



2023

KANSAS CITY ORBIE® AWARDS

KANSAS CITY
BUSINESS JOURNAL



LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT

Deborah Gash on technology's role in the patient and physician experience **B4**



FROM THE CHAIR

Leadership makes the impossible possible **B3**

The annual Kansas City ORBIE® Awards program honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate & Corporate categories will be announced August 18 at the Loews Kansas City Hotel.

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KANSASCITYCIO

CONGRATULATIONS 2023 KANSAS CITY ORBIE NOMINEES

TANYA ARTHUR
Mosaic Life Care

GEOFF GARAFOLA
Inland Truck Parts Company

DERRICK LEGGETT
AMC

RAVI PERU
Community America Credit Union

CHRIS BORCHERS
BASYS Processing

DION GEE
symplr

MICHAEL LEHMAN
WireCo World Group

FRANK PETERS
HCA Midwest Division

JOHN BOWERS
Security Bank of Kansas City

BILL GRAFF
Clarivate Analytics

ED LINK
Garmin International

CALA POLTERA
QCHI

SHELLY BROWN
Burns & McDonnell

KRISTEN GUILLAUME
North Kansas City Hospital

MIKE MCDONNELL
Amsted Industries

DAVID ROLLER
Commerce Bank

DUSTIN BURNS
McCownGordon Construction

KURT HADERMANN
Bluescope Buildings

PHIL MERRELL
The PromptCare Companies

BLAKE ROONEY
Husch Blackwell

BRIAN BYBEE
Seaboard Corporation

DAVID HAKANSON
GEHA

BILL MILLER
International Express Trucking, Inc.

RON SHUCK
CURO Group

JIM CARLSEN
Custom Truck One Source

KEVIN HIGGINS
Kansas City Chiefs

PATRICK MILLS
Henderson Engineers

ART SILVA
Helzberg Diamonds

BHASKAR CHOWDHURY
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City

BRIAN HIMSTEDT
Kansas City Royals

DAVID MOLEY
Vertical Merger

PAUL STEIN
Ascend Learning

BYRON CLYMER
Lockton

KEVIN HUNT
Spirit Aerosystems

SHELLY MOORE
Associated Wholesale Grocers

LAMBERT TOMELDAN
Barkley

DENISE CONNOR
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

LONNIE JOHNSON
KVC Health Systems

SCOTT MORRIS
National Association of Insurance Commissioners

ANDREA TRILLO
Advent Health

CHRIS COOK
Mariner Wealth Advisors

PAUL KREBS
Koch Industries

BILL NIXON
Johnson County, KS

DOUG VOGL
Kansas City Southern Railway Company

ERIC CORDER
Performance Contracting Group

BOB LAPLANT
Americo Life

CHAI PALLAPOTHULA
Hallmark Cards

MARY WALSH
University of Kansas

JUDY CORZINE
Stormont Vail Health

CHUCK PASSANNANTE
Textron Aviation

MICHAEL WILLIAMS
LMH Health

CHRIS DUFFY
ScriptPro

JEFF LAURO
O'Reilly Auto Parts

JAMIE PATEL
American Century Investments

UMA WILSON
UMB Bank

2023 ORBIE AWARDS



FROM THE CHAIR

Leadership makes the impossible possible

Technology is everywhere in our lives, and when it doesn't work, we notice.

For nearly twenty-five years, the Inspire Leadership Network has helped CIOs succeed in today's most challenging C-suite executive role. KansasCityCIO members grow their leadership through year-round, member-led programs and interaction. Working together, CIOs across public and private business, government, education, healthcare and nonprofit organizations collaborate, share ideas and best practices, and create enormous leadership value.

The ORBIE Awards bring together leaders facing similar challenges - and this year - the Inspire Leadership Network will grow to 30 chapters, including the first international chapter in Toronto, and 3 chapters exclusively for Chief Information Security Officers.

Security is top of mind for every leader and organization, and the same principles that have served CIOs can be applied to CISOs as well.

There is no textbook for how to be a great CIO or CISO. But relationships with other leaders facing similar challenges sharpen leadership acumen. Every leader's perspective is valuable and contributes to the conversation - and everyone wins by joining a peer leadership network.

Member-led, non-commercial programs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges, solving problems and avoiding pitfalls. Successful leaders understand the 'superpower' of trusted relationships. In any gathering of technology leaders, the answer is in the room.

Together, we are transforming our economy using technology & security, and enriching our region and our world. On behalf of KansasCityCIO, congratulations to the nominees and finalists on their accomplishments and thank you to the sponsors, underwriters, and staff who make the ORBIE Awards possible.



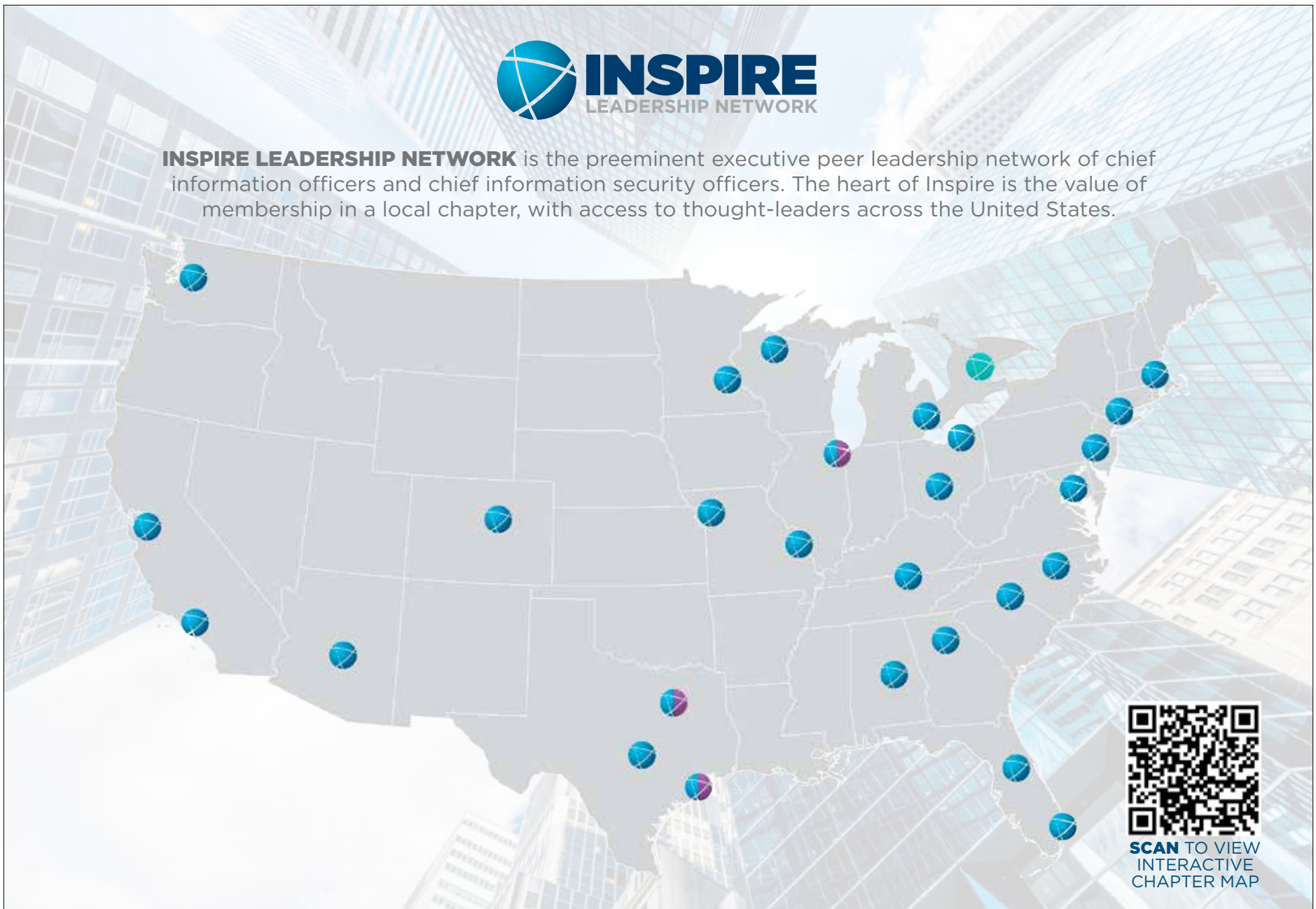
Sincerely

Jana Merfen

2023 Chair, KansasCityCIO
Chief Technology Officer, Cross-First Bank



INSPIRE LEADERSHIP NETWORK is the preeminent executive peer leadership network of chief information officers and chief information security officers. The heart of Inspire is the value of membership in a local chapter, with access to thought-leaders across the United States.



SCAN TO VIEW INTERACTIVE CHAPTER MAP

2023 LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT

Deborah Gash

Senior Vice President and Chief Digital Officer
Saint Luke's Health System

Leadership Award recipient on advanced health care technology



By The Business Journals Content Studio

Deborah Gash joined Saint Luke's Hospital in Kansas City in 1992 to manage physician services for Saint Luke's Medical Group and serve as a project manager and director of application development in information services. At the time, the public did not have internet access; that would come the following year. The use of electronic medical records (EMR) wasn't on anyone's radar.

Thirty-one years later, Gash still provides her expertise to Saint Luke's Health System (SLHS), now as the network's senior vice president and chief digital officer, a role she's held since 2017. Saint Luke's has since expanded to a network of 14 hospitals and campuses across the Kansas City region, along with home care and hospice services, a senior living community and more than 100 primary care and specialty offices treating patients in 65 specialty services. Over the last three decades, Gash has shaped the digital experience at Saint Luke's by developing and implementing critical IT strategies, providing technology support, guiding cost-effective clinical and business solutions and fostering a digital culture.

"The mission to serve the community provides personal and professional fulfillment," said Gash.

For the impact she has had over the course of her career, Gash has been selected as the Leadership Award recipient as part of the 2023 Kansas City ORBIE Awards. The program honors current or former chief information officers who have a proven track record of successful technology leadership, made significant contributions to the Kansas City technology

and business community and inspired others through their personal, professional and civic contributions.

Enhancing the patient and physician experience

A defining moment of Gash's career was the selection and implementation of Epic Systems Corp. as the health system's electronic medical records software. Epic is the maker of the patient portal, MyChart. "The selection of Epic set the stage to transform Saint Luke's Health System into a digital health system," Gash said. That choice and the challenging multi-year effort elevated Gash's role in the organization.

"The advanced digital front door has offered many conveniences to patients," said Gash. Through SLHS's EMR, patients can use a desktop portal or mobile app to find the necessary care; interact with their care team in a variety of ways, including through virtual visits; schedule and check in for appointments; access lab and test results; request prescription refills; and pay bills through various digital methods.

Under Gash's leadership, SLHS has been able to expand telehealth care, providing expanded, improved access to patients. SLHS also developed home-based care models, such as Saint Luke's Hospital In Your Home, the area's first program to offer high-quality, hands-on care through an around-the-clock, virtual platform. Through this program, patients with serious conditions, such as congestive heart failure, pneumonia, gastroenteritis or COPD, who would normally require treatment in an inpatient hospital setting

may be able to be treated in the comfort of their own home if they meet a certain set of criteria.

Gash's contributions to boost the hospital system's technologies have also made a smoother experience for doctors and the clinical staff. "Remote work and automation help make them more efficient and create new work experiences," said Gash.

Developing people

The effectiveness of Gash's leadership at SLHS extends beyond the selection of technologies to the impact she has on people she leads. "One of the key aspects of my job is to lead, motivate and develop IT talent so the organization's goals are met. It's key for me to collaborate with others and innovate to accomplish the organization's strategy."

An active leader in the local IT community, Gash helped bring the TechLX (Technology Leadership Experience) to Kansas City. TechLX provides in-depth learning opportunities for mid-level technology leaders. She's also served on the board of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), another organization that focuses on providing career development to health IT professionals. "I've enjoyed encouraging the development of technology professionals in Kansas City," said Gash.

Of her current organization, Gash said, "Saint Luke's has provided me with opportunities to learn and develop. I've been challenged and felt valued for my contributions."



CONGRATULATIONS, CHUCK PASSANNANTE!

YOU REPRESENT THE BEST OF TEXTRON AVIATION.

Your dedication, determination and hard work exemplify everything we at Textron Aviation value, and your recognition as a finalist for this year's Kansas City CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards is proof that high performance never goes unnoticed.

BE LEGENDARY

© 2023 Textron Aviation Inc. All rights reserved.

congrats, *art silva!*

— ✦ —
VP, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
ORBIE® FINALIST

Your teamwork and innovation
continue to help transform our
business for our customers!

HELZBERG DIAMONDS.
HELZBERG.COM



GLOBAL FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

OVER \$3 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS



Byron Clymer

EVP & CIO
Lockton



Byron serves as the executive vice president and global chief information officer for Lockton. He oversees the company's technology groups and entrusted with leading Lockton's transformation strategy to develop global platforms leading Lockton into the next decade. Byron joined Lockton in 2018 as the US CIO and quickly established the technology vision for the US. In 2023 he was elevated to the global CIO. Byron holds a MS in Computer Science and BS in Physics.

SUCCESS STORY

Company relied on a central datacenter that was out of space, unable to handle the scale of where the company was going. The datacenter bandwidth was maxed out and could not support employees working remotely, to get more, required an expensive 3/4 mile new conduit/fiber installation and a year of construction. We decided to move all workloads on 12/7/2019. The company went full remote on 3/16/2020; our employees could work from their homes, they were there for our clients, our business experienced unprecedented growth due in part because the systems were available for them to take care of our clients.



Chai Pallapothula

CTO
Hallmark Cards



Chai is an innovation enthusiast and worked for a range of companies from startups to Fortune #1 companies. He is currently a CTO at Hallmark, transforming technology to develop products relevant to the next-generation consumers, and establishing lean development practices and teams for the organization to transform the delivery model with a focus on experimentation and customer testing that will bring a huge impact on the ROI for projects.

SUCCESS STORY

Chai led Walmart's first Hack Day, which laid the foundation for innovative thinking. Before joining Hallmark, Chai was a CTO at Tailored Brands where he led the omnichannel strategy to provide a seamless experience across the channels to the customers. Prior to that, he led the effort to build the eCommerce platform for Levis and built the Digital team ground up. Currently working on establishing the lean development practices and teams for the organization to transform the delivery model with a focus on experimentation and customer testing that will bring a huge impact to the ROI for projects.



Chuck Passannante

SVP & CIO
Textron Aviation



As senior vice president and CIO, Chuck Passannante oversees all global information technology for Textron Aviation. He has 30+ years of experience leading teams in systems modernization, strategy development, business and technology alignment and project/portfolio management. Chuck's career with Textron Aviation began in 2011 and he was instrumental in helping guide the business through Cessna Aircraft Company's merger with Beechcraft Corporation in 2014. Chuck earned a bachelor's degree in Finance from Colorado State University.

SUCCESS STORY

Upon reflection, I'm most proud of how our team performed during the 2020 global pandemic. To best support our customers in a cost-conscious environment, our team insourced our end-user services and PC support, as well as network support for more than 12,000 global employees. Experienced leaders across the IT team managed the nine-month transition flawlessly. The Textron Aviation Information Technology team received its highest Gartner end-user support survey feedback score in 2020, further underscoring the IT team's attention to detail throughout the process and solidifying Textron Aviation's stance as a world-class manufacturing company.



Kevin Hunt

CIO
Spirit Aerosystems



Kevin Hunt was named Vice President and CIO in April of 2020. He joined Spirit in 2007, as an IT Security Manager, from the United States Air Force after 12 years as a Communications Officer. Kevin has held numerous positions at Spirit in IT, Security, Fabrication, Program Management, Manufacturing, Operations and Supply Chain. He earned his bachelor's degree in computer science from California State University at Fullerton and has an MBA from Webster University.

SUCCESS STORY

During my time leading the Spirit IT team we have had a significant impact on the business. We have delivered automated manufacturing technology to the heart of Spirit's Manufacturing environment which has increased efficiencies by 15% and reduced overall work-in-process by more than 20%. Additionally, we were able to carve-out the systems of a major acquisition and bring them onto the Spirit network in a 12-month timeframe saving Spirit over \$9M in transition technical services and mitigating over \$40M in cost. Additionally, we've been able to reduce our technical debt by more than \$5M dollars by our cloud transition.

Congratulations to
Shelly Brown for
being recognized as
a visionary IT leader.

BURNS  MCDONNELL

burnsmcd.com



WE BUILD CITIES, AND
**THE HOPES OF
THOSE WHO
LIVE IN THEM.**

Congratulations to Dustin Burns, our VP of Information Technology, for being a finalist in the **Kansas City CIO ORBIE awards**. You live our core values of Integrity, Performance and Relationships. Your leadership and ingenuity in utilizing technology improves the lives of our associates and accomplishes the goals of our clients each day.

McCOWNGORDON
CONSTRUCTION



LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

OVER \$2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



Bhaskar Chowdhury

CTO
Blue Cross Blue Shield Of
Kansas City



Bhaskar is the Department Vice President, CTO for Blue Cross and BCBS of Kansas City. Bhaskar plans, develops, coordinates and executes Enterprise IT strategies. He has more than 25 years of technology and leadership experience in the insurance industry. Bhaskar received a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a MBA in Information Technology Management. He holds a PMP and an ITIL Certification. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Healthcare Executive Group (HCEG).

SUCCESS STORY

Over the past 25 plus years in IT, I'm proud to count the following achievements among my successes:

- Avoided over \$8M per year in IT costs by reducing contractors at Geisinger Health system.
- Increased predictability and throughput of IT projects by 22% by using consistent process at Geisinger Health system.
- Saved \$800K by changing and renegotiating existing contracts at Geisinger Health system.
- Won Excellence in Innovation Award for a major technology implementation at Geisinger Health system.
- Saved several millions of dollars within a short period time by reducing contractor spends at Blue KC.



David Hakanson

CIO
GEHA



David Hakanson, MBA, Chief Transformation Officer, GEHA. Hakanson spearheads efforts to reduce business model complexities for both employees and members as part of GEHA's commitment to long-term success and seamless experience for both employees and members. Hakanson joined the organization in 2022 as the Chief Information Officer, and in his expanded role, Hakanson will continue to lead GEHA's Information Technology direction, teams and initiatives with a close eye and focus on the mission.

SUCCESS STORY

As a transformation and technology leader, I pride myself on moving the technology division to be highly integrated in the achievement of business outcomes. This is extremely important to me as a leader in order to facilitate and oversee the company-wide operating plan, which includes all efforts, both strategic and tactical. Through improved planning and oversight, my team and I have increased project completion rates, improved empowerment of stakeholders regarding the work they are able to accomplish, and ensured the company is focused on a small yet highly focused set of work to achieve short-term and long-term goals.



Eric Corder

Director, Head of IT &
Security
Performance Contracting
Group



Eric Corder is the Director and Head of IT and Security for Performance Contracting Group with 15 years of experience in strategic alignment of technology and security to organizational drivers. Specializing in leadership and strategy, Eric uses his experience to build and enable high performing teams to address the largest challenges and support the greatest strengths of the organizations he has served.

SUCCESS STORY

My greatest success as a leader lies in fostering collaboration between our teams and our business, resulting in remarkable success. In an industry undergoing rapid modernization, we have remained a leader in technology. Our solutions have empowered our businesses to scale, and allowed our teams to grow stronger together. As the pace of change accelerates, we remain grounded by our solid foundations and energized our ability to adapt and grow. This achievement showcases our resilience and commitment to embrace new opportunities, support our organization, and drive continuous growth.



Shelly Brown

VP, IT
Burns & McDonnell



In nine years with Burns & McDonnell, Shelly Brown advanced business critical platforms to better serve clients, including launching a new intranet, modernizing meeting experiences and advancing adoption of Microsoft Teams. Brown has 26 years of experience in numerous industries, including non-profit, aerospace, telecom, software manufacturing and professional services. She holds a master's in business administration from Rockhurst University and a bachelor's in public administration from Washburn University.

SUCCESS STORY

Even when met with initial resistance, I ignited the process to set up an enterprise plan to adopt Microsoft Teams. By March 2020, the organization was already in the adoption process of Microsoft Teams. When employee-owners learned they would be working from home, Burns & McDonnell was well positioned to adopt Microsoft Teams full force practically overnight. Our teams across the world now heavily rely on the collaboration and functionality of Microsoft Teams to stay connected and share information. Without a push to accelerate change, our organization would not have been positioned to maintain business continuity in our COVID-19 response.

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

OVER \$500 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



Art Silva

CIO
Helzberg Diamonds



A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Art currently leads the Helzberg Diamonds Information Technology and Information Security teams and brings 15 years of executive leadership roles in Information Technology, Retail and Wholesale Operations, Digital Commerce, Analytics, and Strategy. Outside of work, he works with the community through organizations such as United Way of Greater Kansas City and El Centro to provide opportunities for the under-served, especially in early development years.

SUCCESS STORY

At the beginning of 2022, Helzberg Diamonds embarked on a journey to become a digitally-centric organization. We dubbed this program DELPHI (Digitally Enabling Limitless Possibilities for Helzberg). Together with our very lean internal team, we relied on expertise across several disciplines with other companies who all came together as a single unit. Many cautioned that any of the individual efforts would take 18 months, so tackling all in 9 months was no small feat. With the project, we implemented a new storefront, order management system, marketing platform, and customer data platform which lays the foundation for accelerated company growth.



Dustin Burns

VP, IT
McCownGordon
Construction



Dustin has led the technology efforts at McCownGordon since 2005—when “construction tech” was considered a joke without a punchline by most of the industry. He has strong feelings about construction technology, most of those sentiments are about giving people the means to optimize their gifts. He’s driven to keep McCownGordon, indeed our whole beloved industry, on the leading edge of tech; because from the wheel forward, ingenuity is worthless if it doesn’t improve human lives.

SUCCESS STORY

Dustin, McCownGordon’s VP of Technology, has helped the company grow from \$50 million to over \$700 million since 2005. He is a strategic thinker, engaged leader, and dedicated mentor. Dustin has built a strong team of technology professionals who are passionate about their work. As a result, McCownGordon is a technology leader in its industry and known for its innovative construction solutions and commitment to customer experience.



Kurt Hadermann

VP, Technology
BlueScope Buildings, North
America



Kurt Hadermann is a commercially astute and result-oriented industry leader with over a 2 decades experience in integrating technological solutions geared towards increasing the bottom-line of top-flight organizations. He is currently Vice President of Technology at Bluescope Buildings North America; a position he has been holding since 2018. Using his dexterity in both business and IT, Kurt has been able to implement business-value-driven technologies that have significantly impacted the organizations he has worked with.

SUCCESS STORY

Technology is more than just laptops and email. Technology is a tool businesses can use to enhance strategic value. Most of the changes in businesses are now fundamentally enabled by technology, so the technology leader must be highly collaborative, non-political, and technologically savvy to shepherd the company forward. I’m honored that the business has allowed me to grow the role of technology as a strategic partner, transforming the IT function from a back-office enabler to a clear competitive differentiator and an enabler of productivity and growth. The business used to come to IT with requests, now they come for advice.



Paul Stein

CIO & CISO
Ascend Learning



Paul Stein serves as CIO and CISO for Ascend Learning. He is responsible for ensuring that Ascend’s infrastructure is secure, meets all compliance and privacy requirements while leveraging modern robust available technology. Paul is a strategic thought leader regarding security and technology and helps create strong partnerships across business units to deliver competitive advantage. Paul studied computer science at UMKC and served in the United States Army as a Forward Observer and Psychological warfare Specialist.

SUCCESS STORY

When I started with Ascend our systems and platforms would crash recurrently during peak seasons and high stakes testing, our corporate infrastructure struggled to provide basic connectivity much less collaboration capability. We either reinvented or we would fail so we asked the team what do we do now? From that we transformed, we took strong resources and let them be agents of change, we allowed them to be owners and leaders. We stabilized our environments, we measured ourselves through our successes as seen through our customers’ eyes. Today, availability, performance and the security of our platforms are best in class.

LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

OVER \$200 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



Chris Cook

SVP, Technology
Mariner Wealth Advisors



Chris Cook is senior vice president of Enterprise Shared Services at Mariner Wealth Advisors, where he's passionate about providing trusted leadership and building strong teams. He is currently responsible for leading the Information Security, Information Technology, Software Development, Platform Management, and Business Intelligence teams.

Chris has more than 20 years of information technology experience. Prior to joining Mariner, he led YRC Freight's infrastructure teams. His past experience also includes leading system operations at Silpada Designs.

SUCCESS STORY

Mariner Wealth's client-focused vision drove a comprehensive transformation toward a mobile-first approach, requiring an extensive rebuild of our legacy platform. We adopted a secure, frictionless approach to data and incorporated leading cloud software providers, leading to a robust, transparent, and highly adaptable practice. This strategy enables efficient integration of new firms and data sources, enhancing our competitive edge. Our approach has helped enable significant growth, amplified operational efficiency, and diversified our service offerings. Even during the transition to a hybrid environment, our mobile-centric model enabled us to continue providing seamless service to our clients, underscoring the effectiveness of our approach.



Michael Williams

VP & CIO
LMH Health



As Vice President and Chief Information Officer for LMH Health, Michael Williams is driven by his passion for technology and takes pride in providing LMH Health with the best technology possible. His goals include making it easy to be a patient at LMH Health and improving our clinicians and providers experience. Williams is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, holding a bachelor's degree in computer science and a master's degree in business administration.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2020, LMH Health partnered with Douglas County and community organizations to build the Douglas County Treatment and Recovery Center (TRC). This partnership—the first of its kind nationwide—provides immediate access to behavior health and substance abuse care. By connecting patients to community resources, the TRC is the first step in recovery. LMH played a key role in technology, as well as building design and construction, organizational structure, and processes. Now open and operated by Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, LMH is an active partner in ensuring people have local access to physical and mental health services.



Phil Merrell

CIO
The PromptCare Companies



Phil Merrell is a strategic senior executive with 20+ years of experience in the healthcare industry providing leadership that promotes a positive and energetic culture and encourages autonomous decision making. Combines courage, empathy, and a situationally tailored leadership style to successfully build relationships and teams that execute effectively. Excels at providing clarity amid chaos, solving complex issues strategically, and improving overall operations.

SUCCESS STORY

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to join a company that is accomplishing great things in a short period of time with limited resources. We as an organization accomplished three mergers, a large-scale data analytics deployment, system consolidations, network consolidation, and business process integrations all in under 14 months. We took what many would classify as chaos and found a path forward that has positioned the company very well for significant growth.

BLUE KC CONGRATULATES



**BHASKAR
CHOWDHURY**

ON BEING NAMED A FINALIST FOR
THIS YEAR'S ORBIE AWARDS.



BlueKC.com

©2023 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

In gratitude

Congratulations on your nomination

LMH Health is proud to celebrate the dedication to healthcare technology that Michael provides our patients, staff and clinicians. Through his leadership and passion for people-centered solutions, Michael and his team aim to make your healthcare experience exceptional. His leadership and passion for technology solutions make healthcare more accessible.

MICHAEL WILLIAMS
Vice President and
Chief Information Officer



A partner for lifelong health



Congratulations Chris Cook!

2023 CIO of the Year Finalist, Large Corporate Category

Your leadership and innovation drives success for everyone at Mariner Wealth Advisors.

Mariner 360° Advice Designed to Last
WEALTH ADVISORS www.marinerwealthadvisors.com

The Kansas City CIO ORBIE® Awards selected Chris Cook as a Large Corporate Finalist based on data compiled in 2022. Rankings for 2023 were published in July of 2023. A peer review process led by prior ORBIE recipients selects finalists and winners. Areas judged include leadership and management effectiveness, business value created by technology innovation, and engagement in industry and community endeavors. The award is not indicative of or a guarantee of future success. For additional information, visit: orbie.org.

Mariner Wealth Advisors ("MWA") is an SEC registered investment adviser with its principal place of business in the State of Kansas. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training. For additional information about MWA, including fees and services, please contact MWA or refer to the Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website (www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). Please read the disclosure statement carefully before you invest or send money.

GEHA
Government Employees Health Association

Chief Transformation
Officer at GEHA



Congratulations

David Hakanson

2023 Kansas City CIO of the
Year ORBIE® Finalist

geha.com

CORPORATE FINALISTS



2023
ORBIE
AWARDS

UP TO \$200 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



Cala Poltera

CIO,
QCHI



Cala Poltera earned a bachelor's degree in Business Information Systems from Baker University, joined QCHI in 2002, and has spent the past 20 years rising through the ranks from help desk technician to CIO. Cala's core values, service, and integrity have guided her and are the foundation of her leadership philosophy. She believes in engaging in tough conversations with empathy and action, building teams through vulnerability-based trust, and recognizing and cultivating potential in people.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2016, under the mentorship of the previous CIO, I orchestrated a complex 4-year business process reengineering effort. I championed the transformation of the company's consumer lending platform from a poorly supported, outdated base application and collection of 100+ inhouse developed satellite applications, to a bespoke SaaS solution—custom tailored to our products, services, and requirements. Challenges with the company's offshore partner required improvement in how they defined, built, delivered, tested, and deployed the system. I implemented agile methodologies which tripled the velocity of delivery from the offshore team while at the same time reducing the defect rate.



Chris Borchers

CTO & CPO
Bäsyst Processing



Chris serves as CTO and has been with Bäsyst since November 2021. He focuses on business outcomes by utilizing technology to deliver results. Chris' journey spans 15 years at BlueKC and 5 years within various Financial Services organizations. He thrives on quickly analyzing complex scenarios and figuring out the changes needed with people, processes and technology, focusing on quality and reliability, all while creating alignment through all layers of the organization.

SUCCESS STORY

I came to Bäsyst by a leap of faith where I believed in a couple of leaders' dreams of providing world class service no matter the merchant. From that point, we have focused on solving business problems through technology, utilizing highly skilled technologists. Going from a team of 10 to 35 has been challenging and rewarding. Seeing existing staff challenged and rise to deliver critical business outcomes makes me thankful. This is about those who believed in the vision as well as the individuals recruited who have believed in the dream of being the best technical team, not the biggest.



John Bowers

EVP & CIO
Security Bank of Kansas City



John is a strategically driven executive who has delivered successful technology and operational models for Kansas City companies like Security Bank of KC, Sprint, and Waddell & Reed. John's authentic leadership style provides enterprise-level tech and ops strategy. As an expert in directing digital/operational transformations, highlighting OPEX and CAPEX efficiencies, he's consistently generated annual revenues ranging from \$15M-\$5B.

SUCCESS STORY

John Bowers' vision and team's execution at Security Bank of Kansas City propelled the bank's technology infrastructure through the COVID pandemic and out the other side, allowing them to celebrate their 90th anniversary in 2023.



Lambert Tomeldan

SVP, Technology
Barkley Inc



Lambert Tomeldan serves as the SVP of Technology at Barkley, assuming a pivotal role in providing leadership, establishing a clear vision, executing strategic initiatives, and overseeing all facets of information technology operations and cybersecurity. Lambert has spearheaded significant IT transformation efforts and strategies that have empowered Barkley to drive innovation. Drawing upon his profound passion for technology and extensive industry experience, Lambert exemplifies exceptional effectiveness in implementing technology strategies that position Barkley for sustained growth.

SUCCESS STORY

The last 5 years, our efforts have been centered on a comprehensive technology transformation initiative aimed at delivering long-term value to our business. Our objective has been to foster growth, in terms of revenue and our talented workforce. By strategically implementing foundational core technologies throughout our enterprise and combining them with agile methodologies, we have successfully achieved efficient integration of products. Our technology transformation primarily focused on optimizing our workflow, its design was centered around our staff members. We recognized the importance of providing them with the best possible environment, that enables them to thrive and achieve their full potential.



CONGRATULATIONS

Chaitanya "Chai" Pallapothula
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, HALLMARK CARDS, INC.

Recognized for outstanding leadership, innovation and excellence in technology as a Kansas City ORBIE® Award Finalist.



CONGRATULATIONS

CHRIS BORCHERS

Kansas City ORBIE Awards Finalist

Congratulations to Chris Borchers, Chief Technology and Product Officer, for being a 2023 finalist in the Kansas City ORBIE Awards. Thank you for your unparalleled dedication, innovating thinking and unwavering commitment to excellence in leading our technology teams. We are lucky to have you!



The innovative payments partner.
www.basyspro.com

It matters who you work with.

You lead our companies, cities and communities. Often as unsung heros, you keep our world moving forward, navigating an increasing rate of change while continuing to innovate.

And we're proud to partner with you.

As the underwriter for KansasCityCIO, Tricom works to support its mission to underscore excellence in information technology. Congrats to the finalists, winners, and every CIO who goes above and beyond for their community.

At Tricom, we connect businesses with top IT talent and job seekers with the opportunities they need to thrive.

Learn more at Tricomts.com.





KANSASCITYCIO WHO'S WHO

ADVISORY BOARD OFFICERS



CHAIR
Jana Merfen
CrossFirst Bank



VICE CHAIR
Irvin Bishop Jr
Black and Veatch



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
Dave Williams
Mastercard (fmr.)



MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR
Uma Wilson
UMB Bank



WICHITA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
Steve Castro-Miller
Intrust Financial Corp



PROGRAMS CHAIR
Ravi Peru
CommunityAmerica Credit Union



PROGRAMS CO-CHAIR
Scott Morris
NAIC



AWARDS CHAIR
Chris Harper
The University of Kansas Health System



AWARDS CO-CHAIR
Rob Dickson
Wichita Public Schools



FOUNDING CHAIR
Floyd May III
SelectQuote

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



Bhaskar Chowdhury
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City



Byron Clymer
Lockton



John Jacobs
JE Dunn Construction



Charles King
Eversys

KANSASCITYCIO MEMBERS

OREN BIRKS

SouthernCarlson Inc

CHRIS BORCHERS

Basys Processing, Inc.

SHELLY BROWN

Burns & McDonnell

DUSTIN BURNS

McCownGordon Construction

JOHN BOWERS

Security Bank of Kansas

CHRIS COOK

Mariner Wealth Advisors

DENISE CONNOR

Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

ERIC CORDER

Performance Contracting Group

MIKE DOWNS

Koch Industries

SHANNON GILLEY

Academy Bank

JERRY GLYNN

DEMDACO

BILL GRAFF

Clarivate Analytics

KURT HADERMANN

BlueScope

MICHAEL HANNAN

LightEdge Solutions, Inc.

KIRK HAY

Foley Equipment

KEVIN HUNT

Spirit Aerosystems (fmr.)

SCOTT JONES

Kansas City Public Schools

TONYA KNIPP

Emprise Bank

BRIAN LANCASTER

Children's Mercy Kansas City

DERRICK LEGGETT

American Multi-Cinema, Inc

ED LINK

Garmin International

JEFF MAXON

Office of Information Technology Services

PHIL MERRELL

The PromptCare Companies

DAWN NACHBAR

Compass Minerals

CHUCK PASSANNANTE

Textron Aviation

GARY PRATT

Kansas State University

JOEL PRICE

US Engineering Co

BRAD REIN

Mazuma Credit Union

JIM RICHARDSON

Kansas City Life Insurance

SANGITA RICHARDSON

Spirit Aerosystems

JUSTIN SCHWANKE

Telus

ART SILVA

Helzberg Diamond Shops

LAMBERT TOMELDAN

Barkley

MICHAEL WILLIAMS

LMH Health

FORTINET

www.fortinet.com

The Worldwide Cybersecurity Leader

Making possible a digital world you can always trust

- ✓ Most Devices Deployed
- ✓ Most Patents
- ✓ Most Zero-Day Threats Discovered
- ✓ Most Third-Party Validations
- ✓ Broadest Portfolio

KANSASCITY CIO OF THE YEAR
ORBiE
AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2023
Kansas City CIO of the Year
Award Winners and Nominees



SHI



Solve what's **next**
with **scalable technology solutions**
designed to support and secure
your digital evolution.

SHI.com
888-764-8888



Spencer Gracias
CEO Stefanini NA/APAC

Ricardo Lafosse
Chief Information Security Officer
The Kraft Heinz Company

**YOUR
CO-ENTREPRENEUR**
IN DIGITAL MANUFACTURING

 **stefanini**
GROUP



 **CONCORD**

Delivering Value
Across Your
Customer Lifecycle

Concord is a next-generation technology consultancy that elevates the customer experience through **digital and data solutions.**

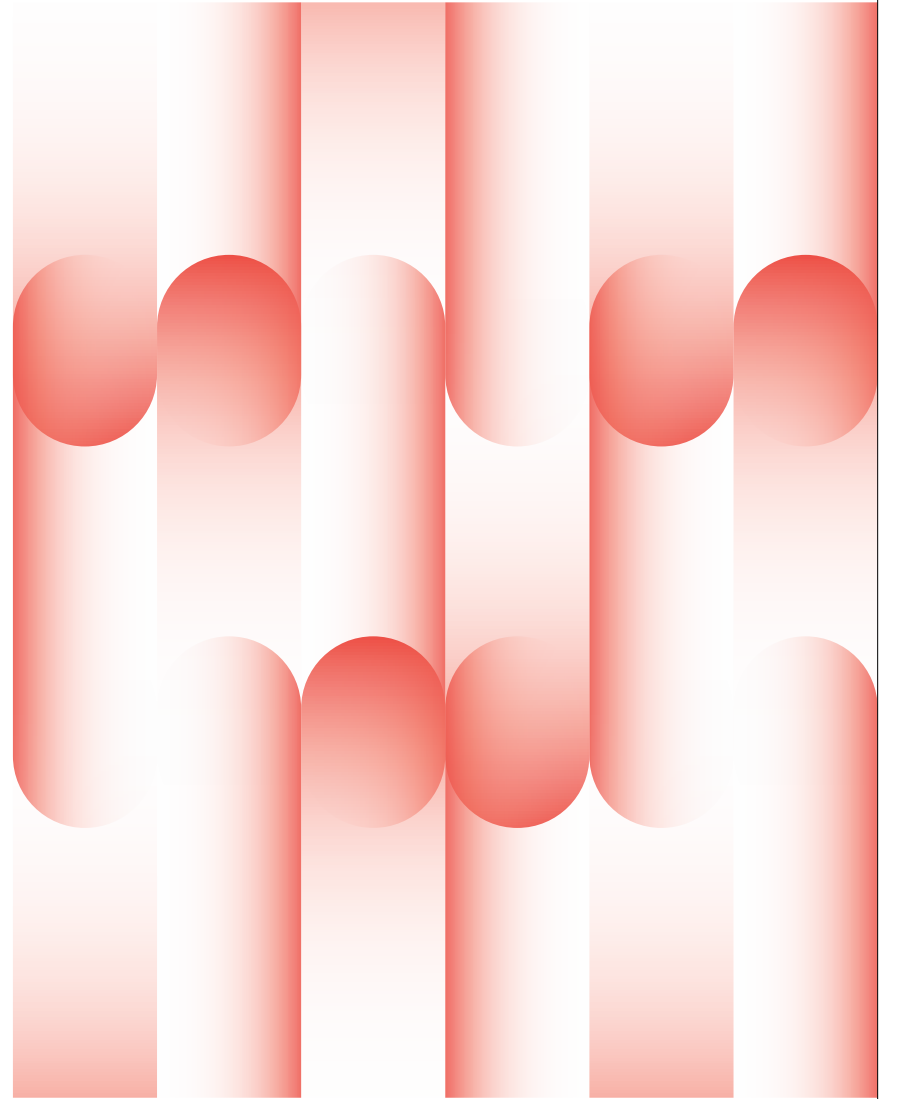
www.concordusa.com

DIGITAL EXPERIENCE | ANALYTICS | APPLICATION ENGINEERING | DATA & INTEGRATION | SECURITY & COMPLIANCE

**Whatever
you're trying
to solve,
we want
to solve it
with you.**

Let's get solving.
g.co/cloud/solving

Google Cloud



**THE
DATA CLOUD**

Mobilizing the world's data



ENGAGING | HYBRID | DIGITAL | EXPERIENCES



INSPIRE MEMBER BENEFITS:

- Up to \$5k off your first event
- Custom-designed floorplan
- Hybrid event Integration



www.imagine.events

INSPIRE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Attracting and developing talent is fundamental to the success of every great technology leader. An exclusive benefit of Inspire membership is access to the Inspire Leadership Academy, offering leadership development programs for CIOs & CISOs, executive leadership teams & high-potential leaders in your IT organization.



NEXT GENERATION LEADER

Make today's investment in tomorrow's leaders.



NEXT GENERATION C-SUITE

Empowering leaders to transform organizations.



INSPIRELEADERSHIPNETWORK.COM/ACADEMY

Congratulations



Debe Gash

Senior Vice President and Chief Digital Officer
Saint Luke's Health System

**2023 Kansas City CIO ORBIE Awards
Leadership Award Recipient**

Thank you for all you do for Saint Luke's.
We're honored by and grateful for your leadership.

 **Saint Luke's**TM



PRESENTED BY



SPONSORED BY



MEDIA SPONSOR



NATIONAL PARTNER

