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SPECIAL SECTION

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ASSOCIATION

October 19-25, 2018

CIO OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The 20th annual Georgia CIO of the Year Orbie Awards program honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Super Global, Global, Enterprise, Corporate – Large, Corporate, Healthcare and Nonprofit/ Public Sector categories will be announced Oct. 26 at the Cobb Galleria.



**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**

PAT GELSINGER

"I'm very well aware of hard work as a basis to be successful."

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**LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT**

BOB DERODES

Celebrated for career achievement.

PAGE 8



**SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS**

ANANNYA DAS

Georgia State University student is among four receiving GeorgiaCIO scholarships.

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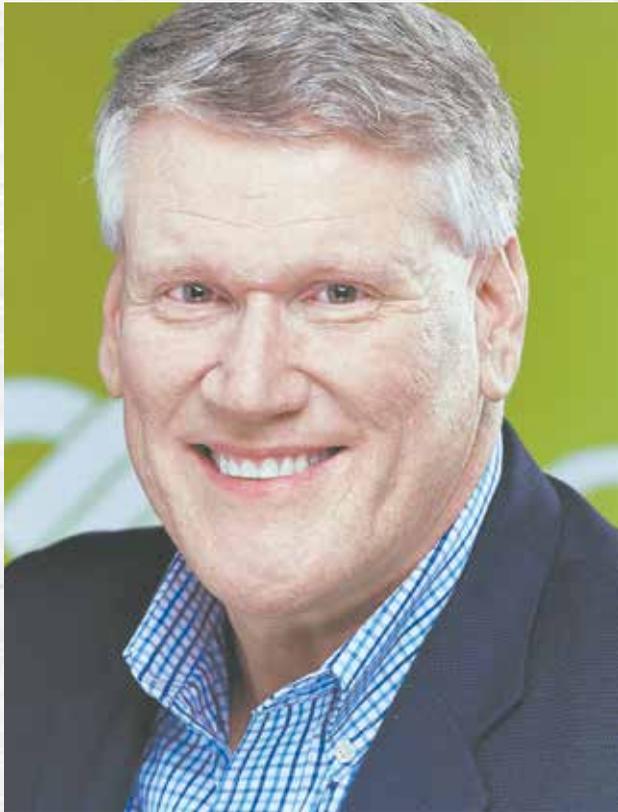
ORBIE® AWARD NOMINEES

JOHN ADAMSON <i>Floor & Décor</i>	MARTIN DAVIS <i>Southern Company Operations & Southern Nuclear</i>	NOLAN HENNESSEE <i>St Joseph's/Candler Health System</i>	GREGORY MILLER <i>Genuine Parts Company</i>	RENEE ROTH <i>Synovus</i>
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TOM BLAND <i>Cobb EMC</i>	ANNEMARIE EADES <i>University of West Georgia</i>	AMIR KAZMI <i>WestRock</i>	TOM MUSGRAVE <i>Americold Logistics, LLC</i>	STEVE SEIDNER <i>Yancey Bros. Co.</i>
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JULIA DAVIS <i>AFLAC</i>				

2018 CIO OF THE YEAR

20 YEARS OF CIO SUCCESS

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



SPECIAL

In 1998, when the first Georgia CIO of the Year Orbie Awards were presented, it was the products, not the people, who were at the center of attention. Laptop of the Year, Printer of the Year and PC Magazine's Editor's Choice awards were common, but it was a start-up called Intellinet that noticed the real heroes were chief information officers who implemented these products, developed solutions and created business value for their organizations.

Roll the clock ahead 20 years, and today CIOs are at the center of business transformation for all organizations. Technology is the engine that drives innovation and growth in every industry and sector in our global economy. It is the leaders who facilitate change by tech-enabling their organizations who are the rock stars of business today.

This year, over 150 nominations were received for the Georgia CIO Orbie Awards, which will honor CIOs across seven categories for leadership effectiveness and business value created through innovative use of technology. Finalists and winners are selected through a rigorous, independent judging process led by prior Orbie winners.

The Georgia CIO of the Year Awards program was not only a trailblazer for recognizing the people leading transformation, but eventually led to creating the Georgia CIO Leadership Association (GeorgiaCIO), a member-centric professional organization dedicated to helping corporate technology leaders foster meaningful relationships, share best practices, solve problems and achieve their leadership potential.

In 2015, the first sister chapter of GeorgiaCIO was established in Boston by Brian Shield, which led to forming the Inspire CIO Leadership Network (InspireCIO), a national professional association for chief information officers with chapters in Georgia, Boston, Dallas, Chicago, Alabama, Charlotte, Houston, Minneapolis, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. – a movement among CIOs to expand strategic relationships, recognize professional achievements and develop technology leaders around the country.

The power of CIOs working together – across public and private business, government, education, healthcare and nonprofit organizations – is incredible. Together, we are making a difference transforming our organizations with technology and enriching Georgia and our world.

The CIOs honored this year are inspiring and challenge all of us to step up and lead well in our organizations. On behalf of GeorgiaCIO, I congratulate all the finalists on their accomplishments and share our gratitude for the sponsors, underwriters and staff who make the 2018 CIO Orbie Awards possible.

Sincerely,

Bill VanCuren
2018 Chair, GeorgiaCIO
Senior Vice President and CIO, NCR Corp.

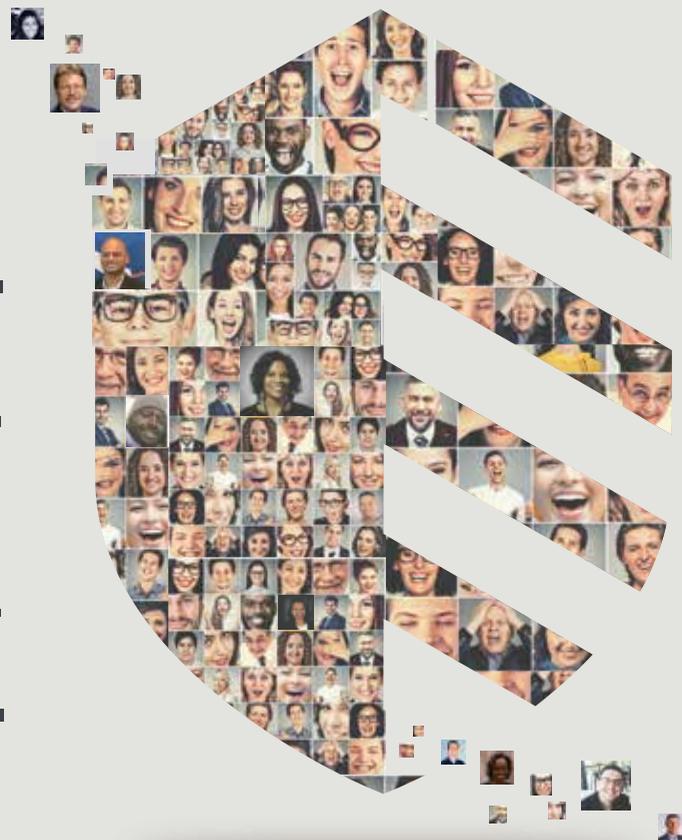
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2018 CIO OF THE YEAR



SPECIAL

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: PAT GELSINGER

VMware's Values-Based Leader

BY GARY MCKILLIPS
gmckill@hotmail.com

A trek up Mount Kilimanjaro is probably as good a metaphor as any for **Pat Gelsinger's** career and his unceasing desire to help others.

This year's keynote speaker at the GeorgiaCIO's CIO of the Year Awards celebration has risen from an 18-year old entry-level employee at Intel to the CEO of **VMware**, a global leader in cloud infrastructure and digital workspace technology. Along the way, he has helped lift the health and well-being of people around the world through a variety of charitable efforts, including one involving a trip up Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa.

Climbing the 19,341-foot peak was on Gelsinger's bucket list, but his real motivation was to help raise money for an organization called **Missions of Hope International**, which supports orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya. In this case his efforts supported the building of a high school for girls.

It is his human qualities, coupled with his business and technology acumen, that make Gelsinger appreciated by peers and associates alike. "I am

at the stage where I want to work for a good person and for a company that does good things," Bask Iyer, chief information officer for VMware, said. "Pat is a person who talks about values as much as he talks about results."

Betsy Sutter, chief people officer for the company, said, "As a values-driven person, Pat is resolute that doing the right thing is always the best course."

She noted, "In my role as the CPO, I've been empowered to create a platform for individuals and communities to make decisions...that enable them to live their best lives."

Gelsinger grew up on a farm in rural Pennsylvania. He understands the value of hard work, noting his father was one of nine brothers, all of whom went into farming. He said one time he attended a family reunion and noticed something odd – the nine brothers were each missing a finger. Gelsinger said it was then he knew he had made the right career choice. "Farming is a hard life," he added, noting "I'm very well aware of hard work as a basis to be successful."

That road to success really began when he was midway through high school and tested for a two-year scholarship to Lincoln Technical Institute. He won the scholarship and by the time he

was 18 had both a high school diploma and a two-year degree. He then received an offer from Intel and headed to California. "I'll tell you, as soon as I touched a computer I knew this is what I wanted to do the rest of my life," he said. Gelsinger then juggled his job and school to earn a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Santa Clara University and a master's from Stanford University.

During this time, Gelsinger also made a personal commitment to Christianity. That commitment deepened when he and wife, Linda, attended a conference at which the speaker "challenged us to give to charity an increasing percentage of our gross income every year." He added, "My wife and I took that seriously and what started out with your typical 10 percent tithe is now closing in on 50 percent of our gross income." He also noted the commitment goes beyond just money, but "includes our time, credibility and skills."

Gelsinger's career at Intel spanned 30 years. He is the holder of seven patents and helped create such innovations as USB, Wi-Fi and other technologies that grew out of what the CEO calls the "Silicon" period. Now, said Gelsinger, the center of the high-tech industry "has moved from silicon and hardware to

software and cloud services," where he is again in the center of the action.

Sanjay Poolen, VMware's chief operating officer/customer operations, said he's worked with many CEOs who are good salespeople but have nowhere near his CEO's depth of technical knowledge. "His mind is like a 486 processor," noted Poolen. "He has the depth of knowledge and lots of space and memory to cover many things."

Gelsinger said his personal goal was "to work on a piece of technology that touches every human on the planet in every modality of life." With half of humanity connected via mobile devices and with the cloud, IoT (Internet of Things) and AI (artificial intelligence) he thinks his goal is becoming a reality.

His most critical message to CIOs is "to rise up! Your period as a leader in technology is not just to keep the email running, but to shape the technology as a force for good."

The CEO said he is also bullish on Atlanta. In 2014 VMware acquired AirWatch, an enterprise mobility management provider with 2,500 employees headquartered in Sandy Springs. VMware also continues to recruit talented employees from the Atlanta area for the company's headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif.



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Georgia CIO of the Year® Award Finalists
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Congratulations to the Nominees | 2018 Georgia CIO of the Year® Awards



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2018 CIO OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS

Super Global: Multinational organizations with over \$5 billion annual revenue**DAVE HUDSON, CIO, VERITIV CORP.**

- ▶ **Bio:** Hudson has more than 20 years of experience managing large-scale IT operations, change management, technology deployments and enterprise solutions in global business environments. Prior to Veritiv, he was chief business strategy officer, senior vice president technology strategy at Amtrak in Washington, D.C. Prior to that position, Hudson was CIO for Insight Global. He has bachelor's and master's degrees from Kennesaw State University and an MBA from Emory University, and is a U.S. Army veteran.
- ▶ **Success story:** While discussing a project with one of my leaders, I suggested we go talk to the teammate leading it and asked if he was available. My team leader said, "He is, but he's out for a walk." Our teammate had a health issue for which his doctor had prescribed regular walks. Learning of this, two other team members put the walks on their own calendars twice a day to support him. At that moment, I knew that I had built a strong and effective team that truly cares for each other.

**AMIR KAZMI, CIO, WESTROCK**

- ▶ **Bio:** Kazmi has led IT integrations of several global companies with operations in Europe, Asia and Australia, and has been the recipient of the national Asian American Engineer of the Year award. Previously, he served as the CEO of a nanotechnology startup in Silicon Valley and has held multiple roles and led several commercial product development initiatives for Lockheed Martin. Kazmi earned his master's degree from John Hopkins University and bachelor's degree from Mount Saint Mary's University, and has taken graduate courses in predictive analytics at Northwestern University.
- ▶ **Success story:** It is a privilege to lead a world-class IT organization at WestRock. I am proud of my global team. We are leveraging disruptive technology to enable WestRock's digital transformation by applying advanced analytics to our global operations and providing our customers with differentiated experiences. I believe our digital strategy will help us achieve our vision to be the premier partner and unrivaled provider of winning solutions to our customers.

**DARLA MORSE, CIO, INSPIRE BRANDS**

- ▶ **Bio:** Morse previously served as CIO for Arby's Restaurant Group Inc. Prior to joining Arby's, she was CIO of SeaWorld, where she led the technology teams supporting SeaWorld's corporate headquarters and 12 parks. Before joining SeaWorld, Morse held technology roles with Walt Disney World Resorts for more than 17 years. She is an alumna of Florida-Southern College and also earned an MBA from Webster University.
- ▶ **Success story:** It has been an incredibly fulfilling experience helping launch Inspire Brands. It's not every day that you have the opportunity to be part of a team creating technology strategy for a multi-brand organization. The systems and processes we are establishing will create a platform to strengthen how our 4,600 restaurants do business, resulting in a better way for our guests to interact with all of our brands. We are excited for our future as we continue to help our brands identify new opportunities to leverage synergies, scale and technology innovation that will continue to enhance the overall guest experience.

**JUAN PEREZ, CHIEF INFORMATION AND ENGINEERING OFFICER, UPS**

- ▶ **Bio:** After serving as vice president of technology at UPS, Perez was appointed CIO in 2016 and to his current role in April 2017. His career has covered assignments in operations, industrial engineering, process management and technology in corporate, U.S., and international business units. A member of several professional organizations and recipient of several awards, Perez holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Southern California.
- ▶ **Success story:** My greatest success in this role is to have the opportunity to work with amazing IT and business professionals in a company recognized by its integrity, brand presence and commitment to service. Together, we are building technology solutions that help our teams and our customers solve some of the most complex logistics problems in the world. I am proud of what our team has accomplished, but even more excited about future technology innovation that will help our customers and their businesses thrive.

**DON SLOAN, CIO, RANDSTAD US**

- ▶ **Bio:** Sloan joined Randstad in 2014 as senior vice president of applications and has served as CIO since January of 2017. Prior to Randstad, he was CIO for Kforce. Sloan has bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of South Florida.
- ▶ **Success story:** My first inclination is to reference a major project or initiative that contributed to our strategic success as an organization. That said, these accomplishments are reflections of a team that has evolved, developed and improved in tremendous ways and continues to do so. I am fortunate enough to be surrounded by great people and strong leaders. Enabling them to be successful and grow this organization in a meaningful way has been my greatest accomplishment. Projects and initiatives will come and go, but the right team with the right leadership has the greatest impact on an organization.

2018 CIO OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS

Global: Multinational organizations with over \$500 million annual revenue



RYAN ENGLISH, CIO, INSIGHT GLOBAL

- ▶ **Bio:** Previously, English was vice president of product management and professional services at Vigilar and also global director of fortify on demand at HP. He has spoken at several global industry events, and has an MBA from Regis University and a bachelor's degree from The University of Alabama.
- ▶ **Success story:** My most significant achievement has been hiring and developing great talent. In IT, we always talk about people, process and technology. If you don't have great people, the technology and processes are irrelevant. Hiring and developing great talent takes focus and dedication, and isn't a one-time event. You have to constantly reinvent how you motivate and challenge your team, and nothing is more rewarding than seeing your workforce grow and mature into a world-class IT organization.



SEAN KRAMER, CIO, SITEONE LANDSCAPE SUPPLY (FORMERLY JOHN DEERE LANDSCAPES)

- ▶ **Bio:** Prior to joining SiteOne, Kramer spent eight years at Chrysler LLC and six years at Volkswagen Group of America supporting their public web sites, order management systems, business intelligence systems and data center operations. Kramer holds a BSBA in management information systems from Central Michigan University, a master's degree from Walsh College, an MBA from University of Michigan-Flint and a master's degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.
- ▶ **Success story:** My greatest success at SiteOne has been the team that we have built. I diversified my circle of influence and brought in leaders that had a myriad of skill sets from different backgrounds. The collaboration and focus on "winning" is a common trait with all of them. All understand the company vision and have a deep commitment to the group's decisions. Each are unique and creative, but we make high-quality decisions together as a team. We received enormous support from our executive team to build out a world-class IT organization and while it's just beginning, we are starting to see the dividends pay off.



CHRIS LINDNER, CIO, MANHATTAN ASSOCIATES INC.

- ▶ **Bio:** Lindner has more than 20 years of IT experience in the financial services, e-commerce and supply chain industries. Prior to joining Manhattan Associates, he was director for the enterprise technology group for Fiserv, responsible for the company's more than 70 data centers. He joined Fiserv in 2008 from KPMG.
- ▶ **Success story:** My greatest success in my current role has been the transformation of IT to a services-focused, outcome-driven organization. We have been able to drive business value across the entire portfolio of IT services, allowing Manhattan Associates to modernize key processes and platforms while continuing to drive investment in product innovation and growth. In doing so, we have been able to simplify/modernize our application portfolio, core infrastructure platforms and drive significant reinvestment in the company's core business and products.



EDWINA PAYNE, VICE PRESIDENT AND CIO, AVANOS MEDICAL

- ▶ **Bio:** Prior to Avanos, Payne was vice president and CIO at Zimmer Biomet. She has more than 30 years of global IT experience, beginning her career at Kellogg Co. Following Kellogg, she joined Johnson & Johnson in 1999 in their DePuy orthopaedics medical device unit. She became vice president and program manager for a department before joining Zimmer Biomet in 2010. Payne has a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and serves on several boards.
- ▶ **Success story:** When I joined Avanos (formerly Halyard), my challenge was two-fold: restore credibility in IT and reduce our spend. After arriving, I discovered a third: participate on the divestiture team to sell two-thirds of our business. The first challenge was fairly easy: partner with my peers, translate IT speak into business terms and ensure IT delivered on the things that mattered. I developed an IT strategy which aligned with our objectives of growth and acquisition, and renegotiated contracts to reduce spend. Lastly, I negotiated the sale of our IT assets with the divestiture, giving us funding to implement our IT strategy and drive our future business growth.



PATRICIA WATSON, CIO, TSYS

- ▶ **Bio:** Watson joined TSYS with more than 17 years of experience in the financial services industry serving in a variety of technology-related roles. Most recently she was vice president and global CIO for The Brinks Co. Prior to Brinks, Watson worked with Bank of America for more than 14 years in a number of technology positions. She earned a bachelor's degree from Saint Mary's College at Notre Dame and an MBA from the University of Dayton. She also served for 10 years in the U.S. Air Force and in a variety of volunteer and board roles.
- ▶ **Success story:** Building a high-performing cohesive team is my biggest accomplishment. When I arrived, I spent time with our internal partners and customers to better understand what they needed from IT, resulting in confirmation that we had to transform into an agile, software engineering organization. Change is hard, so it was essential to get buy-in from leadership and get our team members excited about our digital transformation. The fact that we rebuilt our organization internally, by putting team members in new roles that fit their strengths, is a true testament to them and integral to the success of execution of our technology strategy.

2018 CIO OF THE YEAR



SPECIAL

BOB DERODES

*CIO of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award***BOB DERODES**

- ▶ **Hometown:** Wooster, Ohio
- ▶ **Current City:** Atlanta, Ga.
- ▶ **Education:** Bachelor of science in business administration, St. Louis University; MBA, University of Texas at Austin
- ▶ **Current Position:** Founder and president, DeRodes Enterprises LLC
- ▶ **Past jobs:** Wooster Brush Co., J. M. Smucker Co., Society Corp., Centerre Bancorporation, USAA, American Airlines, Citibank, Delta Air Lines, Home Depot, First Data, Target
- ▶ **Family:** Married with a son and twin daughters
- ▶ **Hobbies:** Audio video enthusiast; sports fan

BY RANDY SOUTHERLAND
Contributing Writer

When you develop a reputation as a transformation leader and solver of big problems, you never want for work in technology.

Over a 46-year professional career, **Bob DeRodes** has brought these skills to a wide-ranging list of major multi-national corporations and top industry leaders. He is being recognized for Lifetime Achievement as part of the Georgia CIO of the Year Orbie Awards.

DeRodes has built a career upon taking complex, demanding jobs at big companies that needed to change and change quickly. These have included some of the best-known brands in their industry.

The emerging information technology industry was still young when

DeRodes got his first job in 1969. An injury had ended his college football career, so he went in search of another way to finance college. He was hired on as a computer operator at the Wooster Brush Co., in his hometown of Wooster, Ohio.

“Data processing was the new emerging profession, it looked interesting, so I jumped in as a night-shift computer operator and I’ve been in the profession ever since,” said DeRodes. “Back then the industry was called data processing. Of course, we dropped that term decades ago, but no matter whatever you’re dealing with, it’s always about the data and always about the business processes.”

He developed a keen understanding for not just how to move and store data, but ensuring that information technology was always closely aligned with helping businesses reach their strate-

gic goals.

Over the years he has worked for a wide variety of companies including manufacturers, banks, financial services, software security, arms manufacturing, cruise industry and even famed jelly and jam maker J.M. Smucker Co.

After a series of successful engagements, DeRodes arrived in Atlanta to take on a job with **Delta Air Lines Inc.** The company had originally outsourced its IT functions, but then decided to bring them in-house. They would be housed inside a subsidiary company called Delta Technology. He would serve as CEO.

DeRodes is someone who is not afraid to take on big ideas and try to turn them into reality, according to Ron Stewart, president and CEO of PRGX Global, Inc.

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2018 CIO OF THE YEAR

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Then a partner with Accenture, Stewart was leading a series of projects with the airline when he got to know DeRodes.

Following the terrorist attacks on 9/11, 2001, they partnered on developing a new approach to airline security.

"We thought it had a lot of legs," said Stewart. "We took it to the powers that be at Delta and they were pretty supportive, so we went through a process of taking this up to Washington and lobbying together on an alternative path towards airline security. That was a great experience; he had a lot of ideas and was always willing to consider a new innovative thing."

Ultimately the project wasn't able to get congressional support, but the experience showed Stewart that his friend was able to develop and push new concepts beyond his own job.

"It was a big idea that we worked together on to move it across the country because it would have been a very effective and efficient way to ensure security on airlines," said Stewart.

DeRodes left Delta for the CIO post at **The Home Depot Inc.** Here he was taking on a mammoth job of transforming the fast-growing home improvement chain's outdated technological processes.

"To be honest, when I got there in 2000, the business was still on Lotus Notes, had no email, and we were using Excel spreadsheets to close a \$40 billion business," said Bob Nardelli, then the company's chairman, president and CEO. "This was in 2000, so I thought we should take a bold leap into the '80s."

DeRodes was charged not just with rolling out a host of new business management technology across hundreds of stores, but with persuading both top executives and even store managers that changing everything they had been doing was worth the time and inevitable pain.

"He really understood the degree of difficulty that we would have to go through," said Nardelli. "So we brought him on board and I certainly wasn't disappointed."

DeRodes moved easily among technologists and CFOs concerned with spending millions on systems that had no immediate impact on the bottom line. He enlisted the board of directors in the decision-making process – an unusual tactic for a corporate CIO.

"Bob's demeanor and his experience was certainly a great blend of fiduciary responsibility for capital request allocations for systems," said Nardelli.

Along with upgrading corporate systems to modern software, DeRodes also pushed for standardization of soft-

ware. He understood the importance of keeping a software package standard as opposed to customizing it for individual departments, according to Nardelli.

Upon taking the job, DeRodes began visiting individual stores to see how the business was being run at ground level.

"I remember a store manager, when I asked him about his technology, he pulled the yellow pencil out of his apron and said, 'This number-two pencil's the best I've got,'" he said "That was a moment where you go, 'Wow, I knew we had a lot ahead of us. I didn't realize it was quite that much.'"

The program became a success and helped make the company a leader in the retail field. It's a process that continues to roll out to this day, he notes.

DeRodes has never shied away from a challenge. Whether it's modernizing a company's processes or solving a big problem, he's always been ready to take them on. When Target was hit with a major cyberattack that tarnished its brand and image, the company turned to him to solve the problem.

He took on a yearlong engagement to secure their networks and put in place the infrastructure needed to prevent it from happening in the future.

He has also lent his considerable experience and expertise to the public sector as well, serving as a senior information

technology advisor for the Center for CIO Leadership, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Secretary of Defense and the U.S. Department of Justice.

"He is very smart," said Stewart. "He understands business, he understands from a business standpoint where technology needs to play and how it can contribute to the strategy and fulfillment of that strategy for a company. He takes the business person's perspective in viewing technology vs. the other way around."

Those who know him and have worked with him say DeRodes has one other asset that sets him apart from many in IT – he's personable and knows how to deal with all types of people.

"He's got very soft hands in dealing with business leaders and users and he just gets along with people very well," said Stewart. "That is hugely important because he serves the business, he serves the internal clientele and he's got to be able to build rapport and trust – which he does very quickly."

DeRodes' success can also be attributed to an ability to surround himself with high-quality technologists. More than 60 of his former employees have gone on to CIO positions themselves.

"It's always good to have a sense that you had an impact on people, a positive impact on people," said DeRodes.



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**STAY AHEAD
OF WHAT'S NEXT**

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2018 CIO OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS

Enterprise: Over \$500 million annual revenue



RYAN MANNION, CTO, HEARST AUTOS

- ▶ **Bio:** Previous roles include co-founder and chief technology officer at Politico, senior vice president of product and technology at Ozy, and roles at NASA and Northrop Grumman. Mannion has more than 18 years of experience leading agile product development and transformation, cloud and digital transformation, UX/UI design and engineering.
- ▶ **Success story:** My greatest achievement at Hearst Autos was creating and fostering a winning team of technologists and project managers to rebuild technology in support of Car and Driver. People are at the heart of every successful team and are the difference between winning and losing. It was critical to bring together several disparate teams, evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and properly align based on core competencies. We had a great culture, teams that worked hard and loved to win. I would qualify this as my greatest accomplishment because without this great team, no other accomplishments or successes would have been possible.



DARIN MORROW, VICE PRESIDENT AND CIO, CRICKET WIRELESS

- ▶ **Bio:** Morrow joined BellSouth Applied Technologies in April 1997. Over the past 20 years, he has led IT architecture in other AT&T business units and established the end-to-end architecture for Aio Wireless, which later became Cricket Wireless. Before joining AT&T, Morrow served in the U.S. Air Force from 1983 to 1992, retiring as a lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Air Force Reserves in 2012. He has a bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech University and a master's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi.
- ▶ **Success story:** When I returned to Cricket as CIO in 2014, I wanted to create an IT organization where people flourished. Over the past 15 months, we worked together to increase system stability to more than 99 percent, revamp processes and deliver products and services that allow for company growth. We reduced year-over-year spend by \$10 million and have an employee approval rating of 91 percent. By 2019, we will have totally transformed the Cricket IT process, people and technology. Of all the things I have done, my greatest success has been to position the IT organization and its people for a better tomorrow.



MARIE MOUCHET, VICE PRESIDENT AND CIO, COLONIAL PIPELINE

- ▶ **Bio:** Prior to joining Colonial Pipeline, Mouchet was the vice president and CIO of Southern Co. Operations and Southern Nuclear. She serves on several boards and has won numerous awards for technology leadership, and is an industry speaker and panelist. Author of two business books, Mouchet has bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgia State University.
- ▶ **Success story:** I have served as a leader and role model within the energy industry for more than 25 years. One of my greatest successes is transitioning to and being a contributor in another important and critical part of energy, oil and gas. Colonial's pipeline system is essential to the communities and businesses we have served for more than five decades. Today, however, demands from our customers have pushed Colonial into exciting new areas built on technology services and requiring a focus on national security. I am excited about my continued opportunities developing talent and contributing to the growth of an industry I am passionate about.



DARRELL RIEKENA, CIO, REPUBLIC NATIONAL DISTRIBUTING CO.

- ▶ **Bio:** Riekana is an experienced executive in the retail and wholesale distribution industries. He has held global technology and business leadership roles at National DCP LLC, Target Corp., Kroger Co., Limited Brands Inc., and JCPenney Co. Riekana has served on many industry councils and as an industry advisor.
- ▶ **Success story:** Our company and industry face new competition and disruption. I'm proud of the way our team has responded and built on our legacy while seeking new and innovative solutions for our business. We've assembled a diverse IT leadership team that is applying experience from retail, manufacturing, distribution and consumer product/services to provide innovative solutions for the alcoholic beverage industry. We are delivering value through enhanced data and analytic capabilities, new digital and e-commerce solutions and enterprise solutions that will scale as we continue to grow and evolve.



TOM RITTER, VICE PRESIDENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, CARAUSTAR

- ▶ **Bio:** Ritter has more than 30 years of experience in project management, infrastructure, support and software development. He joined Newark Recycled Paperboard Solutions as a software developer in 1990 and advanced through several roles before serving as CIO for 10 years. When Caraustar acquired Newark, the company named Ritter to his current role.
- ▶ **Success story:** After joining Caraustar, it was expressed to me how the IT department was not meeting expectations. I spent the first six months transforming the IT group into a world-class organization. I brought our service desk and infrastructure groups back in-house after they were outsourced for many years. We consolidated three data centers into two, and restructured the department to better serve the entire organization as well as streamline processes within the department. Besides all the technical accomplishments that were met, I am most proud of a department that works well as a team and employees who love to come to work every day.

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of the Year Award Winners and Nominees!



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2018 CIO OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS

Corporate – Large: Up to \$500 million annual revenue, over \$10 million annual IT budget



PAUL FALOR, CIO, NORTH HIGHLAND

- **Bio:** Falor has more than two decades of experience leading IT and information security initiatives for financial services and consulting companies, and has experience in IT strategy and governance, security strategy, incident response and breach containment. He has a bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Florida.
- **Success story:** I have transformed North Highland from a traditional IT infrastructure to a highly available and scalable "cloud-first" environment. Our workforce is largely remote and a focus on cloud-driven services reduces complexity and improves user experience. Additionally, by consolidating 23 legacy systems to two primary systems (ERP and CRM), we created a consistent source of truth. Through this transformation, my team has had the opportunity to reinvent their skill sets and focus on delivering business value. Performance has improved across the board for all critical systems and IT has earned a seat at the table for key decisions.



SALLIE GRAVES, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CIO, MAGMUTUAL INSURANCE CO.

- **Bio:** With more than 20 years of experience, Graves accepted her current role in October 2014. Previously, she was a senior global IT director for The Coca-Cola Co. and also served as divisional CIO at ING for U.S. insurance, including retail life and employee benefits business lines. She has a bachelor's degree from The University of Georgia.
- **Success story:** In late 2014, I joined MagMutual as its CIO. I wanted the chance to grow a company significantly as part of the senior executive team. One of the first things I did was building strong relationships with internal clients and my team. In just three years we have restructured the team, improved our ability to execute, simplified the environment, strengthened security and upgraded the technology stack. The technology team is playing a key role in MagMutual growing over 10 percent annually, expanding geographically and diversifying our products while still reducing the expense ratio.



JARED MILLER, CHIEF DIGITAL OFFICER AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, AMB SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

- **Bio:** Miller leads technology, information security and analytics for the Blank family of businesses, which includes the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta United, Mercedes-Benz Stadium and the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. Prior to joining AMB, he was vice president of solution management for travel at NCR Corp., and before that spent 10 years at Continental Airlines and United Airlines. He has a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees from MIT, and serves on several boards.



PRAMESH NAIK, CIO, TROUTMAN SANDERS

- **Bio:** Naik has about 25 years of experience in IT, beginning his career at Bank of America in London and moving to the legal industry in 1998, overseeing new law office openings and mergers for the London offices of two U.S.-based law firms. In the United States since 2004, Naik was CIO at Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete before joining Troutman Sanders in his current role in 2017. He has a degree from the University of West England in Bristol.
- **Success story:** I have changed the focus of our IT department at Troutman Sanders from fixing broken computers to solving business problems through changes in structure, communications and empowered decision making. As a law firm with a diverse practice mix, workforce and footprint, Troutman Sanders has cultivated a reputation for a higher commitment to client care for over 120 years. Our department now demonstrates this commitment by listening to lawyers and staff to discover ideas for future technology and to increase the adoption of current technology, as well as by sharing information and expertise in creative ways.



MARTIN (MARTY) SMITH, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, HEAD OF RISK SCIENCE, GREENSKY LLC

- **Bio:** Smith has more than 25 years of experience creating technology strategies for multiple companies including IPG, ChoicePoint and The Home Depot. Prior to joining GreenSky, Smith was CIO of IPG. He has been named to the CIO 100 and CIO of the Year.
- **Success story:** GreenSky was voted third largest fintech in the U.S. by Forbes magazine, which also named the company the number one best-funded startup in Georgia. Business Insider ranked the company 12th globally for fintech. The Wall Street Journal voted GreenSky the most valuable online lender and American Banker ranked the company third for U.S. fintech. GreenSky also was ranked 17th most important digital disruptor by CNBC.

2018 CIO OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS

Corporate: Up to \$500 million annual revenue, under \$10 million annual IT budget



JONATHAN COX, VICE PRESIDENT AND CIO, TREADMAXX TIRE DISTRIBUTORS

- **Bio:** Cox joined Treadmaxx, then Kauffman Tire, six years ago and has been CIO for three years. Prior to Treadmaxx, he worked at KPMG for five years. Cox is a veteran of the U.S. Army and has a degree from The University of Georgia.
- **Success story:** My greatest success since joining Treadmaxx is not a single event, but a combination of multiple small, medium and large wins, along with some failures. I am grateful to have the opportunity to take a company that lacked heavy technology and begin the journey to entrench it in the everyday lives of our associates. It is a tremendous feeling when you sit back and realize the impact you and your team had on the top and bottom line of a profit-and-loss statement.



GREGORY (GREG) GATTI, VICE PRESIDENT IT, ATLANTA BRAVES

- **Bio:** Beginning in 2014, Gatti led the strategy, programming, planning and execution of the technology package in support of the \$1.2 billion project to build SunTrust Park and The Battery Atlanta. Prior to joining the Braves, Gatti held senior IT positions at Synovus and Aflac, as well as Acclaim Technology Group and Advanced Internet Technologies in Fayetteville, N.C. He has a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a master's degree from Troy State University.
- **Success story:** The year 2017 was transformational for the Atlanta Braves. IT supported that transformation by driving technology innovation and enabling new revenue. We delivered an enterprise class technology environment for SunTrust Park and The Battery Atlanta. Our crown jewel technology is our network, with the fastest Wi-Fi speeds of any venue in North America. Baseball Digest named SunTrust Park its Ballpark of the Year, citing our fan-forward design and latest in technology.



MARTIN SCHMIDLER, VICE PRESIDENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, UNIPRO FOODSERVICE

- **Bio:** Prior to his current position, Schmidler held senior finance, supply chain planning and technology positions for three Fortune 200 companies. He serves on numerous boards, has received several awards, and is guest speaker in the areas of vendor management and organizational change management.
- **Success story:** My greatest success is building a team of IT professionals that consult with the business to meet their needs, are critical thinkers, anticipate and resolve difficult problems, are avid learners and work well together. I strive to create an environment where staff can openly and professionally challenge ideas, experiment with new concepts, learn from mistakes and take pride in their work. As a result, the IT team is always looking for ways to improve business efficiencies, partner with the business and continuously deliver successful projects. Simply put, the team is my success.



BRANDON VAN ORDEN, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND CIO, COUSINS PROPERTIES

- **Bio:** Prior to joining Cousins in 2016, Van Orden spent four years as vice president of global applications for Novelis Inc. He previously spent 12 years with GE Energy in several IT leadership roles, having graduated from the GE IT Leadership Program in 2003. Van Orden has a bachelor's degree from Xavier University.
- **Success story:** In April 2016, Cousins announced its largest acquisition in its history with Parkway Properties, including the simultaneous spin-off of a new public company. In all, [the acquisition included] a 50 percent employee turnover and doubled the property portfolio, entering three new markets. Overall, [it meant] a 114 percent IT network increase due to the dispersed portfolio. Standard data conversion and system integration challenges were magnified by our legacy infrastructures' inability to support the growth and Parkway's data center would go to the new company. Therefore, it was a hard cutover and systems merge by October 2016. We were operating as a single company on day one.



DARRELL WINFIELD, CIO, PAYA

- **Bio:** With decades of experience in fintech, Winfield has served in leadership roles for leading fintech and payments companies including Vantiv, Global Payments and InComm. Before his fintech career, Winfield was a captain in the U.S. Air Force and an assistant program manager for NASA.
- **Success story:** On my first day as CIO, when I reviewed all the information regarding the deal activities to date, preparing to carve out Paya from Sage, everything was red. The effort was already in fail mode. We had no CEO, no president. I was the only member of the C-suite at the time. On top of that, we had no corporate resources. I took the bull by the horns, dove in and turned everything around in six months. Part of what I'm proud of during this effort is finding an incredible leadership team to help me do that.

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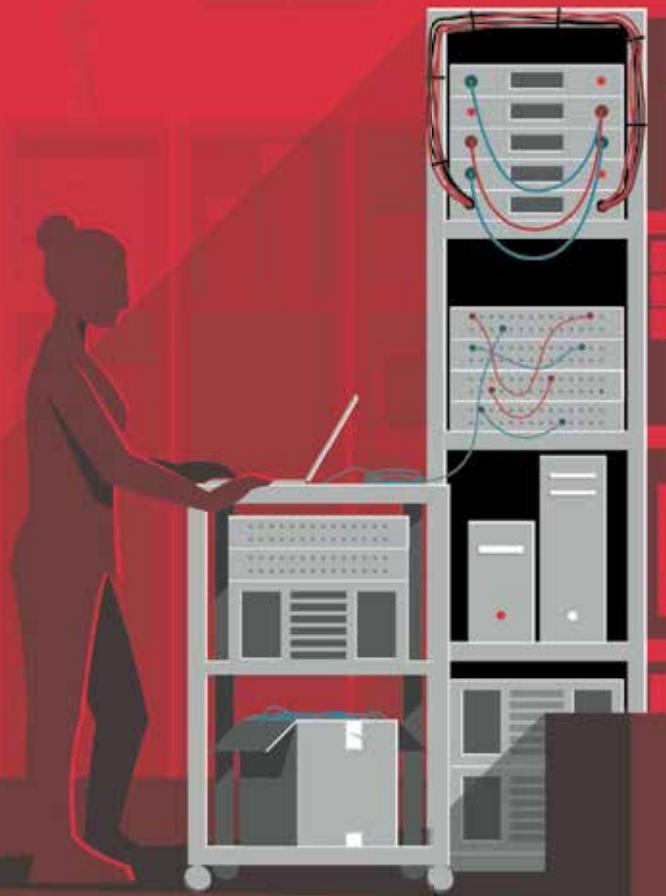
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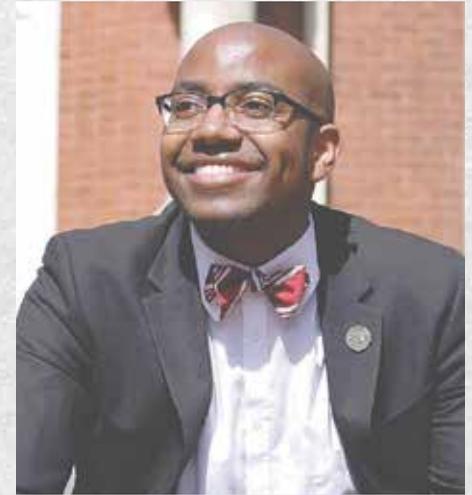


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2018 CIO OF THE YEAR

GEORGIACIO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



ANANNYA DAS
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Das is slated to graduate in December 2018 with a master of science in information systems, big data management and analytics. She began working in August for McKinsey & Co. as a senior engineer, GCI Analytics.

MARISSA SORKIN
GEORGIA TECH

Sorkin is a bachelor of science in computer science student at Tech and is in her second year as an enterprise technology intern at State Farm Insurance Co.

KATHLEEN KISH
THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Kish is in the UGA Honors Program and working toward a spring 2020 graduation with bachelor of business administration degree in management information systems and international business, and a bachelor of arts in German.

DANIEL SIMMONS
MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

Simmons is anticipating a May 2019 graduation with a bachelor of science degree in computer science. He has spent two summers as a software development intern at Microsoft Corp. in Seattle.

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2018 CIO OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS

Healthcare: Hospitals & nonprofit healthcare organizations**OMER AWAN, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND CIO, NAVICENT HEALTH**

- ▶ **Bio:** Awan has more than 20 years of IT leadership experience, and joined Navicent in 2016 from Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems. Prior to his work there, he was associate vice president for information systems at Memorial Hermann Health System in Houston, and also held leadership positions within Cerner Corp., in Kansas City. Awan has two undergraduate degrees and a master's degree, and also did post-graduate work at MIT and Harvard.
- ▶ **Success story:** I am most proud of the IT framework that we have instituted at Navicent Health around people and processes to make technology decisions. This framework is producing consistent, measurable, high-quality, high-yield outcomes and has highlighted IT as a strategic asset for the organization. The solution partner structure and the IT governance process are at the center of this framework. Each IT leader is also the solution partner for their respective clinical/business leader or service line. Solution partners are weaved into the non-IT leadership, are well positioned and share transformative ideas with the senior executive team to help devise solutions/strategies that add business value through IT.

**GEOFFREY BROWN, VICE PRESIDENT AND CIO, PIEDMONT HEALTHCARE**

- ▶ **Bio:** With 35 years of IT experience, Brown joined Piedmont Healthcare in 2014. Prior to Piedmont, he was senior vice president/CIO at Inova Health System in Northern Virginia for 10 years. Brown also served in leadership roles at Grady Health System, Tenet Health System's Atlanta Medical Center (formerly Georgia Baptist) and South Fulton Medical Center.
- ▶ **Success story:** I can identify many successes at Piedmont, the most recent involving a family member of a patient. While at our Piedmont Athens Epic EHR go-live, I saw a woman who appeared to be in distress. She stated that her mother was having a sensitive heart procedure. After reassuring her, I walked away confidently knowing that our Athens team was well prepared for the challenge. I am ordinarily engaged in the daily management of people, systems and budgets. Yet, this single encounter reminded me of the humanness of what we do. The successful outcomes of our patients are successes for IT.

**JEFF BUDA, VICE PRESIDENT AND CIO, FLOYD MEDICAL CENTER**

- ▶ **Bio:** Buda joined Floyd Medical in 2012. Prior to that, he held positions with WellStar Health System in Marietta and Mercy Health System/Catholic Health East in Conshohocken, Penn. He also has worked with a consulting firm, other healthcare organizations and an IT software vendor. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of California Santa Barbara and is expected to receive his executive MBA from Kennesaw State University in 2019.
- ▶ **Success story:** In 2012, nearly every element of our IT infrastructure was failing and/or beyond its useful life. We had no disaster recovery, and our backups were regularly failing. Customer satisfaction was low, we had no information security infrastructure or process and we weren't patching. IT leadership lacked maturity, and we had no governance of IT projects. We have completely turned this around while continuing to deliver strategic projects and supporting numerous process improvement initiatives on time and on budget. Customer satisfaction and service desk call center metrics now exceed industry averages. We have established disciplined IT governance and matured processes.

**JESSE DIAZ, VICE PRESIDENT AND CIO, PHOEBE PUTNEY HEALTH SYSTEM**

- ▶ **Bio:** Diaz has held his position for the past 12 years. Before joining Phoebe, Diaz was division director of information systems at Southeast Alabama Medical Center. He is a private pilot and former U.S. Army captain. Diaz has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Troy University.
- ▶ **Success story:** The implementation of new electronic medical records in our acute care and ambulatory settings was my greatest accomplishment in my current role. This project lasted two years, involving hundreds of staff members and consultants. It resulted in transformational improvements to inpatient quality and service. Development and implementation of new and improved standardization of multiple health system processes resulted in significant efficiency gains in our clinical and business areas. These changes not only improved operational effectiveness, but also benefited clinical processes, which helped to improve the quality and safety of the care we provide to the people of Southwest Georgia.

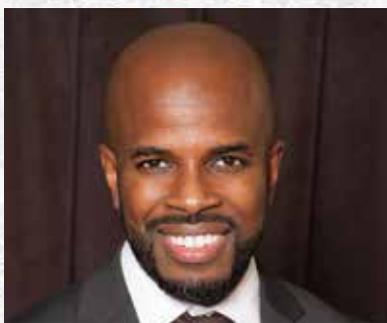
**JASPAL SAGOO, CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)**

- ▶ **Bio:** Sagoo has held several roles at the CDC since 1989, when he started at the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention. He also served as senior network engineer and as co-chair of the CDC CTO Council. Sagoo also helped develop the CDC IT tactical and strategic IT policy, and holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in information systems.
- ▶ **Success story:** My greatest success and accomplishment as the CDC CTO has been working collaboratively with some of the best and most talented IT and healthcare professionals in the federal government. This close collaboration with CDC programs has afforded the CTO office support from senior management in providing freedom to innovate, and conduct R&D, pilots and proofs of concept in emerging technologies, platforms and systems. These programs then improve and accelerate CDC science and outcomes for public health. Senior management recognizes the value and enablement that IT provides in helping CDC programs achieve their mission goals and objectives.

2018 CIO OF THE YEAR

FINALISTS

Nonprofit/Public Sector: Nonprofit, government & education organizations



GARY BRANTLEY, CIO, DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- ▶ **Bio:** With more than 20 years experience in the technology sector, Brantley has been in his current position for 14 years. Prior to joining DeKalb County, Brantley worked for IBM, as well as MCI WorldCom, the Ohio State Department and the Lorain City School District in Ohio. He has a bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University, master's degrees from University of Phoenix and MIT, and completed the CIO leadership institute at MIT.
- ▶ **Success story:** I took my belief in digital equity further with the introduction of the Digital Dreamers program. This \$30 million technology overhaul has exposed students to digital citizenship, social responsibility and collaborative learning communities. With 55,000 devices distributed to date, Digital Dreamers will provide 100,000 Google Chromebooks to teachers, and middle and high school students. The program also includes the removal of 9,700 outdated machines from elementary schools, the installation of 25,000 new machines and the district-wide distribution of 25,000 free 3GB mobile hotspots. These hotspots, made possible by the Sprint Foundation, will provide students with at-home Internet access.



STEVEN FERGUSON, CIO, TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM OF GEORGIA (TCSG)

- ▶ **Bio:** Ferguson is a 22-year veteran of the IT industry, and has a master's degree from Southern Polytechnic State University, a bachelor's degree from Columbia Southern University and an associate's degree from Gainesville State College. He serves in many volunteer and leadership roles.
- ▶ **Success story:** My greatest success has been seeing my employees and mentees move into IT leadership positions. This has afforded me the opportunity to identify and promote other employees into leadership development positions. Growing leaders that are stronger than me is one of my primary goals as a CIO. From a strategic view, being entrusted to merge two critical business units within TCSG in the new Office of Information Technology and Data Resources has allowed my new, expanded team to tackle the most important technology project of my career: the reimagining of the admissions application process.



CALVIN RHODES, STATE OF GEORGIA CIO

- ▶ **Bio:** Rhodes has served in his position since 2011, also chairing Georgia's statewide cybersecurity board and overseeing the construction and programming of the Hull McKnight Georgia Cyber Center for Innovation and Training. He is a member of the Georgia CIO Leadership Association and serves on various committees representing the governor. Rhodes has received numerous honors and serves on several boards.
- ▶ **Success story:** When Gov. Nathan Deal appointed me as Georgia's CIO in January 2011, a massive task loomed ahead: completion of a years-long, \$1 billion initiative to consolidate and modernize the state's IT enterprise. The project called for new levels of accountability and active management of a culture of change. We completed the project successfully, but far more important was the capability and solid foundation now in place to build upon, a readiness to take on even greater challenges to improve the services state government provides.



PHIL VENTIMIGLIA, CHIEF INNOVATION OFFICER, GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

- ▶ **Bio:** With nearly two decades of experience, Ventimiglia is the first to hold this position at Georgia State. Previously, he was vice president for innovation and new product development at NCR Corp., and also worked at NCR's Hyderabad Development Center in India. Prior to NCR, Ventimiglia spent more than 10 years at Dell. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut and a master's degree from Yale School of Management.
- ▶ **Success story:** I am extremely proud of the work we have done in helping reimagine higher education delivery. True digital literacy requires that students solve problems digitally, encourages students to become self-directed learners and creates opportunities for students to demonstrate professional know-how. To ensure our students achieve this, we are integrating digital literacy throughout the university's curriculum and co-curricular programs. To provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge and create real digital solutions, we are also reshaping our classrooms, labs and learning environments into technology-enabled collaborative and active learning spaces that give students tools for digital experimentation, creation and building.



SALLIE WRIGHT, CIO, FULTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- ▶ **Bio:** Wright has more than 30 years of experience in IT leadership, previously serving as deputy CIO for Georgia State University. She also has held executive roles at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of North Carolina and within the private sector. Wright serves on multiple boards and committees, and was twice nominated CIO of the Year.
- ▶ **Success story:** My greatest success to date has been rebuilding the IT organization while keeping the existing systems operational while implementing new technologies simultaneously. This was quite a feat because the employees were unsettled during the reorganization, but work had to continue and new systems had to be deployed. All in all, the employees are in a much better place with new skills and capabilities, the existing systems continue to function properly and the new technologies enhance the services we are able to provide to the citizens and visitors of Fulton County.

2018 CIO OF THE YEAR

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