



2023

MINNESOTA **ORBIE** AWARDS

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL
BUSINESS JOURNAL



FROM THE CHAIR

Leadership makes the impossible possible

B3



LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT

Leadership recipient Mike McNamara on the necessity of diverse teams

B4

The annual Minnesota ORBIE® Awards program honors chief information officers and, for the first-time ever, chief information security officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate, Healthcare & CISO categories will be announced September 15 at Minneapolis Marriott City Center.

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ANDREW BINGENHEIMER US Bancorp	CHRISTOPHER DAVIS The Tile Shop	JUDY HATCHETT Surescripts	DR. JACQUELYN MALCOLM BAILEY Minnesota State Colleges & Universities	HITESH PATEL Sleep Number	DILIP VENKATACHARI U.S. Bank
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DAVID BLACK CHS	ANDY DULKA Restaurant Technologies	AHTI HUJANEN SunStream Business Services	DAN MCDERMOTT Tank Holding Corp	KATHY PERSIAN Schwan's Company	ERIC WAGNER American Crystal Sugar Company
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2023 ORBIE AWARDS



FROM THE CHAIR

Leadership makes the impossible possible

Technology is everywhere in our lives, and when it doesn't work, we notice.

For nearly twenty-five years, the Inspire Leadership Network has helped CIOs succeed in today's most challenging C-suite executive role. MinnesotaCIO members grow their leadership through year-round, member-led programs and interaction. Working together, CIOs across public and private business, government, education, healthcare and nonprofit organizations collaborate, share ideas and best practices, and create enormous leadership value.

The ORBIE Awards bring together leaders facing similar challenges – and this year – the Inspire Leadership Network will grow to 30 chapters, including the first international chapter in Toronto, and 3 chapters exclusively for Chief Information Security Officers.

Security is top of mind for every leader and organization, and the same principles that have served CIOs can be applied to CISOs as well.

There is no textbook for how to be a great CIO or CISO. But relationships with other leaders facing similar challenges sharpen leadership acumen. Every leader's perspective is valuable and contributes to the conversation – and everyone wins by joining a peer leadership network.

Member-led, non-commercial programs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges, solving problems and avoiding pitfalls. Successful leaders understand the 'superpower' of trusted relationships. In any gathering of technology leaders, the answer is in the room.

Together, we are transforming our economy using technology & security, 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.



Sincerely

John Avenson

2023 Chair, MinnesotaCIO
Senior Vice President, CTO,
Minnesota Twins

Rachel Lockett

2023 Vice Chair, MinnesotaCIO
CIO, Pohlad Companies

INSPIRE LEADERSHIP NETWORK is the preeminent executive peer leadership network of chief information officers and chief information security officers. The heart of Inspire is the value of membership in a local chapter, with access to thought-leaders across the United States.

SCAN TO VIEW
INTERACTIVE
CHAPTER MAP

2023 ORBIE AWARDS

2023 LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Mike McNamara

CIO, Target (ret)



Leadership recipient Mike McNamara on the necessity of diverse teams

By The Business Journals Content Studio

When Mike McNamara came to Target Corp. in 2015 to head its IT function, he found a giant tech workforce of 10,000, mostly contractors, and a big-box chain on the cusp of a new era of omnichannel retail.

He'd successfully built online grocery shopping capabilities for Tesco, a publicly traded international retailer headquartered in the UK, where he spent nearly two decades. One of the first things he did when he arrived in Minneapolis — having moved from London telling his wife it would be just five years in the U.S. — was to spend a good bit of time in Target stores, shopping and watching how other people shopped.

He wanted to make the experience of shopping at Target as frictionless and fun as possible, and to do that he set about insourcing his IT workforce to create a connected, inspired, empowered team that delivered results. That included hiring team members from traditional channels, such as four-year universities, but also looking for talent in less-considered corners. With the support of his fellow executive leaders at Target, McNamara embraced programs that gave tech training to second-career chasers and people from underrepresented backgrounds, such as women and people of color.

"Over the last year, we've had former baristas, teachers, line cooks and a sculptor start their engineering careers with us," McNamara told Target's Bullseye View publication in 2021. "The way to build great technology for Target's guests is to build it with engineers who represent Target's guests."

The results? A team of 4,500 "of the brightest technologists and data scientists in the U.S. and India that help make Target one of the best omnichannel retailers out there," he said.

Embracing modern digital platforms has contributed significantly to the company's growth. Being able to meet the massive spike in online traffic and store pickups for infrequent, giant shopping events like Black Friday and Cyber Monday positioned Target to deliver what guests needed when the unexpected interrupted every facet of daily life: The Covid-19 pandemic that began in spring 2020. That fiscal year, the retailer grew sales by more than \$15 billion, more than its sales growth in the 11 years prior, with internet

sales exploding by more than 235%.

McNamara has said a strategy of "ruthless prioritization" of projects cleared the way for his team to focus on a handful of the most critical changes that modernized Target's business and primed it for growth.

On the heels of that success, McNamara retired as executive vice president and chief information officer of Target in January. He is the 2023 Leadership Award recipient in the Minnesota ORBIE Awards.

On diversity and building top teams

McNamara, with his energetic personality and warm, open demeanor, puts his people at the center of his decision-making. He said one of the most rewarding milestones in his 30-plus year career was being able to create pathways to Target technology jobs for people who perhaps hadn't considered the line of work, or who lacked exposure to the opportunity.

He and his colleagues developed new talent pipelines by engaging with programs such as Dream Corps TECH, Hackbright Academy and Genesys Works. "We built a very innovative team, a very creative team. They were brilliant engineers," he said.

A high-performing team is a diverse team, McNamara says. That includes not only people of varying gender, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, but also "people who are introverts, people who are extroverts, people who are creative, people who are operators," he said. "You have to have a mixture of talents, attitudes and experiences."

Teams that disagree and examine issues from diverse perspectives make better long-term decisions, McNamara says. "Having a diverse team is not a luxury, it's not ticking the box. It's a necessity."

Getting comfortable with uncertainty

The economy has had its ups and downs, the workforce is in a state of flux with remote work, and technology is, reliably, ever-changing. The conditions in 2023 aren't so different from anything leaders have been navigating for their entire careers, and

McNamara's advice is to get comfortable with uncertainty. "There has always been a high degree of ambiguity about the future," he said.

The planning horizons are longer at the executive level, and "the only thing you know for certain is that whatever you write down in a five-year plan or a 10-year plan is probably wrong," he said. If you come to a place where the plan calls for something that's no longer the best course, just change it, he said.

As his career progressed, McNamara says his focus shifted from self-development to developing others and creating a positive impact on the broader community.

The ultimate win is when people who have worked for him go on to become CIOs and executive leaders themselves, he said.

It's a tremendous time to be an engineer, he said.

"Now, we take the internet for granted. But some of us are old enough to remember when it was all brand-spanking new and didn't work terribly well. It was a little bit of a shot in the dark, and you were pioneering and inventing things that nobody had invented before."

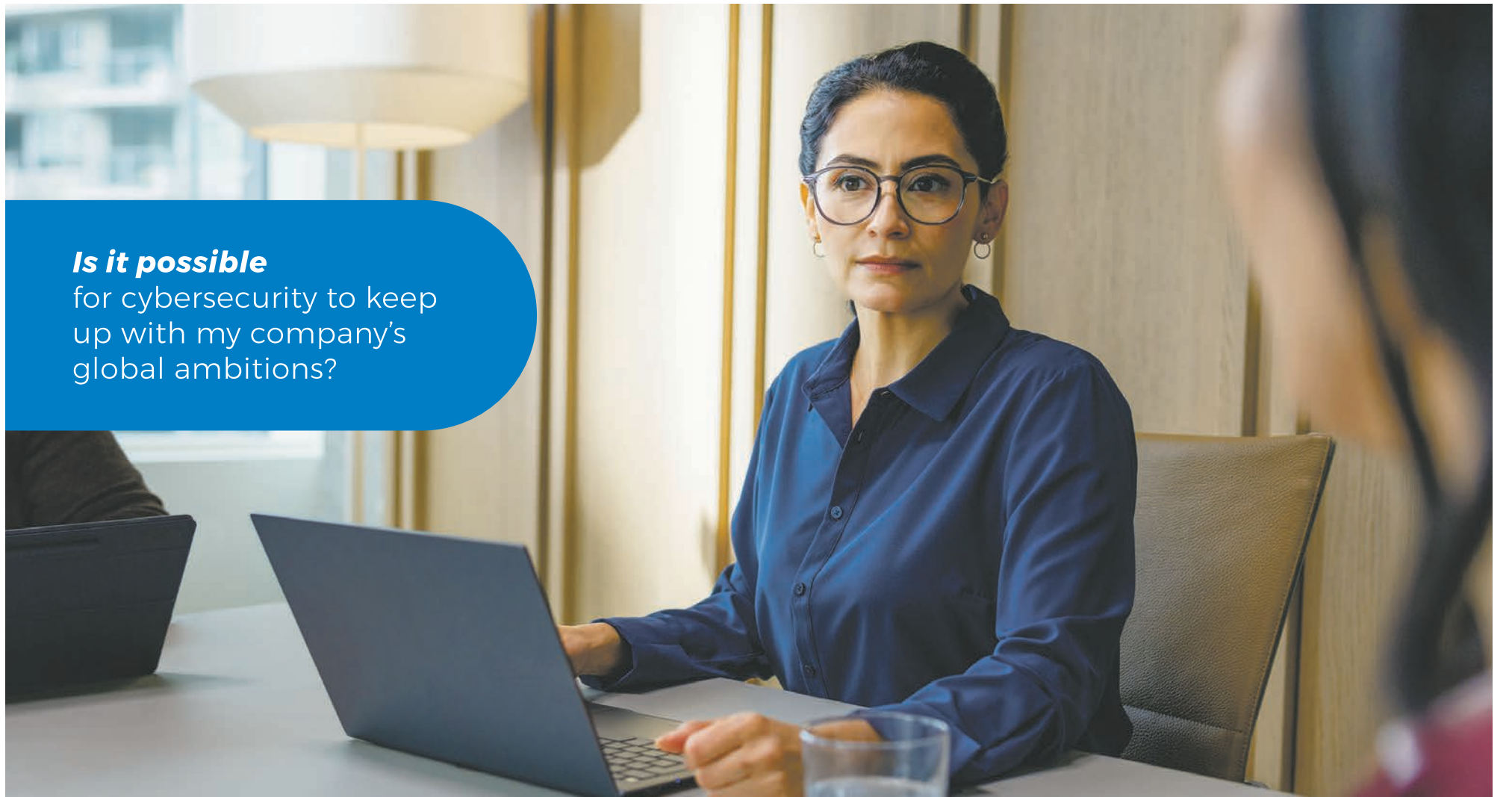
Software engineers today have tools that free them from "an awful lot of drudgery" thanks to automation, "and now you can spend your time thinking, analyzing and creating."

McNamara says despite what he thought when he landed in the U.S. eight years ago, he's in Minneapolis to stay, with one child in the city, one in London and one in New York. "I wouldn't miss Minneapolis in the summer, it's just a terrific place," he said.

He's set himself up to enjoy retirement with a winter home in Europe and plenty of golf, cycling, tennis, socializing, travel and learning about wine.

"I have a list of 1,000 books I want to read," many of them works of literature, he said.

Born in Ireland, McNamara holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University College Dublin. He serves on the board of Hawaiian Airlines.



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for cybersecurity to keep
up with my company's
global ambitions?



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TWINCITIES CIO OF THE YEAR
ORBIE
AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2023
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B O O K of L I S T S



LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

OVER \$2.5 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



Amanda Alwy

SVP, North America IT & Analytics (Region CIO - North America), ManpowerGroup



Amanda has over 20 years of industry experience, including master data management, business intelligence, supply chain optimization, and merchandising. Amanda began her career at Target, where she led enterprise-wide improvements through strategy, technology, data & analytics, and process enhancements. Her focus was on large scale change initiatives with master data and business intelligence systems. In 2015, Amanda took on a role at GS1 US, where she helped companies assess and improve their data management.

SUCCESS STORY

Amanda led the successful launch of ManpowerGroup's front office transformation, which was the largest scale deployment of users in Bullhorn, Inc. to date. Her team enabled an optimized suite of tools for talent, recruiters, and clients which has been transformative. This optimization has led to significant improvement in IT controls and cyber security, while modernizing legacy architecture. Amanda also ensured the successful technology integration of the ettain group acquisition into Experis IT staffing solutions. This integration doubled the size of Experis and ensured one merged team empowered with technology to drive growth.



Brett Brunick

EVP & Chief Digital & Technology Officer, Thrivent



Brett Brunick is EVP, chief digital and technology officer at Thrivent. Brunick oversees digital, data and technology functions while leading a digital transformation that will deliver experiences to meet the changing needs of Thrivent clients today and in the future. Brunick is also leading the enterprise into a new way of working by implementing a product operating model that will help accelerate Thrivent's transformation to serve generations to come with client-first, digital-first experiences.

SUCCESS STORY

We shifted Thrivent's focus to modern client-first and digital-first experiences by working to unify Thrivent's digital properties and increase productivity for our financial advisors.

In two years, we've made considerable progress establishing foundational capabilities like integration and data to deliver meaningful value to our clients. We are implementing a product operating model that will help accelerate Thrivent's transformation to serve generations to come.

We believe talent is key to success, leading us to reshape our approach to technical talent. We have onboarded more than 200 new team members and established new product teams, empowered to deliver value faster to clients.



Kelly Aronson

SVP & CIO, Andersen Corporation



Kelly is responsible for enterprise information technology strategy and implementation and providing strategic 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.

Kelly joined Andersen in the fall of 2014. Prior to Andersen, Kelly held a variety of IT leadership positions at Target and other organizations. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in from Saint Olaf College.

SUCCESS STORY

My path to becoming Chief Digital Officer at Andersen has been an unexpected and adventurous journey. As a first-generation college graduate, who grew up as the technology landscape was being built and shaped for the future, it has been exhilarating. My interest in technology started by helping my mom set up the school computer lab, which led to an obsession with computers, a job at the college computer center, and my first role as an IT consultant out of college with a sociology and communications major. I have an insatiable desire to learn and blaze new trails wherever I go!



Luke Anderson

CIO, Cub



Luke and his growing IT team are currently leading Cub and Shoppers through a major technology transformation program. Prior to Cub, Luke spent over 20 years leading IT teams with multiple consulting, CPG, and retail companies. He has held leadership roles with Accenture, Supervalu, Oliver Wyman, and Schwan's. His consulting work focused on retailers around the world. Luke received his bachelor's degree in computer science and political science at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

SUCCESS STORY

Luke and the Cub IT team have been able to rapidly build a very capable IT team, with a strong team culture, all the while implementing new and transformative systems. The combination of people, process, and technology capabilities growth has created a foundation for long-term success of the overall Cub business. The work of the IT team is central to the broader transformation happening at Cub.



Mark Vaupel

VP of IT Services, Hormel Foods Corporation



As VP of information technology services, Mark D. Vaupel is responsible for leading and managing the Hormel Foods' IT resources and processes. 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. He assumed the role of director of information technology services in 2004. He assumed his current role in 2014.

SUCCESS STORY

I am leading a multi-year, strategic initiative for Hormel Foods, including digitally transforming our organization through best-in-class processes, innovation, and technology. This includes 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.



Tammylyne Jonas

Global CIO, Donaldson



Tammylyne Jonas, Global CIO for Donaldson Company, owns technology end to end: infrastructure, security, application development and analytics. 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. Tammylyne sits on the Board of Directors for Second Harvest, MN-Tech, and MN BBB. Jonas has an MBA in International Business from Marquette University, and undergraduate degrees in Mathematics, English and Spanish.

SUCCESS STORY

Our Donaldson IT team has helped our company complete several acquisitions over the past few years. From completing due diligence, to evaluating security and compliance, to designing and executing system integrations, our IT team has been a strategic partner to our business teams. We have enabled company growth and expansion through recent Life Science acquisitions. I am proud of how our global teams work together to integrate new companies into our environment. I am grateful for the partnership across the organization, and I look forward to delivering more foundational capabilities in the future!

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

OVER \$1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



Bob Bruckner

CIO,
Ames Construction



Bob leads a team of IT professionals who create, maintain, protect and repair the computers, network, data storage and communication systems throughout Ames Construction. Joining the company in 1997, Bob has been tasked with many challenges from Y2k coding problems to the cloud technology of today. He researches ever-changing IT trends and assesses opportunities to help Ames stay competitive. Bob graduated with a double-major in computer science and mathematics from the University of Minnesota Morris.

SUCCESS STORY

"The exceptional people who make up our team are a vital factor in our success" is a quote from the Ames Construction website and is the key to our IT success. The IT professionals at Ames understand the business and work together to utilize and support technology. Our team is flexible and "wears many hats" to react to business demands, but not let technology control us. Fifty percent of our dedicated team has over 10 years of Ames experience to understand and make the right decisions. We have a great team, that has done great things, at a great company!



Hitesh Patel

CIO,
Sleep Number



A results-driven executive leader with a comprehensive information technology management background as well as business operational responsibility for customer service centers. I have a proven track record in implementing systems and strategies that increase revenue growth and brand visibility on a global scale. My background includes experience in managing an IT department comprised of 500+ employees across Europe, Asia, North America, Mexico, India, and Canada in distributed development units with budgets exceeding \$120M.

SUCCESS STORY

My biggest success story been to change the culture of the Technology Teams to take on a higher level of accountability and ownership of business outcomes. The teams have been empowered to have a seat at the table and build strong relationships with our business partners so that we can influence the long-term strategic direction of the company. This has led to our business partners having greater confidence in the team's ability to deliver technology portfolio that balances the delivery of Technology Debt whilst also delivering business capabilities that drive revenue and efficiencies across a broad spectrum of the business.



Dr. Jacquelyn Malcolm Bailey

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



Dr. Bailey brings over 20 years of distinctive higher education experience and has been a leader both at the campus and system levels. She is committed to delivering complex information systems that support access to affordable and equitable education and increase the economic viability of students. Dr. Bailey is an active thought leader in the higher education technology space through her engagement with EDUCAUSE and other IT community organizations. She also teaches a graduate course in crisis communications. She holds a bachelor's degree from Drexel University (PA), a master's from The George Washington University (DC), and a doctorate from Delaware State University.

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.



Julius Chepey

CIO,
ATS



Julius joined ATS in 2021 to serve as the company's first chief information officer. In this newly created role, Julius will provide leadership for the development of an information technology (IT) platform that will enhance ATS' success by delivering value through technology and product innovation. An IT leader for over two decades, Julius was previously CIO for two Minnesota-based companies (Mortenson Construction and API Group) as well as a senior IT Leader in Atlantic Canada for J.D. Irving, a large, diversified, family-owned corporation. Julius also serves on the board of Bridging Hearts, which provides quality social connections, both online and in person, for an underserved population of isolated and lonely young adults with learning differences, including autism spectrum disorder. Helping others succeed through active IT mentoring and coaching is a key interest of Julius'. He also enjoys traveling with his wife and visiting relatives across the U.S. His most recent hobby is learning recurve archery, which he says is harder than it looks.

SUCCESS STORY

Guided by the leadership of Julius Chepey and a vision to be the most sought-after transportation provider in the world, the ATS IT team has evolved to become a catalyst for facilitating innovation and excellence throughout the ATS organization and beyond. Through a sustained commitment to process discipline and building alignment across the organization, Julius has guided ATS digital transformation capabilities and the launch of technologies that provide a new revenue stream and measurable efficiencies in just two short years. Julius has been a driving force in readying ATS to shine as an industry leader in technology.



Shawn Quant

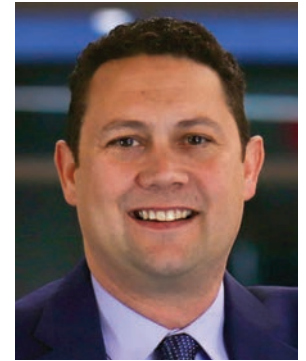
Managing Director -
Chief Information &
Operations Officer,
Piper Sandler Companies



Shawn Quant is the chief information and operations officer for Piper Sandler Companies, and president for Piper Jaffray Investment Management. He is responsible for the strategic direction and management of the firm's business information systems, trading and technology infrastructure, global securities clearing and operations, and global middle office. In his role as the president for Piper Jaffray Investment Management he is responsible for day-to-day operations of the investment manager including finance, investor relations/marketing, and operations.

SUCCESS STORY

While there are many accomplishments that I am extremely proud of over the last 14+ years as Piper Sandler's Chief Information & Operations Officer, I am the proudest of the culture we have created and the team we have developed. It is our duty as leaders to create an environment where team members are challenged and able to grow, where they are encouraged to share their ideas, and where they can see the results of their efforts. I feel that we have been able to create this environment at Piper Sandler and this is the basis for our success.



Tony Peleska

VP & CIO,
Kraus Anderson



I have been recognized as a technology leader known for my futuristic strategic vision to achieve business goals. With more than 25 years of business-oriented technology experience in the legal, banking, construction, manufacturing and financial services industries. Currently, as the VP and CIO at Kraus Anderson, I provide a unique blend of financial acumen, global IT vision and partnerships and cutting-edge software solutions. Before joining Kraus Anderson in 2020, I was CIO at Minnesota Housing.

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.



Stratagem

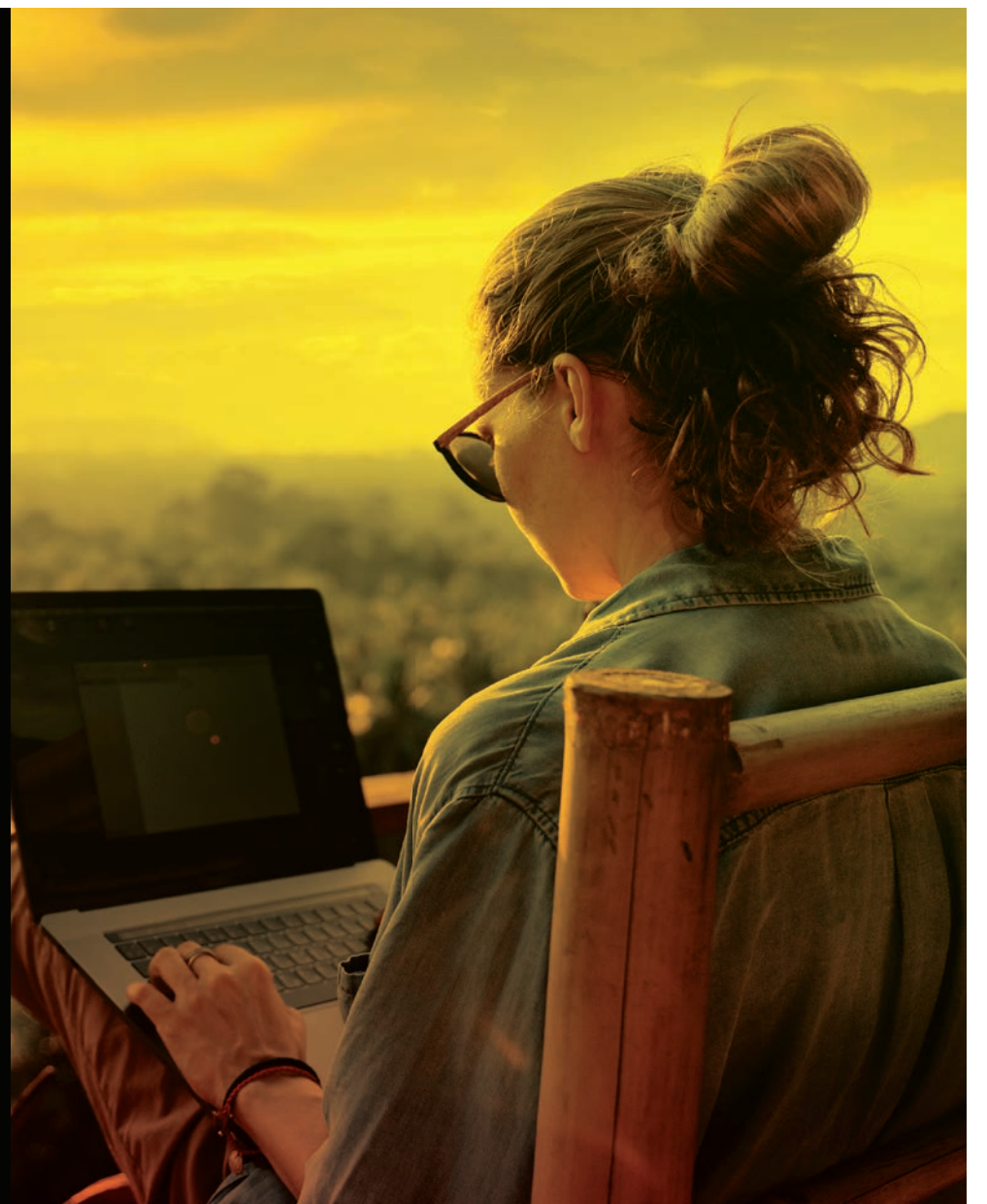
Minnesota based IT services firm setting the standard for Innovation, Reliability and Customer centricity

stratagem.net



We believe technology must work for everyone

The technology we work with every day is embedded in everything we do in our lives. We believe in being grounded in our pragmatic engineering background and to be truly transformative, technology must deliver tangible benefits to those who use it every day.



LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

OVER \$400 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



Andy Dulka

CIO,
Restaurant Technologies



Andy Dulka, CIO at Restaurant Technologies, capitalizes on over 25 years of experience to drive business success and cultivate high-performing teams. With a notable leadership history as CIO at Starkey Hearing Technologies and Regis Corporation, and additional IT roles at Allianz Life and Best Buy, Dulka blends strategic and operational impact. He is a proud alumnus of Saint John's University.

SUCCESS STORY

Leading a team that has successfully delivered the first half of a transformational road-map, all while maintaining the normal day-to-day of a growing company, is a true success. The ability of the team to come together, pivot as necessary, and take care of our employees, customers, all while executing our strategy has been fantastic to be a part of. It speaks to our company's culture, values, and employees. This achievement is a testament to our team's customer-centric approach, uncompromising character, commitment to change, courage in the face of daunting tasks, and a robust sense of community.



Brian Bakken

VP of IT,
Loram Maintenance
of Way, Inc



Brian Bakken is a dynamic global IT leader with over four decades of experience within software, distribution, and manufacturing industries.

Known for driving transformative change and influencing business decisions, he strengthens global working environments, equips and empowers IT teams for success, and leverages his expertise to align with and accelerate company growth. With a track record of implementing technology-driven strategies, he is a trusted leader in achieving impactful results.

SUCCESS STORY

To meet the demands of its global operations, Loram recognized the need for an IT department with a global mindset.

Under my guidance, we adopted innovative strategies, fostered open communication, and expanded our areas of responsibility. We implemented effective governance which revolutionized our project prioritization, workflow, and execution.

Through my vision and leadership, the IT department achieved remarkable success. We evolved into an efficient global team aligned with the company's vision. Our dedication and expertise drove this transformation, positioning us for continued growth and a meaningful contribution to Loram's future achievements.



Christopher Davis

CIO,
The Tile Shop



Christopher Davis is an executive leader with demonstrated information technology, ecommerce, and program management expertise. He is responsible for all technology at The Tile Shop as well as their online business. Prior to 2020, his 30-year career included senior leadership positions as chief information officer for Mspark and Express Oil Change & Tire Engineers, and vice president of technology at Sleep Number. Christopher also worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, IBM, Maytag and Whirlpool in progressive leadership roles.

SUCCESS STORY

Building and developing the IT team that transformed the technology function into a critical business service has been my greatest accomplishment at The Tile Shop. This team consistently delivers stability, value and innovation. This required developing a strategic vision and consistently providing impactful, high-value solutions without business disruption. In under three years, this team upgraded our network and telecom, migrated to Microsoft 365, doubled ecommerce sales, strengthened our security posture, implemented a new point-of-sale solution with embedded CRM, and significantly expanded our luxury vinyl product line, all helping to increase sales, cut costs and reduce risk for The Tile Shop.



Dennis Keane

VP & CIO,
Red Wing Shoe Company



Dennis Keane, Red Wing Shoe Company's Chief Information Officer, is known for his expertise as a technologist, advisor, and industry thought leader. With a successful career in software development and enterprise IT leadership, he excels at aligning technology with business objectives. Previously, Dennis served as Bosch's Global Head of Engineering, overseeing diagnostic software. He holds a Computer Engineering Degree from the University of Central Florida and a Mini MBA from the University of St. Thomas.

SUCCESS STORY

My greatest accomplishment in my current role is building a team that is trusted to consistently deliver business outcomes. Developing a strategy and plan is one thing, executing that plan is another. I believe that execution is a key part of strategy, and technology organizations should bring this execution discipline to the business, enabling a company to take a strategy plan and operationalize it. Towards that end I focus on people, surrounding myself with a strong team who know what right looks like, building a culture based on trust, respect, and teamwork, and empowering that team to deliver.



Heather Anderson

CTO,
Northmarq



As CTO, Heather Anderson leads Northmarq's digital transformation across all business lines, including application development, cloud, data and information security. She is an accomplished leader who excels at understanding business needs and developing technology solutions that drive business strategy.

She has over 20 years of progressive technology experience, beginning as a software engineer before transitioning into IT management. Heather has a reputation for building high performing teams and transforming them into agile, customer-oriented change agents.

SUCCESS STORY

Historically at Northmarq, IT would share roadmaps with business and try to get them excited about it. However, there wasn't alignment with business strategy and assumptions were made about what the business wanted or needed. Introducing Product Model in 2021 and aligning Product Owners to each business line was a game changer. We now partner closely with the business to understand their strategy and collaborate on how IT can help them reach their goals. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and our business partners are getting more from IT and they see a direct impact on meeting their strategic objectives.



Jeffrey Strang

Director, IT,
Christensen Farms and
Feedlots, Inc



Jeffrey has over 24 years of experience leading IT teams to deliver value and innovation to the organization and industry. His passion is doing his part to help feed the world. He has spent his career in food manufacturing with a focus on integrating acquisitions and automation. Prior to joining Christensen Farms in October 2021, Jeffrey spent the last decade leading IT organizations for Global 1000 and Fortune 500 businesses.

SUCCESS STORY

I have been blessed in my career with learning opportunities and great leaders. I was given a chance to succeed very early in my career and have worked very hard to maintain that trust. My career accelerated around 2009 when I was able to serve a global business and execute over a dozen mergers and acquisitions. This provided exposure to many business models, business challenges, conflicts, opportunities, and successes. As a technologist, I have supported, implemented, or decommissioned hundreds of different tools. I am very grateful to those that have helped with my success.



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CORPORATE FINALISTS



2023
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AWARDS

UP TO \$400 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



Dr. Casey Gordon

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



Dr. Casey Gordon is the Chief Information Officer at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University (CSB/SJU). In her current position at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, she has embraced the opportunity to create and lead a vision for information technology in partnership with stakeholders across the institutions. She is a dedicated professional, highly experienced in building relationships and in leading department operations, digital transformation initiatives, and technology support.

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 who understand that our mission is to help students flourish. I strive to set an example of the powerful impact we can make in our students' lives when technology and strategy are married together with a strong focus on improving the student experience.



Cheryl Nygaard

VP of IT,
Minnesota Vikings
Football, LLC



Cheryl Nygaard is the Vice President of Information Technology for Minnesota Vikings Football, LLC. She has been dedicated to the organization since 1999. In her position, she 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.



David Lloyd

Director of IT,
Park Industries



My career has focused on providing people, process, and technology leadership. I have worked in many industries, public and private organizations, medium to large companies, and one of the Big 4 consulting companies. My focus has been on leveraging advanced technology to drive business success through business process automation, digitalization, and delivering innovative solutions to meet market needs. I have had immense success implementing collaborative and efficient processes that drive accelerated solutions and improved satisfaction.

SUCCESS STORY

I have transformed Information Technology at Park Industries by developing a collaborative approach to technology projects and the implementation of advanced technologies that deliver innovative solutions internally and externally. We have seen increased value add from software developers with a wide range of skillsets and experience due to the deployment of low-code and the implementation of an effective Agile Scrum process. I have led the focus on business process automation and digitalization which brings substantial annual savings based on efficiency gains and contributes to improved financial outcomes. I have developed strong partnerships with technology and consulting partners driving accelerated successes.



Jeremy DeBord

VP of E-commerce
and Technology,
Quality Bicycle Products



Jeremy DeBord joined Quality Bicycle Products in 2003, and has been a member of the senior leadership team since 2019, when he took responsibility for QBP's e-commerce activities and technologies. In 2020, he added all technologies to his scope of work, as the Vice President of E-commerce and Technology, with responsibilities for traditional IT, emerging technologies, and operational contributions including cybersecurity and automation opportunities.

SUCCESS STORY

I didn't intend to be a technology leader when joining QBP twenty years ago - I just loved bikes. Over my first 8 years with the organization, I learned as much as possible about what made us successful and the leader in our industry. Often, a key ingredient in our secret sauce was our willingness to develop new technology solutions that allowed us to deliver value to our customers. QBP has had a strong technology team for decades, and I was able to support their success through solution development, business context, and leadership - and am honored to continue this contribution.



Mark Blais

CIO,
Channel Partners Capital



Mark Blais joined Channel in 2019, assuming the CIO role and is responsible for ensuring all technologies and resources deliver best-in-class industry solutions.

Prior to joining Channel, Blais has held senior technology leadership roles within companies including Digi-Key, Target, Veritas, and Lasersonics. His background leading enterprise development teams offers experience in varied industry verticals including MRI, credit, electronics, distribution, and retail. Blais has led teams successfully through the rapidity of change that technology brings.

SUCCESS STORY

My success directly reflects my team's success. We succeeded together with engagement from the right people who delivered amazing technology solutions during a period of tremendous growth. A great leader surrounds themselves with great people. An even greater leader guides them to collaborate, align, and support each other as a team. Once this happens, all are privileged to be in an organization of caring and engagement, capable of delivering remarkable results. I would like to humbly think that I had some influence in developing the great people in IT at Channel.



Mike Casey

CIO,
NAMSA



Mike Casey is the Chief Information Officer for NAMSA. Mike has broad experience in leading technology-enabled company transformations, high value IT investment delivery, enterprise implementations, optimizing operations, and M&A. Mike has served as the IT leader at three medical device companies, where he helped drive the business transformation needed for profitable growth. At AT&T Wireless, Mike helped lead the build and launch Midwest wireless markets and a high-speed national distribution center.

SUCCESS STORY

NAMSA's success story, of which the IT team is contributing, is to provide the science, the expertise, and the digital capabilities our customers need to deliver life saving and life improving solutions to patients.

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A graphic of the Google Cloud logo, featuring a stylized white cloud shape with a colorful arc (red, yellow, green, blue) behind it, partially overlapping the text 'to cloud.'

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HEALTHCARE FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS



Brad Newton

CIO,
North Memorial Health



Over the past 15+ years, Brad has acquired extensive experience in providing strategic vision and tactical leadership to execute innovative, cost-effective IT solutions that enhance operational efficiency and drive consistent revenue growth across complex healthcare systems. This experience has enabled Brad to thrive as a trusted modernization and transformation expert. Brad is currently serving as CIO of North Memorial Health in Minnesota, following a decade of healthcare IT leadership roles in Atlanta.

SUCCESS STORY

The Technologists at North Memorial know that their jobs are to support humans, not to support technologies. They have become adept at identifying sources of "digital friction" and helping healthcare providers focus on patients instead of technology distractions. By improving our customer service, support and change management skills, our health system has saved patient lives using predictive models, we have lightened the nursing workload for patients receiving IV medications, we have enabled temporary nurses to quickly use complex technologies, and we have implemented AI/ML models that help providers save lives by predicting deterioration of patients' conditions.



Eric Hanson

CIO,
Starkey Hearing
Technologies



Eric is a visionary CIO with over 20 years of industry experience spanning manufacturing, insurance, and financial services. He adapts his leadership style in response to a broad range of situations and challenges and encourages other leaders to respond flexibly to change. Eric establishes an organizational culture that embraces ambiguity and nimbly responds to change. He champions an innovation-friendly culture and develops breakthrough ideas that build sustainable competitive advantage for the organization.

SUCCESS STORY

At Starkey, our number one achievement is radical culture change. In just one year, we have moved from order-takers to innovative influencers. This was accomplished by appointing change agents into key leadership roles, restructuring IT to promote critical capabilities and thinking, emphasizing a new mission and vision, focusing on business outcomes, identifying and leveraging strategic partners, setting a clear IT strategy, rewarding innovative thinking and outcomes, and becoming an obsessive learning organization. We have been rewarded with the responsibility to plan and execute Starkey's corporate, strategic objectives and lead the Digital Customer Experience function.



Julie Flaschenriem

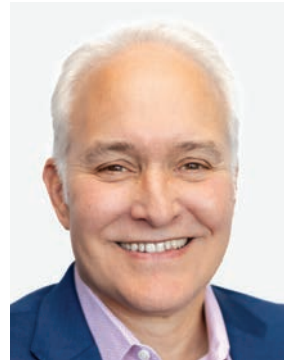
CIO,
Hennepin Healthcare



Julie Flaschenriem is a patient-centered Healthcare CIO with a reputation for leading enterprise-level business transformation and leveraging technology to improve patient outcomes and reduce the total cost of care. She has a passion for building great teams and working with those teams to improve patient outcomes, patient experience and reducing the total cost of care often employing Kaizen/Lean methods to deliver continuous improvements and cost-effective business solutions.

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.



Mark Gingrich

CIO,
Surescripts



As Chief Information Officer, Mark loves being in the middle of healthcare, where he can positively impact virtually every step of the patient journey. In 2001, he started RxHub, leading its IT build-out until 2008, when RxHub and SureScripts consolidated operations. Before then, he was a founding member of Abaton.com which was acquired by McKesson and introduced new technologies at United Healthcare, where he holds a patent and numerous awards for expert systems.

SUCCESS STORY

As one of Surescripts' first employees 22 years ago, Mark helped lead the organization through a number of significant growth opportunities, industry challenges, and personal triumphs.

In 2022, under Mark's technology leadership, Surescripts helped over two million healthcare professionals and organizations access information for nearly the entire US population receiving care. Additionally, Surescripts processed nearly 22 billion secure clinical transactions.

Mark is personally involved in industry efforts to drive greater information sharing across healthcare as a board member of the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) and as operating and steering member of HL7 Da Vinci and FAST respectively.



Michael Error

CIO,
BCBS of North Dakota



Michael Error has worked in Information Technology for over 35 years with more than 15 years in varying Executive Management roles. He has been the VP of IT at BCBSND for the past 6 years. Michael has experience in all aspects of IT - Applications Development, Infrastructure, Architecture. Michael is passionate about solving problems businesses face, including areas such as Business to IT alignment, and large transition efforts such as cloud adoption, and Digital Transformation.

SUCCESS STORY

I feel that my success at BCBSND can be fully contributed to my IT team and senior management. I've been lucky to work with great leaders and phenomenal team members. Our team members have been able to contribute significant and tangible solutions through our Business Process Modernization initiative. Several divisions have already worked with our BPM team to automate repetitive tasks, increasing efficiency and improving productivity. A notable achievement for my leadership team was the creation of a Digital Strategy. This strategy is helping our organization to stay competitive and meet the evolving needs of our customers and stakeholders.



Tim Getsay

EVP, Integration and Performance,
Gillette Children's



I came to Gillette in the newly created position of Vice President, Information Systems in a time of organizational transition. The CEO of 26 years was retiring and the infrastructure and information systems of the highly acclaimed organization had not scaled to meet the future needs of the institution. In addition, the organization was just emerging from what would be deemed a failed electronic medical record (EHR) implementation. Over my time with the organization, my portfolio has continued to grow as our success builds. My current responsibilities include strategy and operations for Patient Access, Charge Integrity, Information Systems, Quality and Accreditation and the system-wide process improvement program - Performance Excellence.

SUCCESS STORY

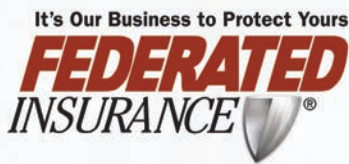
My most significant accomplishment is changing how this organization uses Information Technologies (IT). From early in my career, I have had the aspiration to evolve IT into the primary disruptor and change agent for an organization. Instead of thinking of IT as the deployment of wires, software, and 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.



Congratulations to
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VINCE AIMUTIS

of Federated Insurance® for being a CISO
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We take pride in celebrating our team members' accomplishments! Heather's nomination as a finalist for the 2023 Minnesota ORBIE Awards is a testament to her commitment to innovation and leadership. She has been a driving force of Northmarq's growth which allows us to provide best-in-class support to our valued clients.

Congratulations, Heather, on your recognition!



Heather Anderson
Chief Technology Officer

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2023
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CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICERS



Adam Mishler

SVP, Global CISO,
Best Buy Co., Inc.



Adam is the Chief Information Security Officer at Best Buy where he leads a team of seasoned, risk-minded practitioners charged with ensuring that systems and information assets are protected. He is passionate about risk management and information security, specifically protecting Best Buy and its customers and employees, while also acting as an enabler as the business transforms, innovates, and pursues new strategic growth opportunities.

SUCCESS STORY

A security organization's role is to protect the organization from cyber threats while also enabling business growth. This balance is incredibly important and challenging, with the constant push and pull of managing risks while enabling the safe pursuit of emerging technology, new business offerings, partnerships, and acquisitions. Our greatest accomplishments are centered around the strong foundation of our team and the overarching culture of care that we've cultivated across the enterprise - our position as partners and collaborative business enablers, and the opportunities for growth and development that we've created to bring more people into the cybersecurity field.



Chris Tyberg

Divisional VP,
Cybersecurity and CISO,
Abbott



Chris Tyberg is Chief Information Security Officer at Abbott. He is responsible for establishing and managing the enterprise vision, strategy and program to ensure the company's information assets, technologies and products are adequately protected. Chris holds various leadership roles in industry and trade associations that are focused on developing standards and best practices for healthcare security. Chris holds a Bachelor of Accounting with a minor in Computer Science from the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

SUCCESS STORY

The healthcare industry has not been known for its leadership in cybersecurity; however, we are committed to changing that. Healthcare is a complex ecosystem with diverse stakeholders. We are focused on collaboration with other manufacturers, our customers and governments, to maximize our efforts across the industry. We have taken lead roles in industry groups that are developing new standards around cybersecurity transparency, improved threat information and developing cybersecurity best practices. The Abbott team has demonstrated that by extending a helping hand across what have historically been adversarial boundaries, we can create positive change for the betterment of the entire industry.



Rohit Tandon

VP & CISO,
Essentia Health



Rohit Tandon has over 20 years of industry experience in private and public sector. Rohit was the former State CISO at the State of Minnesota, and has also worked for Mayo Clinic to build secure healthcare technology. Rohit has developed enterprise-wide cyber security programs from establishing vision to directing resources to execute in multiple regulated industries. Rohit is appointed on the Minnesota Cybersecurity Taskforce, and shares his knowledge to build future talent as a professor.

SUCCESS STORY

A CISO must guide risk decisions in a faster and less burdensome manner. Speed and agility are now expected in our fast paced and complex world, and cybersecurity must be responsive and nimble to enable business strategy. At Essentia, my team must support decision-makers to move at their own pace without losing sight of cyber risk as they balance trade-offs. We see this as an opportunity to build relationships to advise and empower leaders to prepare for the unforeseen cyberattacks. I am grateful to be a part of the ORBIE award, and thankful to have met many like-minded leaders.



Tony Taylor

CISO,
Land O'Lakes, Inc



Tony Taylor has held multiple infrastructure and security leadership related roles throughout his career and is currently the CISO for Land O'Lakes, Inc. Under Taylor's direction the IT Infrastructure and Security functions have enabled business growth through secure highly available platforms operating as a shared service across the enterprise. The Security & Privacy team also advise and provide virtual CISO services to many of its cooperative members.

SUCCESS STORY

Our greatest success story is our workforce planning & talent development programs we have established. This effort puts a premium on talent development, hiring from within and intern conversion to fulfill our talent needs. It has resulted in high levels of employee engagement and low turnover. Organizational roles are well defined providing all employees visibility to skills and experiences needed for future advancement. We provide every employee the opportunity to expand beyond their current role in anticipation of developing the skills to be ready for the next opportunity. We also identify security champions across other IT teams that build future talent.



Vince Aimutis

VP - Director of Information Services\CISO,
Federated Mutual Insurance



Vince Aimutis is the Vice President - Director of Information Services and CISO at Federated Mutual Insurance based in Owatonna, MN. Over a 17-year career, Vince has served many roles including Network Infrastructure, Software Development, Project Management, and Information Security. In his current role, he leads the Information Security, Infrastructure, Helpdesk, Client, and Middleware teams.

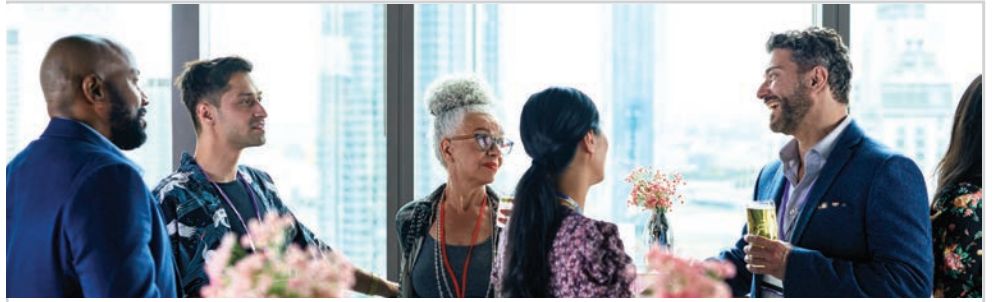
Vince has been a Big Brothers, Big Sisters Big for over 13 years, helps raise millions of dollars annually for BBBS of MN through the Federated Challenge, and is active in several other charities. He serves on the Evanta CISO Governing Body, several CISO Advisory Councils, and enjoys networking with peers as often as possible. Outside of work, Vince and his wife Kelsey have many hobbies including traveling, cooking, fishing, gardening, and being major foodies.

SUCCESS STORY

Vince's career journey and success can be attributed to a desire to constantly learn and improve, never shying away from a challenge, and building strong relationships in the teams he's been a part of. He credits Federated Insurance's amazing culture and people for providing him the opportunities to shine in the variety of roles he's held. Successes he is most proud of in InfoSec are mentoring and developing his team and leaders, building a recruiting pipeline of talent, and having teams that consistently execute on the strategic roadmap to demonstrate year-over-year improvements.



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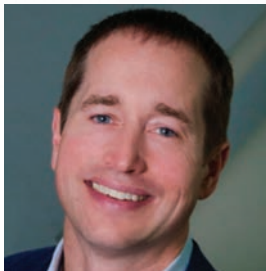
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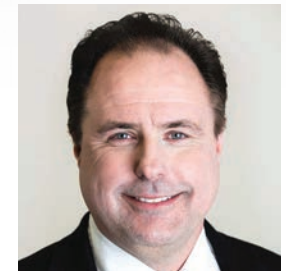
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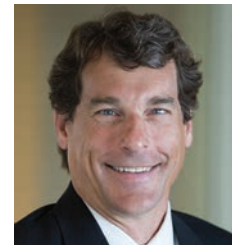
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