



2026 AWARD FINALISTS

2026 CIO CHOICE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

Mark Shozda

CIO, F.N.B. (retired)

Mark Shozda is a highly respected technology executive with more than three decades of leadership in information technology within the financial services industry. Most recently, he served as Chief Information Officer and Chief Technology Officer at F.N.B. Corporation, where he led enterprise-wide technology strategy, data management, information systems, and digital innovation initiatives supporting the organization's growth and customer experience.

Prior to joining F.N.B., Mark held senior technology leadership roles at BNY Mellon, as well as earlier positions at PNC and Mellon Bank, building a career defined by strategic vision, operational excellence, and a commitment to secure and scalable technology solutions. Throughout his career, he has been recognized as a trusted leader known for aligning technology with business outcomes.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mark is deeply committed to education and community service. He is a longstanding leader and advocate for the University of Pittsburgh's School of Computing and Information, where he has served in multiple board and advisory roles, including Board Chair, and continues to mentor students and support the next generation of technology professionals.

Mark's lasting impact on the CIO profession, his dedication to developing future leaders, and his distinguished career make him a fitting recipient of the 2026 CIO of the Year Choice Lifetime Achievement Award.

RISING STAR CATEGORY FINALISTS

Ryan DiAngelo

Associate Vice President | Manager of Cyber Security and Networking, Brentwood Bank

Ryan DiAngelo is a seasoned IT and cybersecurity leader responsible for overseeing both enterprise network and cybersecurity tool stacks while leading staff and initiatives to strengthen organizational security with limited resources. His expertise spans network and firewall architecture, SIEM deployment and management, threat hunting, vulnerability management, and team development.

One of Ryan's most impactful achievements includes redesigning and optimizing network topology to eliminate single points of failure; while reducing circuit costs by several thousand dollars per month, improving uptime, efficiency, and overall security posture.

Ryan remains committed to professional growth through industry webinars, vendor briefings, and community engagement. He is an active member of the Pittsburgh chapters of ISSA and FSISAC and is currently pursuing his CISSP certification to further enhance his executive and security leadership capabilities.

Brandon Diethorn

Manager IT, Shipment Foundational Systems, FedEx

Brandon Diethorn is a technology leader at FedEx overseeing application development and architecture for Shipment Operational Systems supporting the global supply chain. He leads cloud native modernization initiatives that deliver secure, scalable, and resilient platforms across integrated air and surface networks. As management sponsor of FedEx's Route Optimization program, Brandon helped stabilize and deploy an enterprise routing solution that improved productivity, service performance, and operational consistency, laying the foundation for the Global Pickup and Delivery Ecosystem. Known for his collaborative leadership, he builds high-performing teams and AI ready solutions aligned to enterprise transformation.

Seth Graham

Director, Customer Success, University of Pittsburgh

Seth is the Director of Customer Success at Pitt Digital, the University of Pittsburgh's central IT department, where he leads strategic engagement leaders who partner with departments across the University. In this role, he is committed to the success and delight of the customer, cultivating a service-first mentality in Pitt Digital. He acts as a conduit, bringing intelligence from customers and vice versa so that Pitt Digital can provide exemplary products and services desired by those we serve. Before stepping into his enterprise-wide role, Seth served as Assistant Athletic Director for IT at Pitt Athletics, overseeing all facets of technology. Seth is a relationship-driven technology leader with expertise spanning multiple pillars of Pitt Digital.

Stephen Solada, Manager

Network & Cloud Connectivity, Armada

Stephen Solada is a network engineer and emerging technology leader at Armada, where he recently stepped into a management role overseeing Network and Cloud Connectivity initiatives. With ten years of experience in fast paced, mission critical environments, Stephen designs and delivers resilient, scalable network architectures across LAN/WAN, wireless, SDWAN, and cloud platforms. He is recognized for implementing high performance connectivity solutions that enable advanced automation, including AI driven autonomous warehouse systems. Driven by a passion for technical excellence, efficiency, and continuous learning, Stephen brings a thoughtful, hands-on approach to modern infrastructure leadership.

Peter Zuidema

Human-Centered Design Manager, OpenArc, LLC

Born and raised in the Netherlands, Peter Zuidema is a human centered design leader with 30 years of experience shaping user focused digital solutions across government, healthcare, and global enterprises. A graduate of the University of the Arts Utrecht—home to the world's first usability program—he has led award winning and largescale design initiatives, including PPG's LINQ platform. At OpenArc, Peter champions inclusive design, embedding accessibility without sacrificing usability. Driven by personal experience, he is a passionate advocate for digital accessibility, mentoring teams and clients to create products that work for everyone.

TECH TRAILBLAZER CATEGORY FINALISTS

Andrew Beers

Inventor & Managing Partner, Dream Invent Inspire, Inc.

For over two decades, Andrew Beers has defined what it means to be a Tech Trailblazer, consistently turning complex technical challenges into elegant, scalable solutions. His journey began by disrupting the digital loyalty landscape at LoyalTree, where he guided the platform's evolution through its acquisition by SessionM

and eventual integration into Mastercard. As VP of Engineering at Emporos, Andrew revolutionized pharmacy commerce, architecting cloud-native, API-first infrastructure that modernized patient payments. Never content with the status quo, Andrew is now harnessing the power of AI and robotics through his venture, The Forge of Creation. By developing "Plant Coach AI" and advanced hydroponic systems, he is creatively coding his way to a more sustainable future. Andrew's career is a testament to his ability to master infrastructure, pioneer new technologies, and deliver impactful innovations that empower both industries and local communities.

Colin Dean

Managing Director, Code & Supply Co.

Colin Dean is a software engineer, community builder, and non-profit leader. He's built software for IBM Watson, Target, Vivísimo, and Arcadia, as well as for many open-source projects. He is the Managing Director of Code & Supply Co., Pittsburgh's largest community of software professionals, running its Meetups and conferences, including Abstractions, Heartifacts, devopsdays, and Steel City Ruby. By day, he is currently a Lead AI Engineer at Target, focusing on developer experience, DevOps, build engineering, code quality, and observability. He's served on the boards of five nonprofits, including two organizations he founded: Meta Mesh Wireless Communities/Community Internet Solutions, a nonprofit Wi-Fi ISP in Pittsburgh (2012–2024), and the Code & Supply Scholarship Fund, which awards conference travel grants. He served 2023–2025 on the Project Leadership Committee of the Homebrew project, the missing package manager for macOS and Linux used by millions of developers. He advises nonprofits on leadership and technical topics.

Stefinie Kelley

Vice President, IT Strategy & Operational Effectiveness, Wabtec Corporation

Stefinie Kelley is a Vice President of IT, Strategy & Operational Effectiveness and an emerging technology leader recognized for driving enterprise-wide transformation through innovation, disciplined execution, and strategic clarity. With over twenty-five years of experience across IT strategy, governance, and operational excellence, she has a proven track record of leveraging technology to advance business outcomes, optimize portfolios, and enable scalable growth in global manufacturing organizations. Known for her forward-thinking mindset and passion for problem solving, Stefinie consistently elevates how teams plan, prioritize, and deliver value. She is widely respected as a trusted advisor, people leader, and role model who upholds the highest standards of the IT profession while inspiring others to lead with purpose, accountability, and impact.

Suresh Natarajan

Senior Enterprise Architect, FedEx

Suresh is an experienced technology leader at FedEx with 23 years of expertise. With extensive knowledge of FedEx systems and operations, Suresh has established strong, trusted relationships with business partners, colleagues, and executive leadership across the organization.

Since 2018, Suresh has expanded his responsibilities with a strong focus on ensuring the accuracy of the expansive FedEx application inventory and optimizing the total cost of ownership for business operations. In December 2024, he joined the Supply Chain Operations Architecture Enablement team, where he broadened his FedEx perspective by gaining insights into the global Express and European operations. He also began mentoring architects through collaborative efforts and Community of Practice sessions. Suresh earned his master's in computer applications in 1996 from Osmania University, Hyderabad, India. Throughout his career, he has received several prestigious awards and has been recognized repeatedly as a trusted IT partner by the FedEx business areas with whom he works.

TECH FOR GOOD COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD CATEGORY FINALISTS

Lou Camerlengo

*President, fivestar**

Lou Camerlengo has 30 years of experience in designing and developing custom web and software solutions for a wide range of public, private, and corporate organizations. Along with overseeing day-to-day operations

he leads fivestar*'s business development and client retention efforts while maintaining a deep involvement in higher education, workforce, and nonprofit projects. Supporting entrepreneurship, nonprofits, gender equity, workforce development, and free speech, Lou was recognized as the Great Pittsburgh Nonprofit Association's 2021 Cross-Sector Champion Awardee – Business and was a 2025 ARM Institute Champion Awardee. He has served on the boards of Social Venture Partners Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Community Television, Pittsburgh Entrepreneur's Forum, RedChairPGH, the ARM Institute's Education and Workforce Advisory Committee, and the lay leadership team of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. Lou is an Information Systems Consulting Project Advisor at Carnegie Mellon University and holds a B.A. in Communication Studies from SUNY at Oswego.

Kelsey Derringer

CEO & Co-Founder, CodeJoy

Kelsey Derringer is an entrepreneur and educator who's invented her way into the tech industry to address the systemic inequalities she witnessed during her 20+ years in the classroom. Her journey from middle school English teacher to tech CEO is deeply rooted in Pittsburgh, from leading STEM outreach with the YWCA to pioneering national teacher training for CMU robotics company BirdBrain Technologies. Today, Kelsey's work at CodeJoy leverages 21st-century technologies to bridge the "digital divide" between classrooms with tech access, and those without. Furthermore, CodeJoy's work re-centers Pittsburgh in the world of educational media innovation by pioneering "Participatory Media", a genre created by CodeJoy where students remotely control technology in a live-broadcast setting. In the tradition of Fred Rogers, who revolutionized child-centered television in mid-century America, Kelsey's work represents the next generation of mission-driven media, ensuring technical literacy is an accessible right for every learner.

Scott Dietz

Director, Workforce Development, Catalyst Connection

Scott Dietz leads the program development and delivery of Catalyst Connection's workforce initiatives. Over the past 20 years, Scott has consulted with manufacturing companies, community-based organizations and schools on talent pipeline and career pathways across 12-counties of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Scott leads grant funded efforts for incumbent worker training, job seeker training, and various STEM initiatives. He is a frequent speaker for school districts, industry consortiums, and conferences on the topics of STEM education, manufacturing, and workforce programs. Annually, Scott works with more than 60 local school districts, 100 local manufacturing companies, and over 1,500 regional students. He holds B.S.B.A. degree in Human Resource Management from Robert Morris University.

Jacqueline Foor

Executive Director, Consortium for Public Education

Jackie Foor is the Executive Director of the Consortium for Public Education, a nonprofit organization that serves as a K-12 education/workforce development intermediary. Throughout her career, Jackie has built school-business partnerships and advocated for policies and structural changes that help youth become better prepared for their futures while also building a robust workforce for southwestern Pennsylvania. Jackie has a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Penn State, a master's degree in professional leadership from Carlow, and experience across a variety of industries including business, logistics, manufacturing, social service, and education. Through these experiences, she has seen the importance of building robust, cross-sector partnerships, to ensure all students, regardless of zip code, have access to experiences that help them explore careers and build critical skills like communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and more. These skills are ubiquitous across industries and help everyone better use and apply technology in both their professional and personal lives.

Aaron McKinnon

Director of Technology, Phase 4 Learning Center

Aaron McKinnon is a leader with a unique blend of expertise in education administration, information technology, and community engagement. He has consistently demonstrated his ability to innovate and lead

programs, ranging from workforce training and cybersecurity to violence prevention and youth mentorship. As the Director of Technology at Phase 4 Learning Center and The Best Buy Teen Tech Center, Aaron has been at the forefront of driving digital literacy and tech equity among youth. His ability to align technology strategies with organizational goals has enhanced operational efficiency and fostered a collaborative environment for cross functional teams. Aaron's leadership extends into the community, where he has built strong partnerships, engaged stakeholders, and secured funding to expand the reach and impact of his programs. His innovation has resulted in improved outcomes, increased program enrollment, enhanced participant skills, and expanded community engagement. Aaron is poised to continue making significant contributions in the community.

Dr. Andre Samuel

Founder, President & CEO, The Citizen Science Lab

Andre Samuel, a long-time resident of Washington, DC, graduated from the University of the District of Columbia with a degree in biology. Following graduate study at George Washington University in genomics and bioinformatics, he received his Ph.D. in biology from Duquesne University. At Duquesne, his research focused on studying the structure and function of the cold shock related proteins in E. coli. Dr. Samuel founded The Citizen Science Lab to introduce diverse communities to the life sciences with the long-term goal of encouraging the pursuit of careers in scientific research. Dr. Samuel's research experience includes studying toxicology and carcinogenicity effects of novel drugs, hookworm vaccine development and tuberculosis reactivation in non-human primates. Dr. Samuel has a passion for STEM education and life science research. He believes that creating fun engaging and hands-on lab experiences is the best pathway to an interest in STEM.

Terry Smith

Founder, President & CEO, M-PowerHouse of Greater Pittsburgh

Terry Smith is a Certified Biomimicry Educator and the Founder, President, and CEO of M-PowerHouse of Greater Pittsburgh, a tech-for-good nonprofit advancing equity through STEAM, workforce readiness, and edutainment. He created the R.A.P. (Robotics & Aeronautical Program), offering Saturday classes at the Energy Innovation Center where learners from grade three through adults build skills in coding, robotics, systems thinking, and biomimicry. For the past three years, M-PowerHouse students have competed in programs powered by FIRST, the world's leading youth robotics community. The R.A.P. Drone Program is the only organization in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County to certify the first Black American drone pilot emerging directly from its program through FAA Part 107 training. M-PowerHouse is a community partner of the United States Air Force 311th Recruiting Squadron and the United States Space Force, and it was recognized by Three Rivers EdTech as a Finalist for the Innovation in Education Award at TRETTC.

TECH TEAM OF THE YEAR CATEGORY FINALISTS

PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Nominated by: Deepak Nayar, Executive Vice President & CIO, Pittsburgh International Airport

The Pittsburgh International Airport IT Team is driving the new airport's globally-recognized digital transformation. Built from the ground up in just over two years, the team now delivers mission critical technology supporting terminal operations, public safety, airlines, and customer experience. During the \$1.7 billion Terminal Modernization Program, the team enabled zero downtime data center migration, deployed high availability network architecture, implemented ServiceNow automation, and delivered real-time operational intelligence. Their work has reduced downtime, improved passenger flow, strengthened security and compliance, and positioned PIT as a leader in innovation, resilience, and operational excellence.

BRENTWOOD BANK

Nominated by: David Christopher, Vice President, Director of Information Technology, Brentwood Bank

The Brentwood Bank Technology Team enables a modern, stable, and secure banking environment for a trusted community institution serving customers since 1922. Despite operating as a lean 12-person team, the group has delivered exceptional results through a disciplined 36-month strategy focused on operational

resilience, business enablement, and strong partnership. This year, the team advanced system stability through redundant infrastructure, seamless data center migrations with zero downtime, AI pilots with Microsoft Copilot, and core banking enhancements. Their relationship driven, customer first approach has strengthened performance, reliability, and trust across the organization.

GECKO ROBOTICS

Nominated by: Anmol Misra, CISO | Head of Security, Gecko Robotics

Gecko Robotics Technology and Security Team builds and protects the secure, scalable digital foundation behind Gecko's global robotics and AI platform. Over the past year, the team has modernized core systems, strengthened governance, and elevated operational reliability to support rapid growth and increasingly complex customer environments. Through disciplined execution and close cross functional collaboration, they transformed technology into a strategic enabler—earning trust in high accountability settings and quietly powering Gecko's ability to scale, innovate, and execute with confidence.

MAXIM CRANE WORKS

Nominated by: David Reed, CIO, Maxim Crane Works

Maxim's Technology Team, a lean group of 27 professionals, is focused on eliminating barriers to technology adoption while enabling the business to maximize customer, employee, and financial outcomes. In the past year, the team delivered the foundational phase of Maxim's Platform of the Future, launching a companywide paperless initiative built on a scalable Business Integration Layer.

In under 12 months, the team deployed more than 2,000 iPads enterprise wide, digitized time sheet processing across all branches and unions, implemented a modern API driven integration layer, and launched a unified Business Integration and Application Portal. This architecture now unifies 85% of enterprise reporting, supports automation at scale, and enables rapid deployment of new workflows and future acquisitions.

By prioritizing initiatives tied directly to EBITDA impact, the Technology Team eliminated approximately 60,000 hours of manual effort, accelerated invoicing by up to six days, improved payroll efficiency, and increased billing accuracy. Through deep collaboration with Operations, Finance, and field teams, IT transformed from a reactive service provider into a trusted strategic enabler, delivering measurable business impact while laying the foundation for sustained growth and scalability.

PPG

Nominated by: Bhaskar Ramachandran, VP & CIO, PPG

In 2025, the team completed a landmark Cloud-Only transformation, successfully exiting eight global data centers and migrating or retiring more than 5,000 workloads, delivering over \$4M in annual capital expense reductions, materially lowering environmental impact, and accelerating business agility. Through a security-by-design cloud self-service platform, automation at scale, embedded FinOps practices, and governed AI enablement, the team increased developer velocity by up to 80% while strengthening security, compliance, and cost transparency.

Operating as a product-centric organization, the Cloud Platforms & Solutions team empowers PPG's global businesses to innovate faster, scale responsibly, and confidently harness modern cloud and AI technologies—positioning PPG as a first-choice digital partner for its customers worldwide.

CTO OF THE YEAR CATEGORY FINALISTS

Chris Carmody

CTO, UPMC

Chris Carmody has been a health care technology leader within UPMC for more than two decades in a variety of roles. As CTO & Senior Vice President, he leads more than 1,700 IT professionals on the UPMC Bridges Project and IT Technology Shared Services including data centers, networks, cybersecurity, analytics, hospital-

based technology support, and enterprise applications. He also serves as a member of the Board of Clinical Connect Health Information Exchange, which he led as president for more than nine years. Chris also serves on the Greater Pittsburgh American Heart Association Board of Directors. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Westminster College, where he currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees. He earned both an MBA and masters degree in Information Systems Management from Robert Morris University.

Scott Phelps

Vice President, Technology, Pittsburgh Steelers

Scott Phelps is a veteran technology executive with more than 25 years of experience leading technology strategy and operations in high performance environments. Since joining the NFL in 2000, he has advanced through senior leadership roles with responsibility for enterprise infrastructure, cybersecurity, application development, digital media, analytics, and stadium technology.

Scott has served as Vice President of Technology for the Pittsburgh Steelers since 2015, overseeing the organization's technology vision and operations. In this role, he leads enterprise IT strategy, cybersecurity, infrastructure, stadium technology, and football systems, ensuring alignment between technology, business objectives, and on-field performance. His tenure reflects stable leadership and a sustained focus on secure, scalable, and evolving technology capabilities.

Previously, Scott served as Director of Information Technology from 2012 to 2015, where he led daily IT operations, advanced infrastructure modernization efforts, strengthened security and compliance programs, and helped define the team's long term technology roadmap, laying the groundwork for his transition to executive leadership.

Dr. Carlonda R. Reilly

Vice President & Chief Technology Officer, Kennametal Inc.

Dr. Carlonda R. Reilly is Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at Kennametal, where she has led the company's global technology organization for more than seven years. She oversees over 700 scientists and engineers worldwide, driving innovation across materials science, product development, and advanced manufacturing.

With 35 years of experience spanning graduate research and industry leadership, Carlonda began her career with doctoral research focused on modeling and simulation for hydrocracking of heavy oil feedstocks. She then spent 23 years at DuPont in senior roles across global technology, business, marketing, and operations. In her final five years, she served as Director and Vice President of Global Technology, leading the development and commercialization of polymer, coatings, and materials science technologies that generated more than one billion dollars in annual sales.

Sean Ways

Vice President of Product Development, Technology, and Information Security, eHealth Technologies

With more than 25 years of experience in technology leadership, Sean Ways brings deep expertise in software engineering and cybersecurity across health care and other regulated industries. He began his career as a Visual Basic programmer and has progressed into senior leadership roles, modernizing complex technology platforms.

He spent six years as Vice President of Engineering at ISACA following its acquisition of CMMI, a spinoff of Carnegie Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute, where they previously served as Vice President of Technology. In these roles, he led major infrastructure modernization efforts, launched successful commercial SaaS products, and guided a software development engagement with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration supporting medical device development.

For the past four years, Sean has helped modernize the eHealth Connect Platform and lead the company's transition into a technology-enabled services organization.

CISO OF THE YEAR CATEGORY FINALISTS

Robert Kemp

Senior Vice President, CISO, Federated Hermes

Robert Kemp is a seasoned IT executive with over two decades of experience in information security, risk management, and IT leadership with a strong track record of driving technology strategies that enhance security and compliance. He has built and led corporate IT security organizations, developing structures, tools, and policies that minimize risk while meeting regulatory standards. Known for fostering collaboration across teams, Robert creates high-performing environments that improve productivity and innovation. As a strategic advisor, he ensures technology decisions align with business goals, helping organizations navigate complex challenges. With experience managing multimillion-dollar budgets, Robert has implemented cost-effective solutions that strengthen security and efficiency. His leadership continues to shape resilient and forward-thinking IT operations. He holds B.S. degrees in accounting and finance, and holds an MBA from Robert Morris University. He has held several industry certifications in the past: CISSP, CISM, and CISA Certificates.

John Shaffer

CISO, Core Natural Resources, Inc.

John Shaffer is the Chief Information Security Officer at Core Natural Resources, Inc., where he has led the company's cybersecurity risk management program for nearly a decade. With almost 30 years of experience across energy, federal government, healthcare, higher education, and startups, John brings a rare blend of strategic leadership and hands-on expertise. He has built a NIST aligned security program focused on simplicity, risk reduction, and operational enablement, securing both IT and OT environments. John is widely respected for his servant leadership, board level engagement, and commitment to protecting critical infrastructure.

Michael Tallent

CISO, Duquesne Light Company

Michael Tallent is the Chief Information Security Officer at Duquesne Light Company, where he leads enterprise cybersecurity strategy to protect critical electric infrastructure, and enable secure grid modernization. With more than two decades of cybersecurity leadership experience, Michael brings deep expertise across IT and operational technology (OT) security, governance, and risk management. Under his leadership, Duquesne Light has advanced a NIST aligned, risk-based security program, strengthening identity security, OT resilience, cloud governance, and threat detection, while maintaining regulatory compliance. He is recognized for elevating cybersecurity as a Board level enterprise priority and enabling innovation through responsible, security by design approaches.

CIO OF THE YEAR – TERABYTE CATEGORY FINALISTS

Jason Gerard

CIO, The Pittsburgh Paints Company

Jason Gerard is the Chief Information Officer of Pittsburgh Paints Company, where he leads enterprise IT strategy, cybersecurity, and digital transformation during the company's evolution as an independent organization. Following PPC's separation from PPG, Jason successfully guided a complex IT infrastructure transition to a fully independent, cloud-based environment, ensuring business continuity, scalability, and security. He is driving innovation through cloud platforms, AI enabled analytics, modern CRM capabilities, and digital customer experiences. Known for building resilient, high performing teams, Jason partners closely with executive leadership to use technology as a strategic enabler of growth, efficiency, and competitive advantage.

Dr. Akash Khurana

Executive Vice President & Chief Information and Digital Officer, Wesco International

Dr. Akash Khurana is Executive Vice President and Chief Information and Digital Officer at Wesco International, where he leads global IT and digital organizations and drives enterprise-wide digital transformation. With more than 30 years of experience, Akash has held senior technology leadership roles at McDermott, Baker Hughes, and GE. At Wesco, he is leading a platform-led transformation that unifies operations, embeds governance and cybersecurity by design, and enables scalable growth. A Doctorate level scholar in digital transformation, AI, and cybersecurity, Akash is recognized for disciplined execution, responsible innovation, and developing high performing global teams.

Charaka Kithulegoda

Executive CIO, PNC Bank

Charaka Kithulegoda is Executive Chief Information Officer at PNC Bank, leading technology strategy and operations across retail banking, corporate & institutional banking, asset management, and enterprise platforms. With more than 25 years of global financial services experience, he drives largescale digital modernization focused on reliability, security, and simple customer experiences. At PNC, Charaka has advanced resilient cloud ready architectures, delivered modern online and mobile banking platforms, and introduced responsible AI to improve engineering productivity. He is recognized for aligning technology, business strategy, and execution to enable scalable growth and operational excellence.

Todd Porterfield

CIO, PJ Dick - Trumbull - The Lindy Group

Todd Porterfield is Chief Information Officer for PJ Dick -Trumbull -The Lindy Group, where he leads technology with a people first philosophy focused on resilience, innovation, and lasting business impact. With more than 30 years of IT experience, Todd has modernized the organization's technology foundation through cloud transformation, ERP implementation, strengthened cybersecurity, and disciplined vendor consolidation, delivering more than 1 million in cost savings. Known for turning complexity into clarity, he empowers teams to grow as leaders and ensures technology serves as a strategic force that strengthens the business, enhances collaboration, and propels the organization forward.

CIO OF THE YEAR - GIGABYTE CATEGORY FINALISTS

John Astfalk

CIO, S&B USA

John Astfalk is Chief Information Officer at S&B USA, where he leads technology strategy and digital transformation for a rapidly growing national infrastructure firm. A trusted business partner, John is known for translating ideas into scalable solutions that improve efficiency, enable data driven decision making, and support disciplined growth. He has strengthened trust between business and IT, built a high impact analytics capability, and delivered platforms such as Microsoft Power BI and Procore to modernize operations. With a practical, collaborative leadership style, John ensures technology creates lasting value across the enterprise.

Bryan Bishop

CIO Pyrotecnico/Live Events

Bryan Bishop is Chief Information Officer of Pyrotecnico and Live Events, where he leads enterprise technology, cybersecurity, systems integration, AI, and marketing to enable scalable, secure growth. With more than 25 years of experience across manufacturing, global operations, and enterprise technology, Bryan is recognized for driving operational excellence and post-acquisition integration. He has unified data and ERP systems, built a modern cloud and analytics foundation, and leveraged automation and generative AI to accelerate productivity and decision making. A trusted industry leader, Bryan is President of the Pittsburgh NetSuite ERP User Group and an Oracle SuiteWorld speaker.

Steve Blossom

Global Head of Managed Services, Chief Information Security Officer & Partner, ACA Group

Steve Blossom is the Chief Information Security Officer at ACA Group, where he leads cybersecurity strategy with a belief that security should be a business enabler, not a barrier. With more than 25 years in technology and deep security expertise, Steve has modernized ACA's infrastructure, strengthened governance and compliance, and embedded security seamlessly into business operations. He has championed enterprise automation, responsible AI adoption, and initiatives such as the ACA Hackathon to foster innovation. Known as a mentor and team builder, Steve aligns security, technology, and business objectives to drive resilience, growth, and lasting impact.

Deepak Nayyar

Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer, *Pittsburgh International Airport*

Deepak K. Nayyar is Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer of the Pittsburgh International Airport, where he leads technology strategy and execution for Pittsburgh International Airport during its \$1.7 billion terminal modernization. Recruited in 2023 to rebuild a fragmented IT environment, Deepak transformed PIT into a digitally integrated, high performing organization. Under his leadership, the airport implemented cloud-based platforms, unified data architecture, and advanced AI-driven operational intelligence, reducing system downtime by 90 percent and significantly improving passenger experience. With more than 25 years of experience, Deepak is recognized for driving measurable innovation in complex, mission critical environments.

David Reed

CIO, Maxim Crane Works

David Reed is Chief Information Officer at Maxim Crane Works, where he is leading the organization's evolution from a large business into a modern, scalable enterprise. With more than 20 years of IT experience, David brings a strong foundation in infrastructure and a strategic focus on integration, data, and operational excellence. Under his leadership, Maxim's IT team has driven field digitization, improved enterprise reporting, and delivered measurable financial impact, earning a companywide collaboration award. A dedicated mentor and advocate for teamwork, David ensures technology remains a trusted partner in driving growth, efficiency, and long-term business success.