



2022 CIO/CISO of the Year Finalists, Rising Star Finalists, & CIO Choice Award Recipient

CIO Category: Terabyte

Kirk Ball

EVP & CIO, Giant Eagle

Kirk Ball joined Giant Eagle, Inc. in 2020. Kirk and his team members have responsibility for delivering all Information Technology solutions for the Giant Eagle enterprise including eCommerce development, strategic technology planning, infrastructure and applications for the Enterprise, and analytics. In addition, Kirk serves on the Giant Eagle Innovation Steering Team to help identify, develop, and implement solution innovation.

Before joining Giant Eagle, Ball served as the Chief Technology Officer for The Kroger Company. While at Kroger, he was a key participant in the development of the company's emerging Digital Customer Strategy, led the organization responsible for delivery of enterprise technology solutions serving over 3,000 locations across the U.S., served as the Chief Operating Officer of Sunrise Technology (focusing on technology R&D and Innovation), and co-led the acquisitions of You Technology, Inc. and Vitacost.

Ball has served on several Boards and holds a BS in Accounting from Miami University.

Thomas Blazek

CIO, Arconic

Tom Blazek is the Chief Information Officer of Arconic Corporation, a role that he has held since the company launched after separating from Arconic, Inc. in April 2020. He was previously Global IT Director for the company's Building and Construction Systems (BCS) business. Prior to that role, which began in January 2015, he was a member of the company's CIO Lead Team, responsible for leading multiple application and support teams.

Blazek initially joined the company in 1999 and has held multiple senior leadership roles with a broad spectrum of progressive IT responsibilities within the business units and corporate functions. His experiences include strategic planning and implementation, enterprise application and cloud initiatives, digital transformations, global merger integrations, and manufacturing technology integration.

Blazek holds a BS in Management Information Systems from the University of Indianapolis.

Steven Bugajski

VP & CIO, U.S. Steel

Steve Bugajski is the Vice President & CIO of U.S. Steel. Since joining the company in 2008, he has held senior leadership positions in every aspect of IT and lead the company's Business Services group, gaining valuable IT and business experience. Prior to his arrival at U.S. Steel, Steve spent much of his IT career in the healthcare field holding senior IT leadership positions, including CIO, at large hospital groups and healthcare insurance companies. He is an active member on several Advisory Boards including Penn State University, Robert Morris University, and the United Way. He is also a member of the Greater Pittsburgh CIO Group. He enjoys mentoring high school and college students and volunteering his time to help those less fortunate.

Bugajski holds a BS in MIS from Penn State University and an MBA from Waynesburg University. He lives in North Huntingdon with his wife and two children.

Ganesh Krishnan

Enterprise CIO for PNC, Co-Head of PNC Technology, PNC Financial Services

Ganesh Krishnan is Enterprise CIO for PNC, Co-Head of PNC Technology of PNC Financial Services. He leads a team that is responsible for driving the technology vision, strategy, innovations, initiatives, and programs for PNC's business lines. Previously, Krishnan was CIO for PNC's Corporate & Institutional Banking and Staff Services Technology divisions, leading technology teams in the areas of innovation, systems engineering, business technology management, performance management, data management, systems development, and systems support. Krishnan's work focused on differentiating these groups through technology and innovation to improve the customer and employee experience while increasing efficiency and business agility.

He is a board member of numo—a fintech subsidiary of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.—and the BITS Executive Board—the technology policy division of the Bank Policy Institute. Krishnan also serves as the Co-Executive Sponsor for the EBRG Tech Connect, focusing on women in technology. He holds a BE in Electronics from KIT's College of Engineering and an MBA in Strategy and Finance from the University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business.

Paul Yater

CIO & Head of HR, 84 Lumber

Paul Yater is a highly effective results-oriented senior executive with 27+ years of information technology and enterprise systems implementation experience. As a strategic technology leader with a proven track record of building and delivering business value via strategic technology roadmaps and transformational investments, he has a demonstrated ability to create a vision, build teams, and grow business partnerships to achieve mutual success.

Yater is a cross-functional senior officer, leading both IT and HR functions and is considered a trusted advisor by business partners. He is a collaborative business executive effective at aligning technology agenda with business strategy and objectives, and he is consistently recognized as someone who communicates and manages effectively with business partners and delivers on commitments and drives results.

Yater holds a BA in Policy and Management Studies & Political Science from Dickinson College and an MBA in Strategy and Information Systems from the University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business.

CIO Category: Gigabyte Category

Steve Agnoli

CIO, Reed Smith LLP

As Chief Information Officer of Reed Smith, Steve Agnoli is responsible for global IT strategy, technology-enabled business transformation, systems operations, and support for firm growth activities. Throughout his career he has successfully led business and IT transformation initiatives, ensured value realization from IT investments, and motivated innovative, multi-disciplinary teams in global environments.

Agnoli was formerly Head of Global IT Transformation for Mylan Pharmaceutical, responsible for aligning its IT function with business strategy and process. He previously worked as the Chief Information Officer at a global professional services firm, ensuring information strategy and technology supported that firm's client service, financial, marketing, and overall business capabilities. He has been recognized with 13 national and international awards for IT leadership and excellence in business innovation enabled by technology.

Agnoli holds a BS in MIS from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Duquesne University.

Davor Brkovich

CIO, Matthews International

Davor Brkovich is responsible for the Matthews Enterprise IT function including applications support, IT infrastructure, strategic programs, cyber security, and compliance. He joined Matthews in 2017 as the Director, Global IT Infrastructure where he led a number of transformation and efficiency initiatives.

Prior to joining Matthews, Brkovich held various IT leadership roles in CPG companies and professional services firms. He was most recently the Head of IT Operations for the Kraft Heinz Company. Collectively, he has 29 years of experience in IT Operations, IT Infrastructure, Information Security & Compliance, and IT Audit. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy graduate school.

Brkovich holds a BS in Accounting and an MSIS both from Duquesne University.

Carmine Fantini

VP, Strategic Planning & CIO, Equitrans Midstream

Carmine Fantini's broad experience covers IT infrastructure, application design, and business planning. He has worked for Equitrans Midstream since 2018 and is currently Vice President, Strategic Planning and CIO. Fantini joined EQT in 2006, performing many roles through the 2018 spinoff of Equitrans Midstream including Director of IT Applications for Equitable Gas, EQT Energy and Equitrans companies; Senior Director, IT for the Midstream and the Exploration and Production business units; and ultimately

Senior Vice President, Midstream Technical Services.

Previously, Fantini was Chief Technology Officer and served on the Board of Directors at Optiron Corporation, a customer information system software company.

Carmine holds BS degrees in Electrical Engineering and Economics from Carnegie Mellon University. He serves on the IT Committee for the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh and the Board of Directors for the Equitrans Midstream Foundation. Carmine and his wife, Amber, reside in Pittsburgh and have four children.

Mark Henderson

Vice Chancellor & CIO, University of Pittsburgh

Mark Henderson is responsible for the development, implementation, and delivery of technology that supports the academic, business, and research missions of the University of Pittsburgh and its more than 40,000 students, researchers, faculty, and staff across five campuses. He oversees more than 300 full-time and 150 student staff that manage Pitt's central IT functions and services.

Henderson moved to Pitt from the University of Illinois. Previously, he was interim Vice President and CIO for information technology services at Case Western Reserve University. His other roles in higher education include interim Vice President and CIO at the University of Maryland and Director of Infrastructure Services at the University of Cincinnati.

Private sector appointments include GE, where he worked as a leader in Global Shops IT Operations and Global Network Operations, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and Proctor & Gamble. He holds a BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Information Systems from Xavier University.

Scott Saeger

CIO, GNC

Scott Saeger is a retail technology executive with 25 years' experience supporting global enterprise technology organizations in high growth and in transition. In his current role as CIO at GNC, Live Well, he holds responsibility for high quality technology functions, including B2B and B2C platforms, native mobile applications, retail systems, emerging technology initiatives, and more. Saeger provides leadership for the development of an innovative, robust, and secure information technology environment throughout GNC, and he is responsible for leading the culture movement to automating the process of digital delivery and infrastructure. His team delivers high quality enterprise-wide technology and coordination, strategic planning, and execution for business applications and operations, integration of e-Commerce and back-office platforms, native mobile application, B2B and B2C initiatives, support and maintenance of retail, Azure, and API management. He holds a degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

CIO Category: Megabyte

Ron Baxter

Director of Technology, J.V. Manufacturing

Ron Baxter is responsible for the overall planning, organizing, and execution of all information and operation technologies including investigation and implementation of new technical solutions. After spending three decades in the manufacturing field, he understands the challenges and complications of introducing new technology in an industrial environment. He believes in continuous innovation and utilizing the best technology for enabling people to do their best work.

Baxter has an AA in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Penn State, an AA in Computer and Electronics Technology from ITT, and a BS in Professional Leadership from Duquesne University, where he graduated Suma Cum Laude. He is also a Certified Electrician. Baxter remains connected to Penn State New Kensington by serving on their Industrial and Professional Advisory Committee, which helps guide the direction of the college's engineering degrees and ensure student success in the workplace.

Mario Cafaro

SVP, Management Science Associates, Inc.

Mario Cafaro has been with MSA for nearly 23 years, starting in 1999 as an Application Help Desk team member and progressing through the ranks to his current role as the SVP, Information Technology Systems & Services (ITSS) division. MSA's corporate structure does not feature a C-suite but Cafaro's responsibilities are that of a CIO. The ITSS division provides the technology backbone for the additional six divisions of MSA, including technologists in the fields of Data Analytics, Health Sciences, Metals & Advanced Manufacturing, Media, and Gaming.

Mario leads a team of sixty IT professionals including specialists in networking, software development, virtualization, public and private clouds, cyber security, SAN storage, hardware, data center infrastructure, and service desk. Cafaro earned a BS in Accounting and a Master's in Information Systems Management from Duquesne University. He is a proud father of two and lives with his lovely wife in an eastern suburb of Pittsburgh.

Jay Copenhaver

Director of IT, RIZZO International, Inc.

Jay Copenhaver is a strategic business partner with a demonstrated track record of aligning people, processes, and technology to deliver efficient, cost-effective solutions for current and future business requirements. He runs a customer-focused Information Technology operation while maintaining an enjoyable work atmosphere for his staff.

Copenhaver holds an AAS in Data Processing from WCCC and a BS in Information Technology from Franklin University.

Brian Vogel

CIO, TeleTracking Technologies, Inc.

Brian Vogel is a native of the Pittsburgh area and Marine Corps veteran. For the past 23 years, he has served in a variety of IT leadership roles spanning both military and multiple private sector businesses in

Pittsburgh including MEDRAD, Inc. (now Bayer), Federated Investors, and TeleTracking Technologies, Inc. His technology experience is equally varied from leading teams in IT Support, Infrastructure, Business Analysis, and Project Management to being the IT lead for a division of one of his prior employers.

In his current role as CIO, Vogel has spent the last several years creating and executing an IT strategy that enables scalability in TeleTracking's business operations. As a part of this, he has been focused on working with his IT leadership team to create a positive work environment where they can deliver results. He holds a BS in Political Science from the United States Naval Academy and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business.

CIO Category: Small University/Non-Profit

David Carrico

VP of IT, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

David Carrico's experience spans over 28 years in the IT field across multiple industries including Financial Services, Retail, Energy, Technology Services, and Non-Profits. For over 25 years, he worked for companies including Ernst & Young, IBM, and Aspirant in providing consulting services and Business/IT solutions. These solutions addressed people, process, and technology needs while providing a positive user experience.

Carrico has been with the Food Bank since the beginning of 2019. During the last three years, he has led the transformation of IT and digital services, driving technology delivery and the use of data in the pursuit of the Food Bank's strategic goals and mission of eliminating food insecurity in Southwestern Pennsylvania. He is especially proud of his team's agility and ability to provide new solutions in support of the Food Bank's response to the pandemic.

He holds a BS in Accounting & Business Administration with a Minor in Computer Science from the University of Kansas.

Charles Graham

VP & CIO, Community College of Allegheny County

Charles Graham is the VP & CIO of the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) and also on the President's Leadership Council. Before joining CCAC, Graham was Senior Director of Data Management and Performance Analytics for PPG Industries and was responsible for the company's operational and executive reporting analytics worldwide including end-to-end management of the corporate data management strategy.

Prior to PPG, he held various director level management positions across several diverse industries including manufacturing, retail, financial services, and healthcare. His experience as a leader spans over 18 years and he has been recognized for his accomplishments. Graham continues to inspire and motivate others to think creatively and he understands the importance of having exceptional leadership.

Graham holds a BS in Computer Science and an MBA from Point Park University. He is also certified in PM (PMP), ITIL, Data Management (DAMA), Lean Six Sigma, Data Warehousing, and Data Analytics.

Bryon Klingel

VP of Technology, Commonwealth Charter Academy

Bryon Klingel joined Commonwealth Charter Academy (CCA) in 2016 and currently serves as Vice President of Technology. With 20 years' experience in the technology field, he oversees the operations of multiple CCA technical teams including networking and infrastructure, video production, and software development. He is also responsible for the TechWorks at CCA student career exploration program located at the Waterfront Family Service Center in Pittsburgh.

He holds a BS in Information Technology and is certified in Comptia A+ and Comptia Network+. He is a Cisco Certified Network Associate and has professional certifications with Microsoft, Dell, and Lenovo. Klingel is married and has two children. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, cycling, the outdoors, air-cooled antique Volkswagens, and traveling with his family.

Joe Veranese

VP & CIO, National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining (NCDMM)

Joe Veranese joined NCDMM in 2013 and currently serves as CIO. Prior to NCDMM, Veranese was the Operations Manager for a financial services company that worked with financial institutions assisting with the management of assets and information.

He holds a BS in Accounting from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

CISO Category: Terabyte**Mike Noble**

CISO, Alcoa

Mike Noble is responsible for managing Alcoa's global information security program. This incorporates all facets of information and cyber security including strategy, policy, process and standards development, risk management, incident response, threat intelligence, and privacy.

Noble came to Alcoa through its acquisition of RTI International Metals in 2015. Throughout his 20-year career at RTI, Mike served in numerous roles including Director of IT Operations, Interim CIO, and Chief Information Security Officer.

He is a United States veteran and a 30-year IT professional. He proudly served in the United States Army as a communications engineer. Upon honorable discharge from the military, he studied Computer Science and Mathematics at Youngstown State University and is a graduate of the Carnegie Mellon University Chief Information Security Officer Program.

Eris Symms

CISO, Arconic

Eris Symms brings more than 20 years of relevant Information Technology experience to his current role as CISO and has responsibility for Arconic's global security program. In 2020, he served as the security lead for the company's digital transformation projects including the transition to cloud-based collaboration platforms, data loss prevention, and cloud access security broker technologies.

Prior to joining Arconic/Alcoa in 2011, Symms served as an IT systems engineer as a civilian contractor for a joint DoD/DoE program, and as a systems administrator for U.S. Steel. He holds a BS in Computer Science from Saint Vincent College and a Master's Degree in Information Systems Management from Robert Morris University. In February 2021, he completed the CISO certification program offered by the Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon University.

Justin Zimmerman

VP & CISO, Giant Eagle

Justin Zimmerman has been with Giant Eagle for 14 years, most recently serving Vice President & Chief Information Security Officer. Justin has broad responsibility for Giant Eagle's information security posture across Giant Eagle's multiple operating banners including HIPAA compliance and PCI compliance.

He balances the need for practical information security solutions with Giant Eagle's compliance obligations and security posture. Zimmerman is always forward looking to new trends, emerging threats, and changes in business or technology to ensure that Giant Eagle is prepared.

CISO Category: Gigabyte

Justin Denham

Director, Information Security & Business Resiliency, Highmark Wholecare

Justin Denham is an established Information Technology leader with over 20 years' experience in IT. Combining his unique blend of experience in IT audit, project management, infrastructure, and security has enabled his success in leading the Cyber Security, Identity & Access Management, and IT Risk functions at Highmark Wholecare. Denham is a graduate of Penn State University and has obtained multiple professional certifications including Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) and Certified in Governance of Enterprise IT (CGEIT). He is also a graduate of the first cohort of the Pittsburgh IT Leaders Program and was recognized as the Pittsburgh Technology Council's Rising Star Award winner in 2019. He is currently enrolled in The Advanced Leadership Institute's Executive Leadership Program through Carnegie Mellon.

Matt LaVigna

CEO, National Cyber Forensics and Training Alliance (NCFTA)

Matt LaVigna is the CEO of the National Cyber Forensics & Training Alliance (NCFTA). Prior to joining the NCFTA management team in March 2015, LaVigna spent over 26 years in the United States Secret Service where he led criminal investigations in Pittsburgh, New York City, and at Secret Service Headquarters in Washington, DC. During his career, he worked in over 25 countries and—while stationed in Washington—held several high-profile positions including the Presidential Protection Detail, Investigative Fellow for the United States Senate, and original staff member during the foundation of the Department of Homeland Security.

He holds a BA in Legal Studies from the University of Pittsburgh. He lives in the South Hills of Pittsburgh with his wife and three daughters.

Sam Merrell

Director, Global IT Security & Compliance, Kennametal, Inc.

Sam Merrell is the Director of Global IT Security and Compliance for Kennametal, Inc., a Pittsburgh-based multinational supplier of tooling and industrial materials. Prior to Kennametal, Merrell was the Head of Cyber Intelligence for Covestro, AG and a leader in the Corporate Cyber Defense Center for the Bayer AG. In addition, he worked at the CERT Program at the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. Merrell has experience establishing and improving cybersecurity programs, data privacy compliance, as well as past support of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Air Force, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Department of Energy. Merrell also developed and taught a cybersecurity course at Carnegie Mellon University.

Merrell holds a Master's Degree in MSIT, Information Security and Assurance from Carnegie Mellon, the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification, and certificates from SANS.

Category: Rising Star**Tony Arduini**

AVP, Systems Administration Manager, Dollar Bank

Tony Arduini exemplifies Dollar Bank's core values. He is committed to advancing the customer experience, dedicated to his community, and mindful of using technology solutions within Dollar Bank. He has consistently found ways to improve the way work is performed at Dollar Bank and his efforts have directly resulted in the successful transformation of several internal and customer-facing services. His use of telemetry and data has ensured services meet and maintain service levels.

Arduini has continued his education formally and informally, highlighting his desire to advance his knowledge and support his employees as a servant leader. His achievements have been recognized internally as a recipient of Dollar Bank's President's Award and peer accolades.

Jonathan Fischer

Director, IT, ARM Institute

Jonathan Fischer is the Director of Information Technology at the Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) Institute. Since joining in 2017, he has led the development of a technology infrastructure to support a nationwide group of 300+ elite manufacturing, academic, technology, and government organizations that share the common mission of a robust U.S. manufacturing ecosystem. Fischer is also responsible for building a national repository of industrial robotics solutions, applications, and information used to accelerate the adoption of robotics in the U.S.

Prior to joining ARM, Jonathan worked at the UPMC Cancer Centers as a Senior Systems Analyst and Systems Engineer. He is an active member within the Hazelwood Community, promoting community events and engaging with community leaders to help the ARM Institute's Hazelwood outreach efforts.

He holds both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Information Science (MSIS) from the University of Pittsburgh.

Dan Gorziglia

VP of Engineering, Maven Machines

Having graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 2016 with a degree in Electrical Computer Engineering and Business, Daniel Gorziglia has worked his way up at Maven, a Pittsburgh-based company, from a Senior Software Developer to a Product Manager, Engineering Manager, and ultimately, Vice President of Engineering. His previous work experiences include development roles at LinkedIn and NoWait, which was acquired by Yelp in 2017. As VP of Engineering, his responsibilities include managing the engineering organization and operations, defining the strategic direction for Maven's technology, and educating customers and the trucking industry on the value of Maven's solutions. With the platform that Gorziglia's team has developed, Maven has been able to deploy its fleet management optimization solutions to some of the nation's top trucking fleets amongst thousands of drivers across the country delivering vital goods for our economy including toilet paper and COVID vaccines.

Max Ioffe

Director, Global Intelligent Automation, WESCO

Max Ioffe started WESCO Distribution Intelligent Automation program in early 2019 and has been driving it ever since. He currently leads Global Intelligent Automation Center of Excellence responsible for the vision, strategy, governance, and execution of the program. Ioffe and his team take a pragmatic value-driven approach to all aspects of intelligent automation program from opportunity identification and idea generation to design, implementation, and production support as well as employee education and citizen developer program. In addition to this role, he leads the Global Inventory Advanced Analytics COE. Prior to that role, Ioffe designed and implemented planning and purchasing systems, inventory analytics and optimization solutions, and inventory related reporting.

He holds a BS in Mathematics from Carnegie Mellon University.

Ashley Petrouski

Data Scientist III, U.S. Steel

Ashley Petrouski is a data scientist and has worked through various roles in her 10 years working at U.S. Steel. She is passionate about mentoring the next generation of STEM workers, solving challenging problems, and learning new technologies. Petrouski leverages her exceptional skills to deliver value in numerous roles. She embraces data analysis as a unique way of solving manufacturing challenges and has successfully delivered critical projects across the enterprise. She collaborates with various business units to identify new opportunities for value driven projects and has been critical developing and executing training sessions that have expanded digital capabilities of the organization.

She holds a BS in Meteorology, an MS in Information Science, and a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Certification. She chairs the U. S. Steel Women's Inclusion Network IT Chapter (Employee Resource Group) and the university coordinator for U.S. Steel's collaboration with Penn State Main Campus.

CIO Choice Award Recipient

Dawn Cappelli

CISO, Rockwell Automation (Retired)

Director, OT CERT, Dragos

Dawn Cappelli is the Director, OT CERT for Dragos, an industrial (OT/ICS/IIoT) cybersecurity company on a mission to safeguard civilization. She is also a member of the Industrial Advisory Board at Georgia Tech School of CyberSecurity and Privacy.

Cappelli retired from Rockwell Automation in February 2022 as Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer and continues to provide thought leadership and outreach to the cybersecurity community. At Rockwell she was responsible for developing and executing a holistic cybersecurity strategy to ensure that Rockwell Automation and the Connected Enterprise Ecosystem—the company's infrastructure, products, and customers—was safe, secure, and resilient. She began at Rockwell Automation in 2013 as Director, Insider Risk, and built the company's Insider Risk Program to mitigate threats from individuals within the company or trusted third parties who might steal information, sabotage infrastructure or products, or violate physical security controls. The Rockwell Automation Insider Risk Program was awarded the Global Team Leadership award by the Society of Women Engineers in 2016. Cappelli then became CISO in 2016.

Before Rockwell Automation, Cappelli was Founder and Director of Carnegie Mellon's CERT Insider Threat Center where she was recognized as one of the world's leaders in insider threat mitigation and worked with government and industry leaders on national strategy issues. Before that, she developed software for nuclear power plants for Westinghouse and Carnegie Mellon. She co-authored the book "The CERT Guide to Insider Threats: How to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Information Technology Crimes (Theft, Sabotage, Fraud)", which was inducted into the Cybersecurity Canon—a list of must-read books for all cybersecurity practitioners.

Cappelli is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional, holds a BS in Computer Science and Mathematics from the University of Pittsburgh, is co-founder of the Open Source Insider Threat (OSIT) information sharing group, and is a member of the RSA Conference Advisory Board, the Cybersecurity Collaborative Executive Committee, and the CyberWire Hash Table. She was inducted into the ISSA Hall of Fame in 2021, honored as a member of the 2021 CISOs Top 100 CISOs, 2020 Global CISO 100, and was named CISO of the Year in 2018 by the Pittsburgh Technology Council and the Greater Pittsburgh CIO/CISO Groups.