MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL BUSINESS JOURNAL

The annual Minnesota CIO of the Year® ORBIE® Awards program honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate, Nonprofit/Public Sector categories will be announced September 23 at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis.

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2022 LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT:
Moving from digital application to digital transformation

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2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

FROM THE CHAIR

Today's Technology Leaders Transform Business for Tomorrow

Technology is at the center of modern business transformation. MinnesotaCIO technology leaders act as change agents who accelerate businesses momentum for our state. They create the difference between surviving and thriving in today's digital economy.

MinnesotaCIO brings together leading CIOs of Minnesota's most prominent organizations to help them maximize their leadership effectiveness, create value, reduce risk, and share success. Through member-led, non-commercial programs, our CIOs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges, solving problems, and avoiding pitfalls. This year, we are proud to rebrand TwinCitiesCIO to MinnesotaCIO to reflect the state-wide technology talent which continues to grow within our membership.

MinnesotaCIO members collaborate locally and nationally with CIOs within and across industries because, successful CIOs understand the 'superpower' of trusted relationships. Within MinnesotaCIO and across all InspireCIO chapters we know the answer is in the room. There is a high likelihood that the challenge one CIO is facing has likely been solved by another CIO.

There is no textbook for how to be a great CIO. The best way to sharpen your leadership acumen is by collaborating with other leaders facing similar challenges. The industries and size may be different, but winning approaches to effective leadership are transferrable. Every leader's perspective is valuable and contributes to the conversation - and everyone wins when leaders engage, share ideas, experiences, and best practices.

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

Together, we are transforming our economy using technology and enriching our region and our world. On behalf of MinnesotaCIO, congratulations to the nominees and finalists on their accomplishments and thank you to the sponsors, underwriters, and staff who make the ORBIE Awards possible.

MINNESOTACIO

John Avenson
2022 Chair, Minnesota CIO
SVP Technology,
Minnesota Twins

Rachel Lockett
2022 Vice Chair, MinnesotaCIO
CIO,

2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

2022 KEYNOTE

Teddy Bekele

Chief Technology Officer | Land O' Lakes

Orbie Leadership Award: Moving from digital application to digital transformation

By The Business Journals Content Studio

Teddy Bekele started his technology journey by tinkering with any new device that came his way.

As a child, Bekele set up his father's first computer and secretly loaded video games onto it to play when he had a chance. In college, he set up his dorm's first network, so the computers had instant messaging capabilities.

"The area that I've always enjoyed is the application of technology," said Bekele, the Leadership Award winner in the 2022 Minnesota CIO of the Year® ORBIE® Awards program, which honors excellence in technology leadership. "It is using an emerging technology and applying it to the real world to make a real impact."

Today, Bekele is leading the digital transformation at Arden Hills-based Land O'Lakes as senior vice president and chief technology officer of the third-largest member-owned agribusiness cooperative in the U.S. He and his team are evaluating and implementing disruptive technologies across the company's three business segments: dairy foods, feed and crop inputs. Their work includes advanced analytics, artificial intelligence, robotics and blockchain.

Bekele sat down with the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal to talk about the future of technology leadership. The interview has been edited and condensed for length and clarity.

Where is Land O'Lakes today in its digital transformation process, and what are the next steps?

Bekele: I would say we've been dabbling with digital for eight years, but we've been in the transformation the last two years.

The real shift happens when the technology is at the core of the business model. As an example of what we're doing in our crop business, we're offering essentially recipes to farmers where we say to them, "If you follow this recipe, we know it will work because we've tested it in many different plots around the country and environments and soil types and everything else. Along with that recipe, you have to use this technology because it is going to help you monitor where you are and help us monitor where you are in that journey. If you follow all the steps and you use the technology platform, you will get an outcome that's higher than your previous outcome. And we guarantee that; if we don't meet that outcome, we'll actually reimburse you for it."

That's the model we're shifting to, where the technology is at the core of selling a business platform. That is when transformation starts to happen because everything else up to this point is optimization.

Where is the agriculture industry in terms of technology transformation?

Bekele: There are some areas where we are well behind other industries. For example, a lot of products that are sold in the ag market are not barcoded, so you have no idea where certain bags of seed or jugs of nutrients are. It's crazy because the whole industry doesn't barcode; it's not just one organization, and this is technology that's existed since the late '70s.

But then, on the other hand, agriculture is well ahead of some other industries. They are using remote sensing, satellites and drones to monitor what's happening in a given field and using driverless vehicles. Even in the automotive industry, there are a couple of cars that can do it, and we're trying to figure out how to make it all work. But tractors pretty much drive themselves, and they have been for a couple of years now.

That's part of our job. In the areas we are behind, how do we make sure we can somewhat catch up to where everybody else is and then how do we continue to push the envelope on things that are forward-looking? It's exciting.

What are the biggest challenges facing CTOs and CIOs today?

Bekele: It's the same challenge our business leaders have in the organization: You have to run a business where we are today, and then you have to think about tomorrow.

It's not so simple because the business you're in is profitable today. It's very successful, and now you're saying, "Hey, at some point, we're going to be obsolete, and we should be doing this thing to make sure that we stay relevant, that we stay ahead of the game."

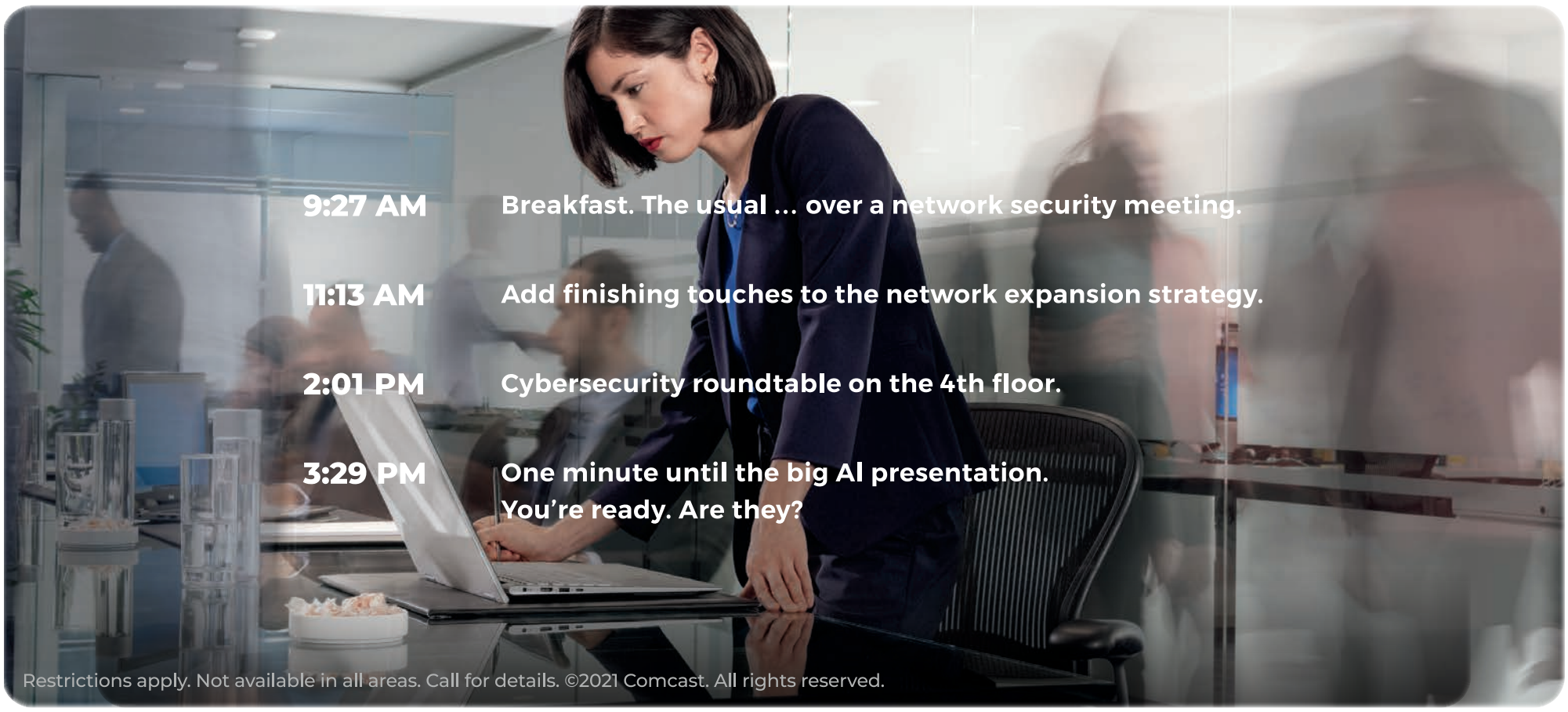
The other piece that's a huge challenge is attracting talent who wants to be there and cares about the organization. You have to give purpose to your team and make sure that they're not just there for the sake of technology and that they're applying the technology for a greater purpose.

Speaking of talent, what advice do you have for the next generation of technology leaders?

Bekele: It's the same advice that I was given: understand the foundation. Go do some software development. Go build the mobile app. Go spend some time in the guts of how all this even newer technology works. In the early part of your career, that's when you have the opportunity to try many different things.

Be curious. Learn what's out there. Understand it. Play around with it, even if it's on your own time. Have an eye on the future, but enjoy what you're doing today and be really good at that.

"The area that I've always enjoyed is the application of technology. It is using an emerging technology and applying it to the real world to make a real impact."



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2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

GLOBAL FINALISTS

OVER $2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS

David Cherryhomes

SVP Technology, Wex

David Cherryhomes is an executive technologist with a passion for developing high performing teams to tackle complex business problems. He has worked as a leader in growth-oriented companies with ambitious goals and execution challenges. David has a strong financial acumen, successfully projecting and managing the profit & loss of various budget levels (from $2M to $91M per annum), managing the infrastructure, staffing, and operating budgets to generate run rate efficiencies while deploying a global workforce.

SUCCESS STORY

David is the global executive / CTO responsible for all technology of WEX Health and Enterprise data engineering / data science across WEX. His teams are focused on Agile transformation, Cloud migration, total quality transformation, technology enrichment & modernization for commercial SaaS products, and creating 360 degree customer views for financial services consolidating data across hundreds of databases enabling rich analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence.

Tammylynne Jonas

VP & CIO, Donaldson

Tammylynne is the Global CIO for Donaldson Corporation, based in Bloomington, Minnesota. In her role, Tammylynne owns techology end to end, including infrastructure, security, application development and analytics/ data. Founded in 1915, Donaldson (NYSE: DCI) is a global leader in technology-led filtration products and solutions, serving a broad range of industries and advanced markets. Donaldson operates in over 140 locations on six continents.

SUCCESS STORY

Partnering with colleagues across APAC, EMEA and Latin America, our team collaborated and worked closely with all impacted business teams to capture each business' requirements and perform user testing. In addition, our employees view having one current ERP instance as a significant investment in their working environment, and this will contribute to increased employee engagement and retention.
I am proud of my IT team and how our global employees worked together to coordinate and deliver such a critical, foundational system for our company. It was a great deal of effort and required an immense amount of determination and commitment. I am grateful for the partnership across the organization, and I look forward to delivering more foundational capabilities and increasing efficiencies in the future!

Sarah Nieters

VP IT & CIO Americas Region, Medtronic

Sarah Nieters is the CIO for Medtronic's Americas Region. She is responsible for aligning IT strategy to Americas regional strategies and driving value through IT capabilities. Prior to this role, Sarah was the divisional CIO for Medtronic's $8B+ Restorative Therapies Group. In collaboration with Business leaders, she defined IT strategy and delivered on key strategic priorities including commercial excellence, plant-network optimization, and data-enabled therapy.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2021, I was awarded the prestigious Medtronic GIDE Award (Global Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity). This award recognized my leadership as a catalyst for ID&E across Medtronic. Accomplishments contributing to the award included delivering exceptionally high Organizational Health Survey results; founding and growing the Women in IT resource group from inception to 900+ members; and leading the Medtronic-Genesysworks High School Internship program of 300+ students in 13-year partnership. These accomplishments demonstrated the clear business case for diversity, and were particularly impactful during a time of both business and IT transformation when overall employee engagement lagged and teams experienced leadership transitions.

Jorge Populo

CIO, UnitedHealthcare Global

Jorge Populo is the chief information officer for UnitedHealthcare Global, a business segment within UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH) – No. 5 on the 2021 Fortune 500 list. UnitedHealthcare Global provides clinically integrated benefits, services and medical delivery to more than 7 million people in more than 130 countries.
In his role, Jorge leads the delivery of strategic and innovative technology solutions to support the global business. He is responsible for providing overall leadership, establishing and maintaining technical roadmaps, and representing all technology disciplines for the business.

SUCCESS STORY

UnitedHealthcare Global is a business segment within UnitedHealth Group that provides clinically integrated benefits, services and medical delivery to more than 7 million people in more than 130 countries.
As the UHC Global CIO, I am honored to be supported by a group of talented and driven IT professionals. My greatest accomplishment is to be able to promote a highly business oriented culture among IT and through that culture, we are able to continue delivering multiple digital and analytics initiatives and enable our company to provide high quality affordable care and easy experience to our customers.

2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER $10 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

Jim Graham

SVP, Chief Information & Technology Officer, Prime Therapeutics

Jim Graham is responsible for strategic thought leadership in delivering large-scale innovative technology solutions that enable business growth and deliver differentiating value. Core responsibilities include partnering with enterprise leaders to develop long-range strategic plans; collaborating with leaders to make the best decisions possible in all aspects of Prime's technology ecosystem; and providing end-to-end and cutting edge solutions.

SUCCESS STORY

Prime Therapeutics is enabled by technology! Until recently, that technology was aging. He helped to provide the technical vision and strategy to transform Prime's largest/core platform and operating model. Prime will now improve its overall competitive industry-position by enhancing new products/capabilities - enabling members and clients to make better healthcare choices and vastly improve operating efficiencies/data quality. With our vision, partnerships, and team executing on all cylinders, technology is now enabling an overall company transformation. This innovative transformation modernizes all core business processes, relies on deep business and technology partnerships, and moves from 1970's architecture to modern, contemporary, cloud-enabled technology.

Brian Tilzer

Chief Digital, Analytics & Technology Officer, Best Buy

Brian Tilzer is the chief digital and technology officer for Best Buy Co. Inc. In this role, he is responsible for all aspects of information technology and digital at Best Buy to create a seamless and superior multichannel customer experience in support of the company's Best Buy 2020 growth strategy. He also leads Best Buy's enterprise data and analytics capability. Prior to joining Best Buy in 2018, he served as chief digital officer at CVS Health, the largest pharmacy health care provider in the U.S.

SUCCESS STORY

Best Buy's purpose to enrich lives through technology has never been more important. We disrupted ourselves to serve customers better in their time of greatest need by harnessing technology pervasively and innovatively. The results exceeded our expectations as we fundamentally transformed how Best Buy serves customers over the last two years, including introducing and scaling new virtual methods for advising and supporting customers resulting in over 45 million interactions. These results would not have been possible without a culture that enables great technologists to do great work.

Mark Vaupel

VP of IT Services, Hormel Foods Corporation

As vice president of information technology services, Mark D. Vaupel is responsible for leading and managing the Hormel Foods' IT resources and processes. This includes setting direction for technology & infrastructure, application development and deployment, IT operations support, business process and analysis, risk management, and IT project management. Mark began his career in 1996 as a computer analyst at the corporate office. In 2000, he became a senior computer analyst and in 2002 became the manager of information technology planning and strategy.

SUCCESS STORY

I am leading a multi-year, strategic initiative for Hormel Foods, including transforming our organization through best-in-class processes, innovation, and technology. One facet of this is standardizing, modernizing, and optimizing business processes and the supporting applications and underlying IT infrastructure. This has been especially valuable for our company's growth through acquisition strategy by being able to integrate our acquired companies more quickly and effectively. More than $4B in net sales have been added through acquisitions using this approach. In fact, we completed the integration of our recent $3.35 billion acquisition of the Planters® snacking business in less than eight months.

Dilip Venkatachari

EVP, Global Chief Information & Technology Officer, U.S. Bank

Dilip Venkatachari joined U.S. Bank in 2018. Dilip is responsible for global technology infrastructure, capabilities and services, and for ensuring digital & technology transformation. He also serves on the Board of Elavon Financial Services DAC. Dilip held senior executive roles at Google (responsible for Google's payments product Wallet/Checkout and for Mobile Ads) and PayPal/eBay (responsible for Payments Services, Risk and Compliance; served on the Board of PayPal Europe) and worked at McKinsey.

SUCCESS STORY

My greatest impact has been leading the company's technology modernization and transformation journey. We developed a far-reaching plan that involved modernizing the architecture of our applications, migrating workloads to the cloud, and creating an invigorating engineering culture. As the most significant technology investment project at the company to date, this required us to bring on board our business partners and persuade our CEO and the Board. Our technology transformation is progressing well and delivering business value and positive financial results.

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2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER $1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

Fred Argir

CIO & CDO, Maurices

Fred Argir, CIO/CDO, brings an extensive 30+ years of experience in business and technology roles with past experience from Target, Sports Authority, Toys R Us and Barnes and Noble. He is a transformational leader with a track record of optimizing business and delivering shareholder value in the ecommerce, digital, strategy, technology, operations and supply chain space.

SUCCESS STORY

When London-based private-equity firm OpCapita bought a majority stake in maurices from Ascena in 2019, maurices was tasked with creating a stand-alone IT operation. Previously, they operated under a shared services model. Hired in September 2019, and effectively employee number one in the new IT department the goal was to build a team, identify strategic partners, establish a governance model for this transformational program and align with the business on deliverables and timing. A transition services agreement was executed, and we had three years to re-create the technology and operations for the company. We completed this program in 28 months.

Kelly Aronson

SVP & CIO, Andersen Corporation

Kelly Aronson, Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer, is responsible for enterprise information technology strategy and implementation and providing strategic partner support to each of Andersen's divisions and functions. Previously, she was vice president of information technology (IT) responsible for Andersen enterprise customer experience technology (marketing, sales, quote & order, service, and portal). She was also director of technology for Renewal by Andersen where she was responsible for all aspects of IT, including manufacturing technology and retail technology teams.

SUCCESS STORY

My greatest accomplishment has been navigating through the global pandemic. Not only did we need to show up in unprecedented ways - creating technology infrastructure that could support a remote office workforce overnight and providing new collaboration tools - but we also had to be strong and resilient to carry our team forward. I'm proud of how we navigated this: delivering for the organization, preserving and building upon our strong culture, and reimaging our future through technology. We became more nimble, flexible, and innovative, driving new and exciting initiatives for Andersen, propelling us forward as a world class experience company.

Sridhar Koneru

CIO, Winnebago Industries

Sri Koneru, Winnebago Industries Vice President, Information Technology, has served as Vice President, Information Technology at Winnebago Industries since July 20, 2020. Prior to joining Winnebago Industries, Mr. Koneru was Area Vice President, IT & Digital Strategy, at Xcel Energy where he successfully led a major ERP rollout across the entire enterprise and the deployment of digital tools to drive business transformation.

SUCCESS STORY

As I got on board, the two biggest priorities were (1) to coach, counsel my peers and the program team of an ERP implementation over the finish line that would set us on path towards manufacturing 4.0 processes. (2) help an industry that is mechanically and electrically oriented towards pivoting to a digitally oriented mindset especially in delivering differentiating end to end customer experiences and a digital product ownership framework. Both of these priorities have given me an opportunity and privilege to work across the organization to drive meaningful change and help enable a forward looking IT organization and culture.

Anthony Peleska

VP & CIO, Kraus Anderson

Tony Peleska is a recognized technology leader known for his futuristic strategic vision to achieve business goals. Tony has more than 25 years of business-oriented technology experience in the legal, banking, construction, manufacturing and financial service industries. He currently serves as the VP and CIO at Kraus Anderson where he provides a unique blend of financial acumen, global IT vision and partnerships, and cutting-edge software solutions. Tony has built a responsive IT organization that consistently delivers, making Kraus Anderson one of the digital-responsive construction organizations in the country.

SUCCESS STORY

Upon being hired at Kraus Anderson, it was evident on day one that the organization valued relationships, staff and culture. It was also evident that they wanted a change in IT. They wanted a business partner who would help them utilize technology better, help streamline processes and someone who wanted to listen and learn the business. They wanted someone to help take them to the next level of IT and I was lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time. Together, we are transforming Kraus Anderson and the industry to meet the needs of the future.

Mary Lynne

CIO, Mortenson

Mary Lynne joined Mortenson in 2017 as Chief Information Officer. She is responsible for setting the IT strategy and ensuring all the systems necessary to support its operations and objectives are in place. She continues to focus the entire ITS team around brining value to all aspects of Mortenson's business. During her tenure, she brought thought leadership and innovation through IOT and digitization. Her team of professionals are focused on hybrid cloud infrastructure, applications, security, field solutions, business relationships and new initiatives to improve.

SUCCESS STORY

While there are many accomplishments at Mortenson that I'm proud of, the most important is building a high performing team. I deliver results and create value, through, by, and with people. I am a champion for my team, continually recognizing them and committed to their development, and regularly tie their recognition to the company's culture as a method of reinforcement. I created a vision and built a team to support and cascade the vision throughout ITS. ITS moved from a perceived roadblock to a valuable business partner by providing leadership and tools to build and sustain a strong, solutions-orientated team.

2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

OVER $300 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

Ben Davis

EVP, IT, Cambria

Ben Davis joined Cambria as its EVP and Chief Digital Officer in June 2015. Since joining Cambria, Ben has overseen a transformation that has allowed Cambria to generate more and higher quality product at a lower cost. He has transformed Cambria's digital capabilities into a customer-centric and scalable operation that uses automation and data to serve the company's growth. Ben now serves as Cambria's EVP of Information Technology, focusing his expertise on Cambria's smart manufacturing, cloud computing and cybersecurity strategies.

SUCCESS STORY

We delivered a diverse stack of technologies that led to data transparency, process transformation and improved financial results in Cambria's manufacturing operations. This included supplying consumable applications and data to a manufacturing entity focused on product innovation, improved quality, reduced downtime, and increased productivity and fueled our digital transformation for manufacturing. The resulting solution has proven to be useful to everyone from the Plant Manager down to the line workers on our factory floor. This architecture resulted in Cambria making more and higher quality products at a reduction in overall investment and proved critical as Cambria persevered through the pandemic.

Gary Inman

EVP & CIO, Bell Bank

Gary Inman is currently the Executive Vice President of Information Technology for Bell Bank in Fargo, North Dakota. He served for 8 years as the President of TechND, an organization dedicated to advancing the development, use, and advancement of information technology throughout the state of North Dakota. Originally from Worthington, Minnesota, Inman holds a Computer Information Systems degree from Moorhead State University and a Masters of Management with an Information Technology emphasis from University of Mary.

SUCCESS STORY

Like many leaders and companies, Gary and Bell Bank wanted to have a clearer view of their customers across the entire organization. Gary and his team designed and built a Customer 360 system which updates information from 17 core systems to display in a common format/location. This solution provides employees the information they need to provide the best customer service possible while maintaining security, privacy, and compliance requirements. As a result, employees are able to efficiently review data and initiate processes which automate many daily functions. This provides significant value to entire organization and its customers.

Dan Latvala

VP, IT, Hawkins, Inc.

Dan Latvala joined Hawkins, Inc., in late 2015 as the Director of Information Technology, reporting to the CFO. In July of 2020, Dan was promoted to Vice President of Information Technology where he oversees all IT functions including business systems operations, network and systems infrastructure, end-user support, and application development. Dan also serves as Hawkins' Information Security Officer, responsible for overseeing the security of the Hawkins network and for educating end-users on emerging threats and social engineering tactics.

SUCCESS STORY

Our IT team is a cohesive group of talented professionals that apply technology solutions to solve business problems. Every member of our department takes great pride in moving Hawkins forward with innovative technical solutions and outstanding end-user support. I consider our greatest accomplishment as a team to be the progress we have made over the past seven years in moving from a department that spent most of the time reacting to issues to one that has become a trusted and proactive partner to our business segments.

Cheryl Nygaard

VP of IT, Minnesota Vikings Football, LLC

Cheryl Nygaard is Vice President of Information Technology for Minnesota Vikings Football, LLC. since 1999 (pre Y2K). In this time there have been many changes in technology, but the ultimate goal of working as a team to win a Super Bowl remains the same. In her position Cheryl leads a team that is focused on continued development and improvement of a robust and secure technology environment that was implemented to help each staff member reach individual and organizational goals.

SUCCESS STORY

My greatest accomplishment took place in 2020 transitioning 250+ staff to work remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to configure all staff for remote access and launched Microsoft Teams to collaborate and communicate without missing a beat. During the pandemic I also led the technology efforts for a successful virtual NFL draft. We designed a plan that was well tested and had redundancies in place in the event there were any issues. These accomplishments were significant to the success of the football team as we continue to build a roster that will help us win the SuperBowl.

Michelle Roemer

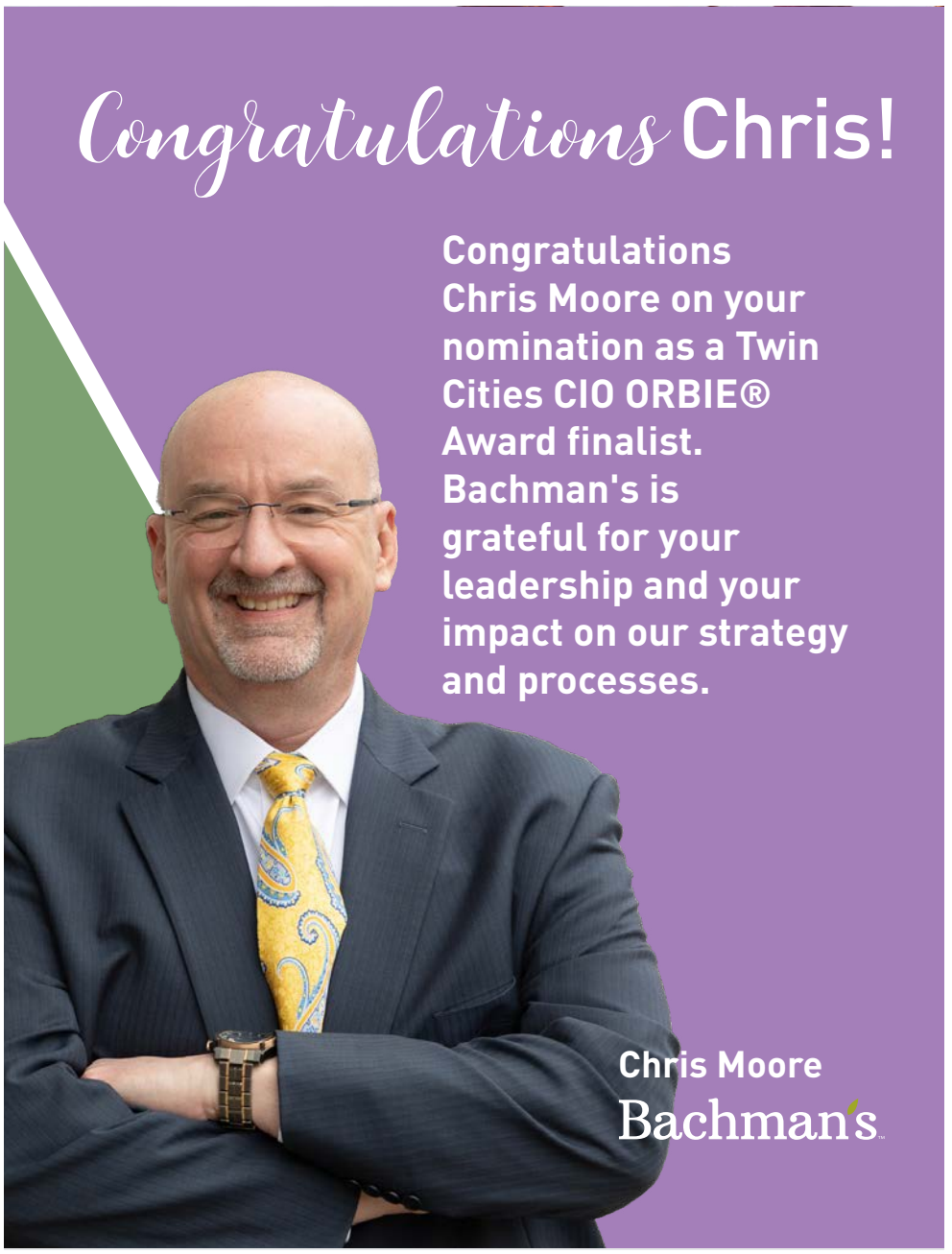
SVP, IT, Cirrus Aircraft

Michelle Roemer has over 30 years of experience in information technology, accounting and finance. Michelle has been with Cirrus Aircraft since 2016. Prior to joining Cirrus Aircraft she spent 10 years at ATK in a combination of Corporate and Business Unit IT Leadership roles. Michelle earned an Executive MBA at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management.

SUCCESS STORY

Building a team of versatile and high performing professionals that are passionate about growing our business. We have transitioned from a back-office function and are now viewed as an integral part of the business. Through our business partnerships, we have co-created Cirrus Aircraft's strategic "Cirrus 360" Vision. The "Cirrus 360" Vision includes digitally connecting our customers, aircraft, network partners and employees to deliver a personal aviation experience and set of services that eases the burden of owning and operating our aircraft. We have built Cirrus IQ, an app that continues to evolve to bring this vision to life.

TWIN CITIES CIO OF THE YEAR
ORBIE AWARDS
CONGRATULATIONS
TODD SCHNOBRICH
AND TEAM!
Todd has been named a Twin Cities CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards finalist, recognizing his and his team's leadership, innovation, and excellence in technology.
RHG RADISSON HOTEL GROUP AMERICAS


Congratulations Chris!
Congratulations Chris Moore on your nomination as a Twin Cities CIO ORBIE® Award finalist. Bachman's is grateful for your leadership and your impact on our strategy and processes.
Chris Moore
Bachman's

CONGRATULATIONS
MARY LYNNE PERUSHEK
ON YOUR NOMINATION AS 2022 CIO OF THE YEAR
Mortenson is proud to have thoughtful and innovative leaders like Mary Lynne who continuously push the boundaries of what is possible.
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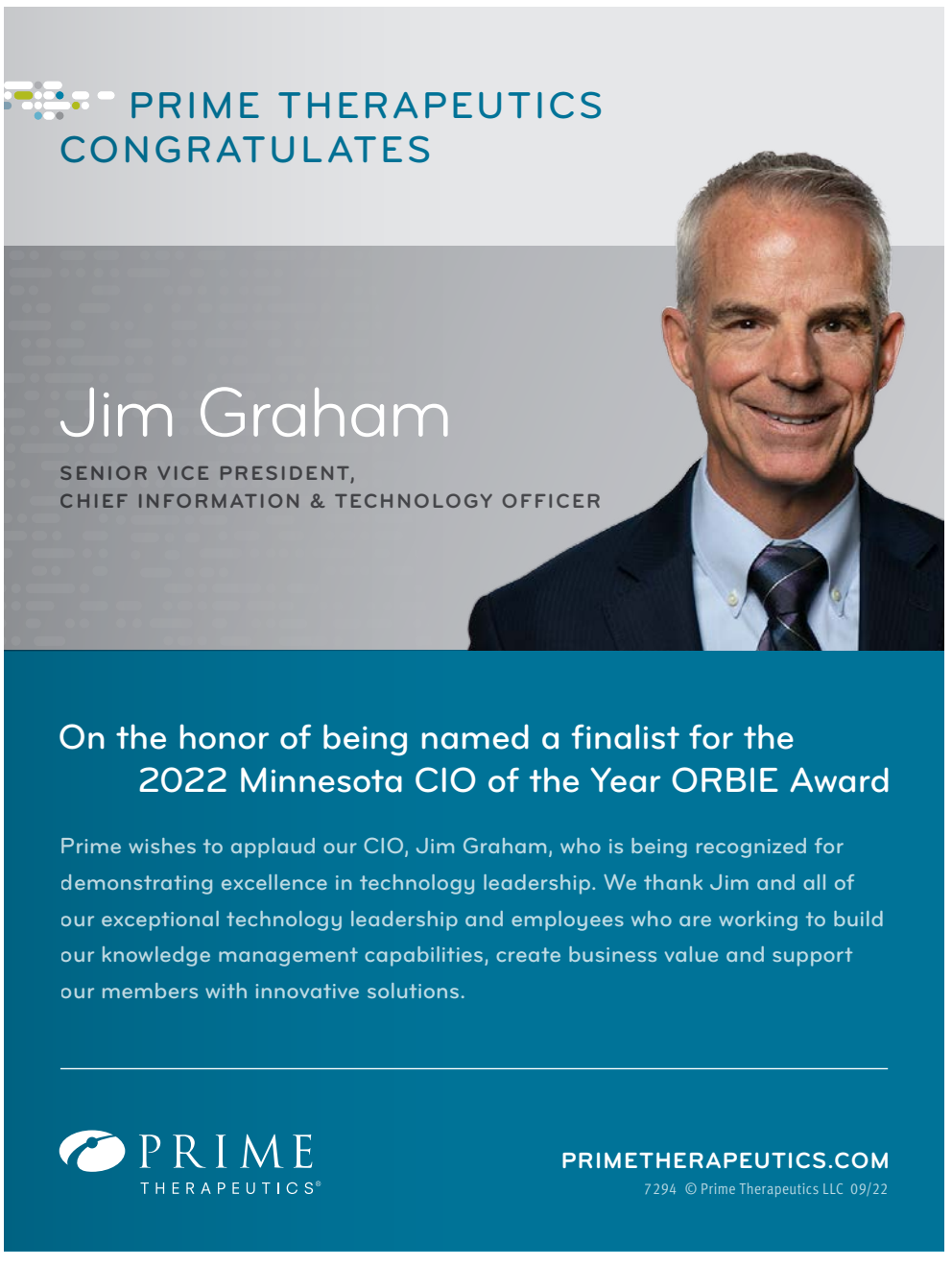
PRIME THERAPEUTICS CONGRATULATES
Jim Graham
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
CHIEF INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY OFFICER
On the honor of being named a finalist for the 2022 Minnesota CIO of the Year ORBIE Award
Prime wishes to applaud our CIO, Jim Graham, who is being recognized for demonstrating excellence in technology leadership. We thank Jim and all of our exceptional technology leadership and employees who are working to build our knowledge management capabilities, create business value and support our members with innovative solutions.
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In times of growth and challenge, you need **leaders.**

Congratulations from all of us at Bell Bank to our technology leader, **Gary Inman!**

Your work is critical to the success of one of the nation's largest family- and employee-owned banks. Your honor as a 2022 ORBIE® Award finalist for **Chief Information Officer of the Year** is so well deserved.

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2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

CORPORATE FINALISTS

UP TO $300 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

Mark Bradley

Chief Innovation & Technology Officer, Robins Kaplan LLP

ROBINS KAPLAN LLP

Mark Bradley, Robins Kaplan's chief innovation and technology officer, oversees the Business Innovation and Technology Services (BITS) group supporting technology needs across the firm's eight national offices. The BITS team runs a dynamic and state-of-the-art environment that focuses on firm-wide operations, cybersecurity, infrastructure maintenance and improvement, efficiency, and dependable, effective IT and communications services to our firm and our clients.

SUCCESS STORY

A law firm's lifeblood is the ability for our lawyers to serve our clients and be responsive to their needs. With the start of Covid-19, IT needed to act quickly to get 500+ people working from home. In a matter of days, we expanded our remote access capabilities, purchased any laptop equipment we could find and trained our users through a series of short, easy "tech tips" (A practice that continues to this day). Infrastructure was easy; training, coordination, communication, and quality customer-service are the hardest and greatest opportunities to gain your users' trust.

Arin Brown

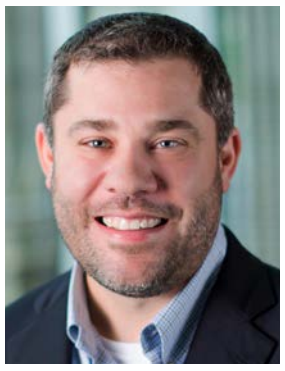
CTO, SeaChange

SEACHANGE

Arin Brown, CTO at Seachange, is often referred to by his peers as a security enthusiast. With over 20 years of experience leading technology teams and successful security compliance initiatives including HITRUST, HIPAA, SOC2, and PCI-DSS certification, addressing and mitigating security risks is one of Arin's key strengths. He has a passion for bringing new solutions to market by leveraging cutting-edge technology and automation that expands capabilities for SeaChange clients and brings added efficiencies to internal processes.

SUCCESS STORY

Bringing an online ordering, data analytic, omni-channel marketing platform named GATHER to life and assembling the team of brilliant innovators that support it has been my greatest accomplishment as CTO of SeaChange. Our GATHER platform has been critical to our success, transforming how clients work and the industry itself. With automated ordering and analytic reporting through APIs, Amazon S3 integrations, and ERP/MIS SSO – our platform is an extension of clients' internal tools. The ease with which our clients accomplish marketing communication goals translates into repeated success making SeaChange a trusted advisor and technology innovator known for software and digital solutions.



Paul Johansen

CTO, Edmentum

edmentum

Paul Johansen joined the Edmentum team in December of 2009 as chief architect, overseeing all software development, architecture and data center operations. As chief architect, he led a team in launching the company's first SaaS offering, allowing development to expand and progress its ability to react to the needs of today's ever-changing educational landscape. In early 2012, Paul joined the Edmentum executive leadership team as chief technology officer.

SUCCESS STORY

My greatest accomplishment as CTO has been navigating the complexities of the pandemic. Not only did our technology team transition from in-person work to remote work, but our K-12 online curriculum and assessment became essential to how the education industry navigated the pandemic. As back-to-school approached 2020, it became clear that the organization was at risk of out-scaling the data center's capacity. Prioritizing millions of students who used our products during the pandemic, our team overcame significant challenges and setbacks to scale platforms to unprecedented levels, with products being used 75 times more by students due to the virtual environment.

Christopher Moore

Senior Director of IT, Bachman's

Bachman's Growing Since 1885

Christopher Moore is currently the Senior Director Information Technology at Bachman's Inc. Christopher joined Bachman's in December 2021 and is responsible for establishing the overall technology strategy for the company. His major focus areas are the selection and implementation of a new ERP platform, SD WAN, Microsoft O365, and several other core pieces of technology to enable growth for Bachman's.

SUCCESS STORY

Bachman's is entering their next major phase of growth, and and I was hired to initiate, run, and deliver several large technology programs concurrently that support the growth strategy. I am proud to have been a contributor to the overall success of Bachman's.

Todd Schnobrich

SVP & CIO, Radisson Hotel Group Americas

RHG RADISSON HOTEL GROUP AMERICAS

Todd Schnobrich serves as the CIO for Radisson Hotel Group Americas. He develops and executes the Information Technology strategy, working closely with other business leaders to build a roadmap for IT in alignment with the company's strategy. Schnobrich is also on Radisson Hotel Group Americas' Executive Committee. Schnobrich previously served as Vice President, Business Relationship Management for Radisson Hotel Group Americas.

SUCCESS STORY

Sometimes the greatest sense of accomplishment comes from meeting the challenge you least anticipate. Radisson was well into executing a global technology-enabled transformation when the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States required us to separate our business in the Americas from the rest of the company due to our foreign ownership. We "dropped" what we were doing and completely pivoted the organization to a new, initially ambiguous, all-consuming program to reach compliance by the date imposed by the federal government, all concurrent with the outbreak of COVID. I simply could not be prouder of the Radisson IT team.

2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

NONPROFIT/PUBLIC SECTOR FINALISTS

NONPROFIT, HEALTHCARE, AND EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS

Julie Flaschenriem

CIO,
Hennepin Healthcare

Julie Flaschenriem is currently the CIO at Hennepin Healthcare after spending time at Fairview/M-Health, Park Nicollet Health Services and Ernst& Young. Hennepin Healthcare is an integrated system of care that includes a nationally recognized Level I Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center, a 484-bed acute care hospital, as well as a clinic system with primary care clinics located in Minneapolis, Minnesota and across Hennepin County.

SUCCESS STORY

The greatest accomplishment in my current role is the development of my team. We went from a group of individuals to a team that works together to make things better for our patients, care teams and team members. This transformation was the base for building trust across the organization, leading to transparency of our work and financials, and changes in governance. We played a critical role during the pandemic including quickly sending teams home, delivering on telehealth solutions, key roles in the incident command and developing solutions to serve the care team and our patients needs.

Tim Getsay

EVP, Integration & Performance, Gillette Children's

Tim Getsay joined the Gillette leadership team in 2013 and now serves as Executive Vice President of Performance and Integration. Getsay held several leadership roles at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, including Associate Vice Chancellor. He received his master's degree in Labor and Human Resources from the Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.

SUCCESS STORY

My most significant accomplishment is changing how this organization uses Information Technologies (IT). From early in my career, I have had the aspiration to evolve IT into the primary disruptor and change agent for an organization. Instead of thinking of IT as the deployment of wires, software, and equipment, we transformed it into a resource and capability that can positively influence the whole spectrum of organizational improvement. We have aspired to it but are now finally achieving it.

Dr. Casey Gordon

CIO,
College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University

Dr. Gordon is the CIO at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University. In her current position, she creates and leads the vision for information technology with stakeholders across the institutions. She is highly experienced in building relationships and in leading department operations, digital transformation initiatives, and technology support. Gordon holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Higher Education from the University of Nebraska Lincoln.

SUCCESS STORY

I believe my greatest accomplishment is the development of my staff to be leaders at our institutions. Not just leaders of technology, but true business leaders and partners. I strive to set an example for them of the powerful impact we can make in our students' lives when technology and strategy are married together with a strong focus on our mission. This is significant because my staff's leadership will

Dr. Jacquelyn Malcolm

Vice Chancellor of IT & CIO, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Dr. Malcolm brings nearly 20 years of higher education experience and has been a leader both at the campus and system levels. She is committed to delivering access to affordable and equitable education and the economic viability of students. Dr. Malcolm is an active thought leader in the higher education technology space through her engagement with EDUCAUSE and other IT organizations.

SUCCESS STORY

My greatest accomplishment thus far is leading a multi-million dollar ERP implementation. Minnesota State has chosen to acknowledge and rise to the challenge of how we support the changing needs of our students by implementing a bold and innovative technology solution, grounded in the principles of equity and access. We believe we will be used as a strong use case for higher education IT systems to support the onboarding of Cloud, SAAS-based software solutions, in a multi-institutional based format. Upon complete implementation, this will be the first-ever ERP implemented in higher education of this scale and complexity on this platform.

Phil Thorson

VP Technology Strategy & CIO, St. Cloud State University

Phil Thorson provides leadership for the advancement of an innovative, robust and secure information technology environment. He is responsible for a wide variety of strategic information technology issues including governance and policy, resource allocation and information technology implementation.

SUCCESS STORY

My greatest accomplishment is forming an integrative leadership model for IT services at St. Cloud State University to accomplish these objectives. This integrative leadership model ensures IT is best supporting our University's strategy and mission through multifaceted relationship management, business partnership, effective IT governance and collaborative prioritization. Integrative leadership has served as a catalyst for significant advancements including digital transformation, implementation of modern and mission-driven technological solutions to better support our campus community, and improve St. Cloud State's ability to deliver competitive higher education services.

Charles Watson

CIO,
Essentia Health

Chuck Watson joined Essentia in March 2020 as the Chief Information Officer. Chuck is a member of the Executive team and is responsible for all aspects of IT including strategy, operations, and digital innovation. During his time at Essentia Health, Chuck has been instrumental in the transformation and delivery of virtual care and remote working opportunities for its employees.

SUCCESS STORY

I became the CIO at Essentia Health on March 9, 2020, one week before COVID-19 changed everything. I was quickly asked to shift over 3,000-4,000 employees from working in an office setting to work from home and enable our patients to continue to receive care through virtual visits. Within days we had the infrastructure and tools established and guided our employees on how to work from home and our physicians and patient to conduct virtual visits which eclipsed over 500,000. Virtual care is a permanent model of care and over 2,000 employees still work remote.

Anjali Gandhi

SVP & CIO, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Anjali Gandhi, senior vice president of the technology division at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, leads the Bank's information technology, information security, and data privacy functions. On behalf of the Federal Reserve system, she also oversees program assurance and end user services. Anjali joined the Minneapolis Fed in 2018, and quickly recalibrated IT to focus on emerging technologies.

SUCCESS STORY

I take great pride leading the Technology Division for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, one of 12 regional Reserve Banks which comprise the Federal Reserve System, our nation's central bank. Our Division brings together functions that are paramount to our mission as a central bank and provides our 1200 employees the power to serve the public – even from home during the global pandemic. One of my greatest accomplishments is delivering modern technology solutions and platforms that help Americans save for the future.

UNCOMMON PRIDE

Hormel Foods congratulates Mark Vaupel and the entire IT team on being named as a finalist for the 2022 TwinCities CIO ORBIE Awards. We are proud to support everything they do to accelerate our evolution and transformation as an Uncommon Global Branded Food Company.

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ESSENTIA HEALTH CONGRATULATES

Chuck Watson

ON HIS NOMINATION FOR THE MINNESOTA

CIO of the Year ORBIE Award!

We thank you for your leadership and vision to improve care for the patients we are privileged to serve.

Called to make a healthy difference.

Essentia Health

ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY CONGRATULATES

PHIL THORSON

Twin Cities CIO of the Year ORBIE Award finalist

Phil Thorson is St. Cloud State University's Vice President for Technology Strategy and Chief information Officer. He has a track record of strong leadership, having served in several progressive roles at SCSU such as Deputy CIO and Director of Information Technology Services. With more than 30 years of innovating and transforming SCSU, our community is thankful for Phil's vision, oversight, care, and attention to the success of our great institution and our students.

Phil is a leader who credits his team for his achievements. As an ORBI award finalist, he is thrilled to share such recognition with everyone on his team, as they make a profound impact on the campus community.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GO HUSKIES!

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Congratulations **Dan Latvala**

On being named as a finalist for the 2022 Twin Cities CIO Orbie Award and thank you for your outstanding leadership.

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2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

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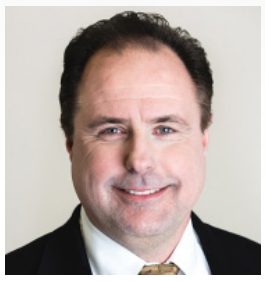

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