



**2021 CIO/CISO of the Year Finalists,  
Rising Star Finalists, & CIO Choice Winner**

***CIO Category: Small University/Non-Profit***

**Melissa Alsing**

*CIO*

*Seton Hill University*

Melissa Alsing is the Chief Information Officer at Seton Hill University, a position she has held since 2015. In this role, Melissa sets priorities for the University's information technology staff and manages Seton Hill's network infrastructure, academic technology support, administrative software support, telecommunications, media services, web and cloud development, and the Help Desk. Alsing began her work at Seton Hill in 2009 and has served in several roles, including Director of Information Systems, DBA, Executive Director of Information Technology and Acting CIO. Prior to Seton Hill, Alsing worked for eight years at Chatham University in Pittsburgh, PA, where she served as Manager of Administrative Systems, DBA; Manager of Web Development; Web Development Specialist and Administrative Computing Specialist.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Information Systems from Clarion University and an MBA from Chatham.

**William Showers**

*CIO*

*Pittsburgh Technical College*

William Showers has been at Pittsburgh Technical College for over 20 years and has been in his current CIO position since 2018. Throughout his time and within various positions at the College, he has continued to be a hands-on leader while managing teams responsible for a diverse set of data initiatives across the company, supervising department operations, and providing guidance for the continued development of an innovative, resilient, and secure information technology environment throughout the Pittsburgh Technical College.

He holds an Associate's Degree from Pittsburgh Technical Institute and a Bachelor's Degree in Information and Technology Management from Point Park University.

**Larry Trenga**

*CIO*

*Wesley Family Services*

Larry Trenga has 30 years' experience in IT with 15 years as Software Developer and Software Development Manager and 15 years managing Infrastructure and Operations, including his most recent five years as the CIO of Wesley Family Services. Trenga was hired as CIO of Family Services of Western PA in March 2016 and successfully managed the merger with Wesley Spectrum Services to form Wesley Family Services. He previously worked for Union Switch & Signal, US Airways, and Education Management Corporation as a Software Developer. Trenga was also employed by Education Management Corporation for nearly 20 years where they grew from eight locations to over 150. Trenga's focus in IT has always been focused around driving and enabling the business. This business-focused positioning of IT services has ensured very high levels of customer services and successful project delivery.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master's Degree in International Management from STOA.

***CIO Category: Large University*****Charles Graham**

*ITS Vice President & CIO*

*Community College of Allegheny County*

Charles Graham has over 30 years in technology industry and started his career as a Software Engineer in various business sectors including Financial Services, Retail, Manufacturing, and Healthcare. After 10 years in the industry, Graham returned to graduate school and refined his skills in Project Management to become a certified PMP, Process Improvement Lean/Six Sigma, and various certifications. While working toward his MBA, Graham founded Nudynamix, a start-up IT professional services firm. As the principle of the organization, he successfully led the company for five years before selling it to pursue his goals in IT leadership.

He holds both a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science (graduating Alpha Sigma Lambda) and an MBA in Management Information Systems and Services from Point Park University.

**Phillip Miller**

*CIO*

*Robert Morris University*

Phillip Miller is the Chief Information Officer for Robert Morris University. He has over 20 years of Information Technology experience and in areas including application development, server systems, storage, virtualization, cloud migration, and telecommunications.

He holds both a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Degree in Management Information Systems and an MBA from Robert Morris University.

**Stan Waddell, Ph.D.**

*Vice President, IT & CIO*

*Carnegie Mellon University*

Stan Waddell, a senior information technology specialist, joined Carnegie Mellon University in April 2019 as Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer. In this role, Dr. Waddell provides vision, leadership, and management to CMU's entire computing enterprise. Waddell was recently promoted to Vice President for Information Technology & CIO and serves as a member of the Executive Management Team. Prior to joining CMU, Waddell worked at the University of New Hampshire as the Associate Vice President for Information Technology and CIO. Waddell has enjoyed a long career in higher education technology. He is also a veteran of the U.S. Navy. Waddell has held both the PMP and CISSP credentials.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Old Dominion University, a Master of Science from the University of Texas at Dallas, and a Doctorate in Information Systems from Nova Southeastern University.

***CIO Category: Megabyte***

**Brian Vogel**

*CIO*

*TeleTracking Technologies, Inc.*

Brian Vogel is a native of the Pittsburgh area and Marine Corps veteran. For the past 22 years, he has served in a variety of IT leadership roles within the 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—he has led teams in IT Support, Infrastructure, Business Analysis, and Project Management and has been IT lead for a division of one of his prior employers. In his current role, 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 his team can deliver results.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the United States Naval Academy and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh.

**Jack Wolford**

*CIO*

*Schneider Downs*

Jack Wolford has over 32 years' experience in Information Technology and Computer Systems and Project Management. He has implemented security systems, policies, and procedures to achieve PCI compliance, executed security policies and standard operating procedures to ensure Sarbanes Oxley compliance, and developed disaster recovery and data security plans. Wolford was the Director of Information Technology for 12 years at Interstate Hotels that managed over 400 hotels globally. He was also the Vice President of Technology for MTR Gaming where he directed the IT operations of 10+ Casino/Hotel resorts. His efforts are characterized by his positive outlook and creative problem-solving skills.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Robert Morris University.

***CIO Category: Gigabyte***

**Jim Dye**

*CTO*

*#1 Cochran Automotive*

Jim Dye is a serial technologist with a passion for blending management, business, strategy, and technology into innovative solutions to resolve problems and drive success. From working within bleeding-edge, hyper-growth tech startups to global organizations, he has established himself as a proven, collaborative, and influential leader known for building highly effective teams, encouraging open exchanges of ideas, creatively solving complex problems, and delivering solutions across high-profile, international projects under tight timelines and constraints. Dye joined the #1 Cochran team in 2019 as CTO to drive digital transformation throughout the organization with an emphasis on continuously improving the customer experience, supporting the Southwestern PA community, partnering across Cochran's team members, and heavily supporting the strategic positioning of the business for long-term success.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Information Science and Information Systems from the University of Pittsburgh, an MBA from the University of Phoenix, and a Master of Science in Information Technology/IT Management from Carnegie Mellon University.

**Summer Fowler**

*CIO*

*Argo AI*

Summer Fowler is an accomplished C-Suite executive and cybersecurity expert with 20 years' experience developing technical strategies and leading engineering teams to achieve aggressive technical goals while also in hyper-growth mode. Fowler is the CIO for Argo AI, an artificial intelligence company

headquartered in Pittsburgh's Strip District focused on self-driving vehicle technology. In this role, she develops and leads the strategy and execution of both the IT and cybersecurity teams while also leading Facilities, Logistics, and Physical Security at Argo. Fowler previously led the technical activities of a successful international acquisition of a company with 300+ employees in the EU. Prior to Argo, she was a Technical Director at Carnegie Mellon University's SEI/CERT program. She is a Board Director for local non-profit PA Women Work and is on the audit committee of a large healthcare organization.

She holds both a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and a Master's Degree in Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh. She is also a graduate of the Leadership and Negotiation Academy for Women at Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business.

### **Scott Phelps**

*Vice President, Technology  
Pittsburgh Steelers*

Scott Phelps has worked for the Pittsburgh Steelers for over 20 years. He directs a team that manages the IT infrastructure and systems for both the UPMC Rooney Sports Performance Complex and Heinz Field. Phelps is responsible for setting IT strategies and ensuring alignment with business initiatives throughout the organization, including working with various departments and delivering solid IT systems. Phelps is charged with driving the organization forward with technologies that provide a better experience for fans, players, coaches, and staff. He began his career working in the IT department with the NFL's Carolina Panthers as an IT Network Assistant. Phelps returned to his hometown to work for the Steelers, where he had served as a ball boy throughout high school.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management Information Systems from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Science in Information Technology from Western Governors University.

### ***CIO Category: Terabyte***

#### **Michael Abram**

*CIO  
Westinghouse Electric Company*

Michael Abram is the Chief Information Officer at Westinghouse Electric Company, a leading provider of nuclear plant products and services to utilities throughout the world including fuel, service and maintenance, instrumentation and control, and advanced nuclear plant designs. Westinghouse has 60+ global operating locations and 9,000 employees totaling \$3.5B in revenues. Abram is directly responsible for 200 full-time IT employees and 70 third party resources supporting strategy, global data center, global network, cyber security, SAP ERP, corporate applications, help desk, desk side support, cybersecurity, and audit. Previously, he was the Director of IT for Arconic Engineered Structures (AES) from June 2015 to November 2019. During his tenure at AES, Mike led the integration of the RTI International Metals acquisition and developed the overall IT strategy for the division.

He holds both a Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology and an MBA in E-Commerce from Duquesne University.

**Steven Bugajski**

*Vice President & CIO*

*US Steel*

Steven Bugajski has been the Vice President & Chief Information Officer at US Steel since 2019. In this role, he has responsibility for the oversight and leadership of US Steel's entire global IT, including delivery of the corporation's overall Digital Strategy and Cybersecurity. Prior to his arrival at US Steel, Bugajski spent much of his IT career in the healthcare field holding senior IT leadership positions at large hospital health systems and healthcare insurance companies. He currently holds leadership roles in several IT professional organizations, including IT and Business Advisory Boards for Penn State University and the United Way of Allegheny County. Bugajski is also an active member of the Greater Pittsburgh CIO Group and the Pittsburgh Technology Council.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems from Penn State University and an MBA from Waynesburg University.

**Tushar Lovalekar**

*Vice President, IT*

*Koppers Inc.*

Tushar Lovalekar is currently the Vice President of Global IT Operations and a member of the Leadership Council at Koppers. During his 20-year tenure at Koppers, Lovalekar has held various positions in IT and worked on initiatives related to ERP systems, mobile computing, data analytics, SOX compliance, and cybersecurity. Lovalekar led the efforts to establish an enterprise-wide PMO. As Koppers continues its growth, Lovalekar and his team have optimized the M&A IT integration process, resulting in accelerated realization of synergies across various business functions. In his current role, Lovalekar focuses on stakeholder relations, IT strategy, IT governance, risk and compliance, digital transformation, and innovation.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering from University of Mumbai and a diploma in business management from NMIMS School of Business Management. Lovalekar is also a graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh LP XXXVI. His certifications include ITIL Foundations and Management Essentials from the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business.

**Ramkumar Rayapureddy**

*CIO*

*Viatrix*

Ram Rayapureddy leads the Viatrix IT strategy as Chief Information Officer. He has predominantly worked in the pharmaceutical industry for approximately 30 years with various leadership roles in business, compliance, automation, and information technology. He has extensive experience in managing complex global initiatives both in business and technology across Asia, Europe, and North America. Currently Rayapureddy and his team are working on various initiatives in strengthening their core IT systems and leading digital transformation initiatives. He remains committed to building the Viatrix culture through a global pandemic with an emphasis on work/life balance and smart execution. He promotes diversity and inclusion within IT by attracting more diverse talent to the team. His personal motivations align with Viatrix' core mission of Access, Leadership, and Partnership.

He holds a Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering from the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Clemson University.

***Category: CISO of the Year*****Robert "Bucky" Buckingham**

*Sr. Director, Information Services*

*Presbyterian SeniorCare Network*

With 35+ years' experience in IT, Robert "Bucky" Buckingham has extensive knowledge in Information Security, Project Management, and IT functions with a proven record in IT governance, global security, frameworks, and privacy regulations with additional experience remediating audit recommendations. He works to create policies and procedures to adhere to regulations while balancing risk management and security concerns with best practices and business needs to achieve appropriate infrastructure, application functionality, and data security. He showcases strong team management and prioritization skills with the ability to work across all levels of management, stakeholders, IT, and vendors.

Buckingham is technically proficient with expertise in security, project management, strategic planning, crisis management, problem solving, vendor negotiations, policy/procedures, disaster recovery, budgeting, and design.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business (Economics) from Washington & Jefferson College and a Master's Degree in Information Systems Management from Robert Morris University.

**David Coughanour**

*Sr. Director, Cybersecurity*

*Ansys*

David Coughanour has over 20 years' experience in various security roles and is currently responsible for Cybersecurity at Ansys. Previously he served as the Director of Security at K&L Gates and was an SVP

with PNC Bank running their Cyber Operations group. He began his career in the U.S. Marine Corps and later PA Army National Guard with two sea service deployments, two years in Iraq and a four-month deployment to Afghanistan. He has also supported various programs within the Department of Justice and Department of Defense with a primary focus on digital forensics during counterterrorism operation.

He holds a Master's Degree in Cybersecurity from Utica College, CISO Certificate from Carnegie Mellon University, and a range of industry certifications.

**Robert Polk**

*Vice President of Information Security & Disaster Recovery, CISO  
American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.*

Bob Polk serves as the Vice President of Information Security & Disaster Recover, Chief Information Security Officer at American Eagle Outfitters, Inc., a multi-brand specialty retailer offering an assortment of apparel and accessories for men and women under the American Eagle Outfitters brand, and intimates, apparel, and personal care products for women under the Aerie brand. He assumed his position in 2020, and he has over 21 years' experience in the Information Security field across retail and financial services sectors.

**Julie Ray**

*Sr. Director & CISO  
US Steel*

Julie Ray is the Chief Information Security Officer at US Steel. Over nearly 19 years with the company, Julie has held leadership roles in Infrastructure and Cybersecurity. She developed the first Cybersecurity Compliance program, building critical capabilities to advance the Cybersecurity program. Julie is an active member of the Greater Pittsburgh CISO Group (recently named to the Advisory Board), serves on the Editorial Review Board for two peer-review journals, and is an active member of the animal rescue community serving on the Board of Directors for Biggies Bullies and as a dog walker for Humane Animal Rescue.

Julie holds a Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, and a Doctorate from Robert Morris University. She recently completed the CISO Certificate at Carnegie Mellon University, where she was awarded the Best of the Cohort Award for her group's case study. She also holds a Certified Information Systems Security Professional certification.



***Category: Rising Star***

**Jim DeAngelis**

*Software Developer*

*Port Authority of Allegheny County*

Jim DeAngelis has been in IT for over 25 years. After beginning his IT career at Black Box Corporation, where he worked for 17 years, he moved to Dick's Sporting Goods before finally landing at Port Authority of Allegheny County. DeAngelis contributes much of his success at Port Authority to the effectiveness of the work environment. Port Authority has an environment conducive to teamwork coupled with a good balance of training and leadership. In his current role as Software Developer, he has been given the tools needed to create great applications as well as the time required to focus and reach goals that have been set.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Information Sciences from Robert Morris University (graduating Summa Cum Laude) and has continued with education throughout his entire career earning several Microsoft Certifications including MCP, MCAD, and MCSA Web Applications.

**Joe Gallo**

*Manager, Hosting Services and Petrotechnical Applications*

*CNX Resources*

Joe Gallo has over 24 years of IT experience supporting the public, private, government, and non-profit sectors. He enjoys helping others and solving complex problems, as he did when he started his IT career in 1997. Over the last two decades, he has been blessed with the opportunity to broaden his IT skillset and support many different technologies. Since joining CNX Resources in 2005, Gallo has been engaged with numerous projects big and small. He has directly been involved with leading and influencing the change of CNX's IT landscape evolution from physical to virtual and, most recently, the migration of over 200 systems to an Enterprise Cloud Solution/Co-Lo Datacenter. Gallo actively seeks ways to streamline and utilize the latest technology at its fullest. He has enjoyed every minute of his career and the people he interacts with daily.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Information Systems from the University of Mount Union and an MBA from Waynesburg College. He also has earned an ITIL Foundation Level Certification from New Horizons Computer Learning Centers.

**Kristina Kowalski**

*Implementations Manager*

*Foundation Radiology Group*

Kristina Kowalski is currently the Implementations & Compliance Manager at Foundation Radiology Group focusing on new/current client implementations and IT-related compliance such as SOC2/HITRST. For both clients and internal employees, Kowalski functions as a liaison helping non-IT folks understand

and relate to these details. Outside of work in her downtime, Kowalski is an avid baker and mediocre stand-up paddleboarder.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management Information Systems from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and an MBA in Health Systems Management (focusing on Health Systems within the Pittsburgh area) from Point Park University.

### ***CIO Choice Award Winner***

#### **Chris Caruso**

*Vice President & CIO*

*PPG (Retired)*

Chris Caruso is the former Vice President & CIO at PPG. He retired in March 2021 after a 24-year career with the firm. During his tenure, Chris provided IT leadership for PPG's automotive refinish, protective and marine coatings, architectural coatings, flat glass, and fiberglass businesses. In 2016, Chris was appointed to the CIO role and under his leadership, IDG Communication's Insider Pro and Computerworld named PPG one of the "Best Places to Work in IT" in 2016 and 2020, and the PPG IT organization received the highly coveted CIO 100 award for IT innovation in 2018 and 2020. Chris also holds three patents for digital color selection, visualization, and color coordination of home décor products.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from the University of Pittsburgh and has earned an Executive Certificate in Strategy and Innovation from the MIT Sloan School of Management.