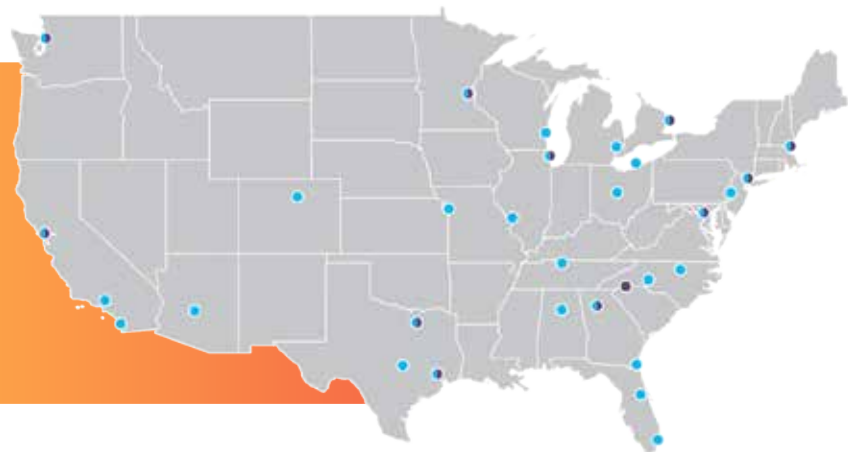
**WHERE THE WORLD'S TOP TECHNOLOGY  
EXECUTIVES COME TOGETHER.**

**AUGUST 12-14, 2025 | NEW YORK CITY**

Converge is the Inspire Leadership Network annual member conference, bringing together officers and members from every chapter for three days of leadership strategies, opportunities to build relationships and collaborate with C-level technology executives from public and private businesses, government, education, healthcare and nonprofit organizations.

## WHO'S INVITED?

Inspire members from 40+ chapters.  
All prior ORBIE Winners.



**BE INSPIRED**

[CONVERGE.INSPIRECIO.COM](https://converge.inspirecio.com)



# CORPORATE FINALISTS

UP TO \$1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025  
ORBIE  
AWARDS



## Yvette Clark

VP, IT & CIO,  
Middle Tennessee  
State University



As a Higher Education CIO, I cultivate high-performing teams and align technology strategies with institutional goals to advance student success. With a proven track record of driving operational efficiency, I lead transformative initiatives that enhance student experience and business outcomes. Skilled in navigating change, I champion innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement. My leadership ensures the university leverages technology to empower student achievement, remaining agile and positioned for success in an ever-evolving landscape.

### SUCCESS STORY

In 3 years, the team has spearheaded initiatives to meet business needs, including launching a new ITSM and bolstering cybersecurity and AI initiatives. The website and over 300 majors/concentrations pages were revamped on a cloud WordPress platform, improving SEO and dynamic display. Additionally, we upgraded our wi-fi system with over 3,900 APs and the virtual server environment. We ported 2,300+ phones from a legacy VOIP system to RingCentral in 8 months, working the technical magic to allow 4-digit dialing between legacy and new during the migration. These efforts have strengthened campus-wide relationships, benefiting student success initiatives and overall experiences.



## William Figueroa

Chief Information &  
Technology Officer,  
Integrated Oncology Network



A technology professional for more than twenty years, contributing to the collective knowledge of humanity to improve the human experience has been a life-long mission. This mission has enabled effective leadership of large technology teams for multiple industries including healthcare, logistics and financial technology. I leverage the mission to enhance human experiences within companies I serve. The resulting culture this creates enables a business's ability to scale for organic growth or sale.

### SUCCESS STORY

Contributing to a company as it enters a phase of hyper growth is a daunting challenge. One made more intimidating when culture and a technology aren't ready for the shift. The team at ION faced this challenge, they evolved culture and eliminated foundational gaps in technology to enable business scale. Innovative thinking, simply challenging status quo, reimagining existing processes, and solutions were critical to success. Technology teams executed to achieve numerous objectives. Most important of these, additional funding, in the form of ION's sale. This event enables ION to continue its mission of increasing patient access to comprehensive cancer care.



## Vibha Gore

CTO,  
Southern Land Company

### SOUTHERN LAND COMPANY

With over 30 years in technology, including the last 12 in real estate, Vibha fosters growth through relationships, optimizes operations, and provides a resilient, scalable, efficient technology foundation. As CTO of Southern Land Company, Vibha collaborates with SLC's Communities and Homes teams to align technology initiatives with organizational objectives, resulting in streamlined operations, enhanced customer experiences, and revenue growth. A visionary leader, Vibha is committed to driving change and delivering exceptional results with future-ready technologies.

### SUCCESS STORY

Our mission has been to shift the mindset from break/fix mindset to a strategic partner and catalyst for innovation. With the trust and empowerment from our CEO and CFO, Technology & Innovation team goals are aligned to our growing business. Key achievements include building resilient infrastructure, automating business processes, and focusing on modern technology and innovation - targeted to improve efficiency, productivity, and security. By fostering a culture of accountability, and transparency, we have enhanced team dynamics. This accelerated start is a huge step towards establishing a strong technology foundation, driving further innovation, and positioning as a key driver of business success.



Jared Mabry  
CIO,  
D4C Dental Brands



Jared Mabry is Chief Information Officer for Nashville-based D4C Dental Brands. Jared oversees the strategy and execution for D4C's technology, digital, and security programs. With a focus on designing, building, and implementing highly resilient cloud-based infrastructure and digital platforms with the goal of driving an unparalleled patient and caregiver experience across D4C's nationwide network of dental practices. Prior to joining D4C, Jared spent 18 years with HCA Healthcare, serving in multiple senior leadership roles.

### SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, IT has delivered a large-scale digital transformation at D4C Dental Brands, encompassing 190 locations with Azure cloud, Microsoft 365, and a new practice management platform. We established core foundational services including a secure network, unified communications, and robust cybersecurity, enhanced by onboarding a CISO and rebuilding the security program. These changes, alongside cultural and structural improvements, have created a resilient, secure, and modern IT environment. This transformation empowers D4C's rapid growth, ensures operational stability, and fosters a fulfilled and productive IT team, all while prioritizing data security and risk management.



Dan Prestegaard  
CTO,  
Specialty Dental Brands



Dan Prestegaard is CTO at Specialty Dental Brands, a leader in Oral Surgery, Pediatric Dentistry, and Orthodontics with 251 locations in 26 states. Dan is responsible for IT strategy, clinical systems, marketing systems, RCM, infrastructure, network, and business intelligence. This is Dan's third Private Equity roll-up with two successful exits and over 50 acquisitions integrated. Dan graduated with a bachelor's degree in Marketing Management, earned his MBA from Columbia University, and holds PMP certification.

### SUCCESS STORY

I seem to have found a niche as the "IT fixer" for PE portfolio companies. This is my third portfolio company of \$450M+ where I've been asked to steady the ship, get the IT function working well, and make IT a differentiator. The last two led to great outcomes (doubling revenues and ebitda, and led to successful transactions), and we're on a path to make it three-for-three. In 2024 my team at SDB reduced costs by 10%, improved customer satisfaction, improved accountability, tech reliability, and markedly improved security and compliance. We also converted 12 PMS systems onto new ones and upgraded 32 PMS systems and implemented a tech strategic roadmap. Most importantly, the IT team is filled with good people, and is performing in a coherent, team-oriented way.

# CISO LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER \$2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025  
ORBIE  
AWARDS



## Steve Crocker

VP & CISO,  
Methodist Le Bonheur  
Healthcare



Steve Crocker, VP/CISO at Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, has 30 years of experience in Information Security and IT. A recognized transformational leader, he drives the organization's cybersecurity strategy and oversees risk management, security operations, and governance. Previously, he served as CIO and ISO at Magna Bank, leading IT modernization. A frequent speaker and author, he holds a BBA from the University of Memphis and multiple certifications. Outside work, he enjoys family, golf, outdoors, and music.

### SUCCESS STORY

As MLH's first CISO, I led the development of its enterprise-wide security program, transforming cybersecurity from a reactive function to a mature, business-aligned program. Security is now a top priority, with strong executive and board engagement, proactive risk management, and governance oversight. Through automation, collaboration, and third-party validation, we ensure security enables—not hinders—innovation and patient care. Our approach has minimized disruptions, strengthened trust, and positioned cybersecurity as a key driver of operational excellence. By embedding security into business and clinical workflows, we've improved risk posture, safeguarded patient safety, and enhanced resilience against ever-evolving cyber threats.



## Lana Davenport

CISO,  
Sylvamo Corporation



Lana Davenport is the Chief Information Security Officer at Sylvamo, The World's Paper Company, overseeing the Cyber Security Program. With over 20 years of experience in IT and Cyber Security at companies like FedEx and International Paper, she has the expertise to define and execute security strategies. Lana holds a Master's in Computer Science from the University of Tennessee and a Master's in Linguistics from Moscow State Linguistics University.

### SUCCESS STORY

Since becoming a publicly traded company on October 1, 2021, Lana Davenport built the Cyber Security organization from the ground up. Starting as the sole employee in Cyber Security in September 2021, she established the entire framework, executed a complex Transition Services Agreement (TSA), and achieved significant milestones within 12 months. These included integrating a Managed Security Service Provider (MSSP), expanding the team to over 30 professionals, and building a 24/7 Security Operations Center (SOC). Major functions like Vulnerability Management, Incident Response, and Identity and Access Management were developed while ensuring the protection and resilience of the company's digital assets.



## Andy Heins

VP & CISO,  
Lifepoint Health



Andy Heins serves as Vice President and Chief Security & Privacy Officer at Lifepoint Health, overseeing Information Security, Privacy, Enterprise Customer Support, Acute Clinical Systems, and Business Systems. The organization operates 131 hospitals including Community Hospitals, Rehabilitation Hospitals, and Behavioral Health Hospitals—plus 300+ additional care sites. Previously, Heins held positions at Community Health Systems and HCA. He holds a CISSP certification, an Executive CISO Certificate from Carnegie Mellon, and a BS from Murray State University.

### SUCCESS STORY

Our cybersecurity transformation successfully merged multiple distinct organizational cultures and technology stacks into a cohesive security operation. Taking a best-of-breed approach, we evaluated existing tools across all organizations while optimizing costs through strategic contract negotiations. We rapidly deployed critical security infrastructure, including an enterprise-wide EDR solution and identity management tools. Recognizing that technology alone doesn't create security, we invested significantly in developing our team and implementing our innovative security awareness program. This dual focus on technical solutions and human factors strengthened our operational resilience during our cybersecurity transformation.



## Darrell Jenkins

CISO,  
Clayton Homes



Darrell Jenkins, Chief Information Security Officer at Clayton, has over 30 years of expertise in cybersecurity, compliance, application development, and shared services while holding CISM, PMP, CSM and ITIL certifications. Darrell leads transformative initiatives, emphasizing everyone's role in security. He is dedicated to delivering secure business solutions, mentoring Team Members, and promoting continuous learning. Darrell is an active member of the CISO Executive Network, Palo Alto's Manufacturing Industry Council and Berkshire Hathaway's Cybersecurity Council.

### SUCCESS STORY

Under my leadership, our security team transformed from being known for saying "No" to becoming trusted business partners, focused on understanding problems and offering secure solutions. Inspired by a mentor's advice to "tell your own story," we reshaped our approach. We built a robust security awareness program, fostering a culture of shared responsibility. Adopting the mantra "Security Starts with You" led to a shift in behavior. This transformation has resulted in a proactive security culture where Team Members actively contribute to our success. Today, we make a positive impact across the enterprise while having the company's best interests at heart.



## Nagi Kudithini

CISO,  
Nissan



Nagireddy Kudithini is a seasoned technology executive with extensive experience in information security and digital transformation. Currently serving as CISO at Nissan Americas, with a career spanning over two decades Nagi has held pivotal roles, including Chief Technology Officer and Head of Delivery for Digital Transformation and Customer Experience. He is known for leveraging technology to solve complex business challenges and fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation.

### SUCCESS STORY

As CISO, Greatest accomplishment has been building Information and Cyber Security teams and developing a comprehensive strategy. Under his leadership, the team modernized security capabilities, evolving processes, policies, and culture to defend against modern threats. These efforts were validated through an independent NIST assessment, demonstrating superior performance compared to industry standards. This achievement has enhanced asset protection, strengthened stakeholder trust, and ensured regulatory compliance. Nagi has been instrumental in these advancements, supporting digital transformation and fostering a strong security culture. His strategic focus and dedication make him a standout leader in cybersecurity.



## Thomas Ratz

VP & CISO,  
Dollar General



Tom joined Dollar General in 2007 as its first IT Security Manager and has held roles of increasing responsibility ever since, building and leading the company's information security program and working to manage security risk in a pragmatic, business-enabling manner. Prior to Dollar General, Tom was an information security manager at Deloitte. Tom also served in and with the U.S. Army, managing communications security, circuit activations, training, and other strategic technical control operations.

### SUCCESS STORY

My team's greatest accomplishment is our consistent drive to be valued business enablers. We work to find safe, secure paths to "yes," rather than devolving into the stereotype of a department that always says "no", an unfortunate perception of information security teams can form when they haven't achieved this accomplishment. Our success comes from remaining clearly focused on what matters, being strategically and tactically pragmatic and proficient, acting as trusted business partners, and earning very high degrees of credibility.

# CISO ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

UP TO \$2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



2025  
ORBIE  
AWARDS



## Brian Elrod

VP & CISO,  
St. Jude Children's  
Research Hospital, Inc.



Brian Elrod is Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. With over 24 years of experience in information security, IT risk management and compliance, identity and access management, disaster recovery, and awareness and outreach programs at St. Jude. Brian received B.B.A. and M.S.B.A degrees from the University of Memphis, holds current CISSP and CISM certifications, and serves on several customer and local advisory boards.

### SUCCESS STORY

My team has been able to develop and implement the policies, practices, and technologies needed to support St. Jude in serving our mission and striving to reach our strategic goals. We have worked hard to make information security an enabler to help our organization adopt new technologies to improve patient care, make research discoveries, and enhance organizational operations. We have been extremely focused on reducing the risk of ransomware to our organization by investing in our cybersecurity capabilities and improving our incident response preparedness. Finally, our Security Awareness for Employees (SAFE) program has greatly improved St. Jude's culture around cybersecurity.



## Elliott Franklin

CISO,  
Fortitude-RE



Elliott Franklin is the Senior Vice President & Chief Information Security Officer at Fortitude Re, where he leads the company's cybersecurity strategy, governance, and risk management. With extensive experience in building and maturing global security programs, Elliott specializes in aligning security with business objectives, enhancing regulatory compliance, and driving innovation. Passionate about mentorship and industry collaboration, he actively contributes to initiatives that strengthen cybersecurity resilience and develop future security leaders.

### SUCCESS STORY

When I joined Fortitude Re, the cybersecurity program had a strong foundation but needed greater alignment with business objectives. Through a NIST CSF self-assessment, my team and I developed an 18-month roadmap, delivering quick wins that built executive trust. Within a year, we doubled our team's size, secured leadership buy-in, and transitioned to NIST CSF 2.0. By consolidating vendors, enhancing 24x7 monitoring, and modernizing IAM, we improved security, reduced costs, and streamlined compliance. These achievements, recognized by regulators and stakeholders, were only possible because of the dedication and expertise of my incredible team.



## Ben Hicks

CISO,  
National HealthCare  
Corporation



With over 27 years of experience in technology, Ben has served 17 years of his career at National HealthCare Corporation. He leads a team that is focused on integrating security and infrastructure into business operations by enabling the business to be the senior care leader in customer, partner, and investor satisfaction.

### SUCCESS STORY

National HealthCare Corporation is recognized nationwide as an innovator in the delivery of quality senior care. This focus on care is the foundation that permeates all operations and our corporate culture. During my 17-year tenure with NHC, I have been privileged and humbled to contribute my technical proficiency to the Information Technology team. We have initiated a robust security program that continues to mature, safeguarding our patients and partners with a focus on continuous improvement and adaptability.



## Joey Johnson

CISO,  
Premise Health



Johnson serves as the 15yr CISO for Premise Health. Outside of this he serves as a CISO advisor for multiple cyber technology investment entities. He served externally as an early stage founding advisor for the Health-ISAC, founding champion of the Nashville CISOExecNet chapter, and editorial board for the Journal of Law and Cyberwarfare. He continues to contribute his time to focus on coaching emerging cyber leaders, and advising early stage cyber companies.

### SUCCESS STORY

I studied anthropology and archeology. Far cry from cyber! I also spent college working in restaurants, where I learned soft skills I still leverage today to disarm situations, read the emotion of the room, etc. I picked up a cyber career when a friend taught me about the Black Hat arts, and I was intrigued at the challenge. I finished school and focused on IT Security. I worked at Premise Health, where I moved into C-Suite, and led with a group of executives that have mostly been 50/50 male to female ratio. Those things helped me learn to lead valuing diversity of perspectives, capability, and respect for others.



## David Prats

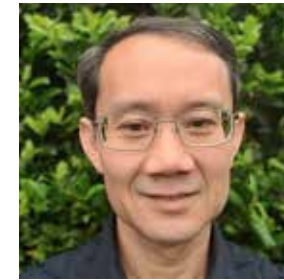
Director, Cybersecurity  
& IT Infrastructure,  
Smith and Wesson



David Prats is a cybersecurity leader known for his proficiency in enterprise security and threat management utilizing his 30 years of experience in informational technology across retail, manufacturing, oil and gas, and telecommunications. As the head of cybersecurity at Smith & Wesson, David has been instrumental in protecting the company's intellectual property and reputation amidst the constantly changing landscape of cyber threats.

### SUCCESS STORY

Smith & Wesson faces constant cyber threats from various adversaries targeting our intellectual property and reputation. During a peak in ransomware attacks and our headquarters' relocation, my Cybersecurity team set a new standard in enterprise security. We swiftly upgraded our security posture by deploying a cutting-edge SIEM system for centralized threat detection, introducing MDR for 24/7 monitoring, replacing outdated EDR tools with next-gen solutions, and enhancing infrastructure with advanced firewalls. Despite the challenges and increased attacks, my team reduced vulnerabilities and responded quickly to incidents, protecting our intellectual property and ensuring business continuity.



## Leonard Tan

CISO,  
Shelby County  
Government



Leonard is a seasoned cybersecurity leader with a rich background in network administration and engineering. Starting at the Sheriff's Office, he honed his technical skills before advancing as a Lead Network Engineer and later transitioning to a Lead Security Analyst role in 2022. Known for his collaborative, empowering leadership, Leonard fosters diverse talent and innovative solutions. In his free time, he enjoys tinkering with open-source software, and spending quality time with his family.

### SUCCESS STORY

Leonard, a cybersecurity leader, advanced the organization's security posture while promoting inter-agency collaboration. He spearheaded the adoption of a nationally recognized cybersecurity framework that aligned practices with industry standards and improved risk management. He also built an inter-governmental cybersecurity community to share resources during crises, addressed security gaps with layered defenses and systematic threat frameworks, and deployed a grant-funded network monitoring system to expand threat analysis capabilities. His initiatives empowered internal analysts to perform proactive threat hunting, reducing reliance on external services and strengthening overall resilience.



trinetix

# EMPOWERING VISIONARY LEADERS IN **NASHVILLE**

to drive global impact



# Enterprise Cybersecurity

Done **DIFFERENT.**

As a leading professional services firm, MorganFranklin Consulting specializes in comprehensive solutions for cybersecurity and adjacent services.

Our dedicated approach enables us to protect clients' critical assets and enhance their resilience in an ever-evolving threat landscape.

- Cyber Fusion Center (CFC)
- Identity and Access Management (IAM)
- Cyber Strategy and GRC
- Architecture, Engineering, and Infrastructure/OT (AEGIS)
- Cyber and Operational Resilience (CORe)

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

# TENNESSEECIO WHO'S WHO

## ADVISORY BOARD OFFICERS



CHAIR

**Alan Smith**  
*LifePoint Health*



VICE CHAIR

**Taren Rodabaugh**  
*Bridgestone Americas*



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR -  
KNOXVILLE

**Steph Flood**  
*Clayton Homes*



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR -  
NASHVILLE

**William Orange**  
*Nissan Americas*



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR - MEMPHIS

**Keith Perry**  
*St. Jude Children's  
Research Hospital*



PROGRAMS CHAIR

**Lance Rea**  
*Baker Donelson*



PROGRAMS CO-CHAIR

**Dena Campbell**  
*VACO*



AWARDS CHAIR

**Laura Groschen**  
*Acadia Healthcare*



AWARDS CO-CHAIR

**Joel Tracy**  
*IMC Companies*



FOUNDING CHAIR

**Andy Flatt**  
*National Healthcare  
Corporation*



CHAIR EMERITUS

**Carman Wenkoff**  
*Dollar General*

## ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



**Rick Brown**  
*Varsity Spirit*



**Bruce Hoffmeister**  
*Cracker Barrel Old  
Country Store*



**Will Ingram**  
*Belmont University*

## TENNESSEECIO MEMBERS

KEITH AULSON

Malibu Boats

PAM AUSTIN

Ballad Health

TOM BARNETT

Baptist Memorial Health

Care

IDO BIGER

Delek US Holdings, Inc.

JOSH BIRDWELL

Pilot Flying J

RANDY BLUE

Clover Health

MICHAEL BOYD

Southwest Tennessee

Community College

SHANE CALLAHAN

Vanderbilt University

YVETTE CLARK

Middle Tennessee State

University

CHARLES COOPER

Meharry Medical College

ANIKA GARDENHIRE

Ardent Health Services

KC HAMPTON

Nashville International

Airport - Metropolitan

Nashville Airport

Authority

TEDDY HAZELWOOD

Smyrna Ready Mix

BRETT HINSON

Lipscomb University

STEVE HITCHINGS

Kenco Logistics

DAVID JACQUES

ALSAC

CHRIS JAFFE

Agmark Logistics

GAURAV KHANNA

Humana

JASON LANDRUM

Sedgwick

HUNG DAN LY

AllianceBernstein

JARED MABRY

D4C Dental Brands

venu MADDURI

Smith & Wesson

HADEN MCWHORTER

Premise Health

ROBERT MCWILLIAMS

AllianceBernstein

JASON MEAUX

ECG Management

Consultants

ROBERT MILLS

Tractor Supply Company

PAL NARAYANAN

GEODIS

PAUL NOVAK

CenterWell Home Health

ED O'KELLEY

Goodwill Industries of  
Middle Tennessee, Inc.

CLAYTON PHILLIPS

West Tennessee

Healthcare

PARDHA REDDY

Asurion

RIK REITMAIER

Ascend Federal Credit

Union

JAY RICHARDSON

DaVita, Inc.

MOHAN SANKARARAMAN

First Horizon

MELISSA SCHEPPELE

AO Smith

ANTHONY STEFANI

Chancelight

RUSTY STRANGE

Regent Surgical Health

BRANDON STROUD

Regal Entertainment

Group

BRYCE SYKES

Cellular Sales

EDUARD DE VRIES SANDS

EVERSANA

JOY WALD

Servpro Industries

CHAD WASSERMAN

HCA Healthcare

TAMMY WILSON

Tennessee Valley

Authority

KIM WISMER

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw

Pittman LLC

KEVIN WORLEY

American Residential

Services

VUGAR ZEYNALOV

Community Health  
System



## Is **Your Data Speaking** the Right Language?

Contextual, on-demand insights in a language that your team understands

Transition to an AI-driven enterprise with personalized insights and real-time guidance that shape smarter decisions and streamline your business processes.



**FORTINET**

[www.fortinet.com](http://www.fortinet.com)

## Fortify Your Network Through the Convergence of Networking and Security

TENNESSEE CIO OF THE YEAR  
**ORBIE**  
AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2025  
Tennessee CIO of the Year  
Award Winners and Nominees

TENNESSEE  
**ORBIE**  
AWARDS

THANK YOU TO THE  
**2025 TENNESSEE ORBIE  
AWARD SPONSORS**

PRESENTED BY



SPONSORED BY

