



# 2026 CIO of the Year & Tech Titan Awards

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## **Please Note**

Nominees from companies that sell IT solutions and services are not eligible for the 2026 CIO of the Year & Tech Titan Awards; however, we encourage you to nominate a customer, peer, or partner. Additionally, all nominees will be judged by an impartial subset of members of the Greater Pittsburgh CIO Group/CISO Group/IT Managers Group based on their contribution to innovation, results, and value delivered to their business. The following areas are included in all judges' scoring: technical depth, accomplishments in current role, continuing education on current/emerging technologies, service to the industry/community, and event involvement/published works.

## **Categories**

CIO of the Year  
CISO of the Year  
CTO of the Year  
Rising Star  
Tech Trailblazer  
Tech for Good Community Impact Award  
Tech Team of the Year

## **Descriptions/Criteria**

### CIO of the Year

#### **Description:**

The CIO of the Year Award recognizes a Chief Information Officer (CIO) who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and impact in driving their organization's technology strategy. This individual has successfully aligned technology initiatives with business goals, delivered measurable outcomes, and led digital transformation efforts that have advanced the organization's competitive edge, efficiency, and overall success.

#### **Criteria:**

- Holds the job title of Chief Information Officer (CIO) within his/her employer's organization.
- Works at a Southwestern Pennsylvania-based business or local subsidiary.
- Has a minimum of three (3) years of executive IT experience with twelve (12) months of tenure at his/her current employer's organization.
- Possesses primary responsibility for the technical performance of information security of his/her employer's organization.
- Demonstrates innovative leadership through effective use of technology in support of the strategic initiatives of his/her employer's organization.
- Represents the highest standards of leadership in information technology.
- Garneres the respect of and be recognized as a role model by his/her peers and staff.

# CTO of the Year

## Description:

The CTO of the Year Award recognizes a Chief Technology Officer (CTO) who has demonstrated exceptional technological leadership and innovation in driving their organization's technological advancements. This individual has played a pivotal role in creating and executing technology strategies that not only address current needs but also anticipate future trends, fostering innovation, and achieving transformative results within their organization.

## Criteria:

- Holds the job title of Chief Technology Officer (CTO) within his/her employer's organization.
- Works at a Southwestern Pennsylvania-based business or local subsidiary.
- Has a minimum of three (3) years of executive technology experience with twelve (12) months of tenure at his/her current employer's organization.
- Demonstrates exceptional creativity and leadership in driving innovative technologies, product development, or engineering practices.
- Develops and executes a clear and impactful technology strategy that aligns with organizational goals and supports growth, scalability, and adaptability.
- Leads the development of new products, services, or solutions that drive the organization's competitive edge and meet customer needs.
- Contributes to significant improvements in business outcomes such as revenue growth, operational efficiency, or customer satisfaction through technology.
- Builds and leads high-performing, diverse technology teams while fostering a culture of collaboration, continuous learning, and innovation.
- Demonstrates foresight and adaptability in navigating emerging technologies and industry trends to position the company for long-term success.
- Works closely with other business leaders to ensure technology initiatives are aligned with and support broader organizational goals.

# CISO of the Year

## Description:

The CISO of the Year Award recognizes a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in safeguarding their organization's digital assets, information systems, and data. This individual has successfully implemented robust cybersecurity strategies, created a resilient security culture, and led efforts to proactively manage and mitigate risks in an ever-evolving threat landscape. The award honors a CISO who not only excels in technical security but also drives strategic alignment between security and business objectives.

## Criteria

- Holds the job title of Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) or the most senior level IS position within his/her employer's organization.
- Works at a Southwestern Pennsylvania-based business or local subsidiary.
- Has a minimum of three (3) years of executive IS experience with twelve (12) months of tenure at his/her current employer's organization.
- Possesses primary responsibility for the technical performance of information security of his/her employer's organization.
- Demonstrates innovative leadership through effective use of technology in support of the strategic initiatives of his/her employer's organization.

- Represents the highest standards of leadership in information security.
- Gathers the respect of and be recognized as a role model by his/her peers and staff.

## Rising Star

### Description:

The Rising Star Award recognizes an emerging leader who has demonstrated exceptional talent, innovation, and potential in the tech industry. This individual has shown remarkable skill and dedication in their field, making significant contributions to their organization or the broader tech community. With a passion for problem-solving and a forward-thinking mindset, the award honors someone who is poised to shape the future of technology and continue driving impactful change.

### Criteria:

- Has between 5-15 years of tech/IT experience with at least twelve (12) months of tenure at his/her current employer's organization.
- Demonstrates innovative and effective use of technology in support of the strategic initiatives of his/her employer's organization.
- Represents the highest standards in information technology.
- Gathers the respect of and be recognized as a role model by his/her peers and manager(s).

## Tech Trailblazer

### Description:

The Tech Trailblazer Award honors innovative tech professionals who have been in the field for more than 15 years and who are conquering, navigating, and harnessing the power of tech in their day-to-day roles. This award celebrates an individual who has consistently pushed the boundaries of innovation by leading groundbreaking advancements, introducing disruptive technologies, or charting new paths that have transformed industries and reshaped the tech landscape. The recipient is recognized for their vision, courage to take risks, and relentless pursuit of pioneering solutions that have made a lasting impact on both their organization and the broader tech community.

### Criteria:

- Has more than 15 years of tech/IT experience with at least twelve (12) months of tenure at his/her current employer's organization.
- Disrupts the current norm, pioneer new technologies, and set trends in the industry.
- Brings effective solutions, weighs on current data trends and research, and excels in managing and deriving insights from data.
- Has a record of turning complex technical problems into simple, elegant solutions.
- Creatively thinks and/or codes their way out of any challenge.
- Is a master of networking and infrastructure management.

**Who is encouraged to apply for/be nominated for this award? Some examples include:** IT Manager, DevOps Engineer, Software Development Manager, Network Architect, Data Scientist, Cloud Solutions Architect, UI/UX Designer, Robotics Engineer, Control Systems Engineer, Systems Architect, etc.

# Tech for Good Community Impact Award

## Description:

The Tech for Good Community Impact Award recognizes an individual who has made a significant, positive contribution to the local or global tech community. This award celebrates efforts that go beyond business success, highlighting initiatives that foster collaboration, education, diversity, and innovation within the tech ecosystem.

## Criteria:

- Actively contributes to the growth, development, and betterment of the tech community through initiatives, programs, or outreach.
- Demonstrates a clear commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion through actionable initiatives, policies, or programs.
- Supports education, mentorship, or skill-building programs to inspire and develop the next generation of tech talent.
- Collaborates with other organizations or community groups to create shared value and promote tech-driven solutions to societal challenges.
- Leads or supports initiatives that address critical issues such as sustainability, digital inclusion, or community resilience through technology.
- Actively advocates for inclusive practices within the broader tech industry or community, sharing knowledge and best practices.
- Promotes ethical practices, transparency, and social responsibility within the tech industry.
- Demonstrates a clear, measurable impact in improving the lives of individuals or communities through technology.

# Technology Team of the Year

*Nominated exclusively by CIOs, CTOs, and CISOs*

## Description:

Does your team have a success story worth celebrating? This award recognizes technology teams that deliver innovation, impact, and excellence through transformative initiatives. Whether it's AI implementation, cloud migration, security enhancements, or another groundbreaking project, this is your opportunity to showcase the achievements that set your team apart.

Position your team among the industry's best—share how your work has driven measurable results and shaped the future of technology.

## Criteria:

- Must be nominated by CIOs, CTOs, or CISOs
- Demonstrates outstanding teamwork and collaboration, with both tech-focused roles and other teams or departments.
- Successfully delivers complex technology projects, solutions, or services that meet or exceed business goals.
- Shows exceptional problem-solving abilities and agility in addressing challenges or changes in project scope.
- Implements innovative, efficient, and scalable technology solutions that drive business growth or operational improvements.
- Contributes to a positive and inclusive work culture that fosters innovation, knowledge-sharing, and continuous improvement.
- Delivers measurable, positive outcomes such as cost savings, increased productivity, or improved user experience.
- Demonstrates resilience, adaptability, and exceptional execution in meeting deadlines and achieving project goals.
- Recognized within the organization and the industry for overall impact and contribution to technology advancement.