



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

2023 SOCAL ORBIE® AWARDS

The annual **SoCal ORBIE® Awards** program honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Large Corporate, Corporate & Healthcare categories will be announced October 4 at Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach.

FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Derek Peterson, 2023 SoCalCIO Chair, explains how leadership makes the impossible possible.

PAGE 41

FINALISTS

Meet the
**2023 SoCal
ORBIE Finalists**

PAGE 42

LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT

Sven Gerjets leading technology innovation & implementation at Mattel.

PAGE 43

CONGRATULATIONS 2023 SOCAL ORBIE NOMINEES

KEVIN ABBOTT

Panasonic Avionics

WASI AHMED

Foundation Building Materials

GARY AHWAH

Molina Healthcare

BRANDON AMMANN

Ticketmaster

LUCY AVETISYAN

University of California, Los Angeles

RAJ BANDARU

Kinecta Federal Credit Union

GEORGE BEDAR

LA Fitness

DAVID BERRY

Boardriders

SUZANNE BONNER

Reliance Steel & Aluminum

GEORGE BRADY

loanDepot

DR. TODD BRITTON

University of La Verne

CHARLES CARMICHAEL

NAI Capital

CARMELLA CASSETTA

Hoag Hospital

AL CASTRO

Los Angeles Angels

JASON CHAFFIN

EyeCare Partners

RAY CHAN

San Diego Padres

RAGHU CHENNAREDDY

Prime Healthcare Management Inc.

CALVIN CHOCK

The Vistria Group

TAMMY CHOY

Aerospace Corporation

DOUG COOK

Jack in the Box

CHRISTOPHER COYE

Skechers

MARVIN CRUZ

CGI

DR. AMIR DABIRIAN

California State University - Fullerton

JOHN DAMALES

Pacific Life Insurance

MICHAEL DAVIES

FOX Sports

DEREK DEFIELDS

Riot Games

PAVAN DESANENI

Yokohama Tire Corporation

MARY BETH ECKERT

Pacific Life Insurance

LAKSHMI ELESWARPU

Sanofi

RALPH ESQUIBEL

Los Angeles Dodgers

TONY EVANS

Valley Presbyterian Hospital

CAROL FAWCETT

Golden State Foods

ALLEN FAZIO

Houlihan Lokey

SHIRLEY GAO

Pacific Sunwear

CURT GARNER

Chipotle Mexican Grill

SVEN GERJETS

Mattel

JOSH GOODE

SCAN Group and Healthplan

DEREK GORDON

L.A. Lakers

KEVIN GRAY

City of Burbank

KELLY HAMILTON

Sony Pictures Entertainment

GEORGE HANNA

L.A. Clippers

SKARPI HEDINSSON

LA Rams

JOHN HENDERSON

Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC)

DAVID HUCKABAY

Live Nation Entertainment

DR. MARTIN IGNATOVSKI

SimplePractice

MEMO INAL

East West Bank

ERIC IVERSON

Amazon Studios

DEBRA JENSEN

Masimo

BRANDON JOHNSON

Korn Ferry

ALVIN JOSEPH

Orora Packaging Solutions

SUNIL KANCHI

UST Global

THOMAS KANFLO

Ingram Micro

MUKUND KAUSHIK

Inspire Energy

UMER KHAN

MaxLinear

SAI KOORAPATI

Callaway Golf

BRIAN KRAKOWER

BJ's Restaurants

ABE KURUVILLA

CoreLogic

CRAIG KWIATKOWSKI

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

STEVE LAPINSKI

NBCUniversal

IAN LAW

Los Angeles World Airports

DEREK LAZZARO

Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard and Smith

BRYAN LIM

Panda Restaurant Group

KATHLEEN LINDER

Elevance Health

ELIZABETH LINDSAY-WOOD

City of Hope

MARK LITKOVITZ

Apria Healthcare

JOEL LOEWEN

Yardi Systems

RAY LOWE

AltaMed Health Services

MARINA LUBINSKY

The Cheesecake Factory

DIANE LYE

Rivian

DANIELLE MADISON

Activision Blizzard

TJ MALSEED

Keck Medicine of USC

CINDY MCKENZIE

Curaleaf

GARY MEGSON

Hot Topic

DAVID MICHAEL

2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games

JOE MIRANDA

Herbalife

HITENDRA MISHRA

LegalZoom

GREG MOORE

KB Home

DAN MORALES

Universal Music Group

BRYAN MUEHLBERGER

Vuori

NAVNEETH NAIDU

Hanmi Bank

CHRIS NARDECCHIA

Rockwell Automation

SIMON NAZARIAN

United Health Group/Optum

KEVIN NEIFERT

Thales Aerospace

RAVI NEMANI

Enlyte

HELEN NORRIS

Chapman University

STEPHEN OLIVE

Edwards Lifesciences Corporation

KISHOR PANCHANI

MS International

DARSHAN PARIKH

L.A. Kings

JASON PEROVICH

Xperience XRG Restaurant Group

THOMAS PHELPS

Laserfiche

STEPHEN PLANK

Taco Bell

ERIK QUADE

Tillys

LANCE RALLS

MerchSource

GERALDINE RAMEZANI

First American Financial

MICHAEL REAGIN

Sharp HealthCare

SMITH REYNOLDS

Hyundai AutoEver America

CARISSA ROLLINS

Illumina

SANJIB SAHOO

Ingram Micro Inc.

GILBERT SALAZAR

Stater Bros.

CISCO SANCHEZ

Qualcomm

HOWARD SCHWEITZER

Mars

STEVEN SCHWIMMER

Pacific Western Bank

JONATHAN SEE

Pepperdine University

HASSAN SHARIF

Prospect Medical Holdings

NICOLE SHIN MCGEE

Beckman Coulter

JAMES SHIRA

PwC

CHRIS SIMPSON

AAA Automobile Club of Southern California

BRUNO SINGH

Welk Resorts

JUSTIN SKELTON

Dine Brands

LINDA SMART

Southland Industries

JASON STEVENS

Herbalife

KEVIN STORLI

PwC

KASH SUKHIJA

PlayStation

JOHAN SWART

Hyundai Capital America

DENISE TAYLOR

Therabody

SUDARSAN THATTAI

Lineage Logistics

SHANE THIELMAN

Scripps Health

JULIE TING

Boot Barn

MICHAEL TRKAY

FICO

GEORGE TSOUNIS

Stretto

DOSS TYCHICUS

AIDS Healthcare Foundation

SAIRAJ UDDIN

The Trade Desk

ABE WONG

Irvine Company

JAMES XU

Guess

WAEI YOUNAN

CalOptima Health

MARK ZIRKELBACH

Loma Linda University Health

SOCAL
ORBIE
AWARDS

Leadership Makes the Impossible Possible



DR. DEREK PETERSON
2023 CHAIR

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

For nearly 25 years, the Inspire Leadership Network has helped CIOs succeed in today's most challenging C-suite executive role. SoCalCIO 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 three 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 SoCalCIO, 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,

Dr. Derek Peterson
2023 Chair, SoCalCIO
Chief Technology Officer, Boingo Wireless

The new way to cloud.

Google Cloud
Discover what's new at g.co/cloud

SOCAL ORBIE AWARDS



SIMON NAZARIAN

CIO - Optum Health Care Delivery
United Health Group / Optum

Simon Nazarian is the CIO for the Optum Health's Care Delivery as well as Optum Health Plan of California. Nazarian is an integral member of the executive leadership team overseeing overall information and technology functions, strategy and capabilities for care delivery. Nazarian brings more than 25 years of experience in technology leadership and operational excellence to define and advocate business-aligned technology strategies, capital investments and solution roadmaps to support organizational vision and performance.

SUCCESS STORY

Optum Health is experiencing explosive growth. With an ever-increasing pace and volume of integrating new care delivery organizations (and the sheer magnitude and complexity of transforming into a continually growing, yet unified enterprise) it is critical to develop an organizational operating model, in partnership with its business partners, to deliver advanced technology solutions across a company serving more than 13 million patients, 40,000 practitioners and 3,000 facilities nationwide. The result is a unified Technology team that can support the company's dynamic evolution, pivot with agility to meet ever-changing market needs, and rapidly deploy transformational technologies while focusing on its people.



CARISSA ROLLINS

SVP & CIO
Illumina

As Illumina's CIO, Carissa Rollins is responsible for leading global IT strategy, operations, infrastructure, enterprise architecture, cybersecurity, employee and business-facing applications. Before joining Illumina, Rollins was CIO at UnitedHealthcare and has held executive roles at Gander Mountain, Kohl's Corporation, Manpower Global, and Miller-Coors. Rollins is currently the board chair of the YWCA - Minneapolis, serves on the boards of Owens and Minor and Grand Canyon Conservancy. Rollins holds a BS in MIS and MBA from Marquette University.

SUCCESS STORY

In a little over a year as CIO, Rollins has led the creation and advancement of the first Illumina enterprise technology five-year strategy and roadmap; creation of the first enterprise technology investment review board; published Illumina's first business capabilities map and started to move towards product and capability-based teams; hired Illumina's first VP of Digital Technology to support the company's innovation roadmap and customer engagement; received ISO/IEC certification for several programs; and supported the opening of new markets in several countries. Rollins and team have also delivered projects that will deliver close to \$50 million in ROI in the next few years.

GLOBAL FINALISTS

Over \$5 billion annual revenue & multi-national operations



SANJIB SAHOO

EVP & CDO
Ingram Micro Inc.

Sanjib Sahoo is an award-winning global technology executive and the EVP and chief digital officer of Ingram Micro, a worldwide leader in technology distribution and the brand behind today's established and emerging technology brands. He has been involved in leading digital transformation in two different industries, the financial services industry and the transportation industry.

Sahoo has won more than 18 awards for his leadership and technology innovation, including being recognized as one of the world's most influential executives in 2020 for Business Transformation. An alumnus of Harvard Business School, Sahoo brings a unique combination of business acumen and technical prowess. He holds several patents for data and streaming technologies. He is an industry thought leader, a contributor to Harvard Business Review, Wired, and also a TED speaker.



CISCO SANCHEZ

CIO
Qualcomm

Cisco Sanchez is the CIO & SVP for Qualcomm Incorporated, with more than 25 years of engineering and IT experience. He is responsible for leading the strategic direction for IT infrastructure, cyber security/resiliency, enterprise applications, end user productivity solutions and driving large scale pre/post Silicon and enterprise-wide digital transformations. Sanchez previously spent 15 years at FedEx Ground, serving as the SVP & CIO. Sanchez holds a bachelor's degree in computer science and a master's degree in management information systems.

SUCCESS STORY

Qualcomm is embarking on a significant business transformation and Sanchez believes that IT can play a critical role in enabling the company's strategy goals through common, scalable, architected, secured IT services. One example relates to implementing SAFe with Qualcomm's IoT Business to help drive iterative value. At a recent PI Planning Event, Sanchez and team held a three day workshop to ensure IT and business alignment based on business value. This was the first time six different business teams and IT had collectively planned and relentlessly prioritized. The feedback on the event has been outstanding and the teams are seeing the value IT provides.



2023 LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT

Sven Gerjets

Executive Vice President & Chief Technology Officer | Mattel

Sven Gerjets is Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Mattel. He joined Mattel in 2017. In his role, Gerjets oversees all aspects of technology innovation and implementation, including shared technology platforms, software and hardware development, and connected product design. He also leads Mattel's online security and privacy.

Gerjets has three decades of technology leadership experience. Prior to Mattel, he was Chief Information Officer at Time Warner Cable, where he was responsible for consolidating the IT and cybersecurity groups and led the team through the company's acquisition by Charter Communications.

Prior to Time Warner, Mr. Gerjets served as Chief Technology Officer at Pearson Education, where he developed the technology product strategy for Pearson's \$2.5 billion global higher-education business. Prior to Pearson Education, Mr. Gerjets spent seven years at DirecTV in various leadership roles, including as Senior Vice President of Information Technology. While at DirecTV, Mr. Gerjets led the organization responsible for delivering all IT applications and systems used to run the company's U.S. television business. Earlier in his career he held leadership positions at Symantec and AT&T Wireless.

Mr. Gerjets has contributed articles to notable industry publications including Wired and InfoWorld and has been recognized as a top 100 technology leader by Computerworld. He received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Kennedy-Western University and completed Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Family Online Safety Institute.

postindustria_

Empowering disruptive ideas for the modern digital competition

- // AI
- // Data & Cloud
- // Mobile
- // UX



postindustria.com // info@postindustria.com

SOCAL ORBIE AWARDS

LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

Over \$1.7 billion annual revenue



LUCY AVETISYAN

Associate Vice Chancellor;
CIO
University of California, Los Angeles

Lucy Avetisyan, Associate Vice Chancellor and CIO at UCLA, is renowned for championing IT innovation and driving transformative change. Under her leadership, UCLA's Digital Campus Roadmap is revolutionizing the university experience enabled by technology. Prior to this, Avetisyan made significant contributions at USC, notably as deputy CIO, where she spearheaded projects including the Digital Transformation and Organization Transition. With a reputation for fostering team excellence, she consistently prioritizes customer service, employee fulfillment and technological advancement.

SUCCESS STORY

Avetisyan initiated an innovative transformation of the university's tech landscape, based on comprehensive campus assessments involving over 250 stakeholders. From these insights emerged the Digital Campus Roadmap, a visionary plan with over twenty initiatives aimed at elevating UCLA's technological foundation and enabling UCLA's mission as a premier higher education institution. To ensure seamless execution, Avetisyan introduced a dynamic IT governance structure, promoting unity and transparency. Avetisyan's exemplary leadership underscores UCLA's commitment to innovation, positioning it as a trailblazer in higher education technology.



RAGHU CHENNAREDDY

CTO
Prime Healthcare Management Inc.

Raghu Chennareddy is a distinguished healthcare IT leader with an impressive career spanning over 20 years. His unique ability to navigate the intersection of technology and healthcare has enabled him to craft innovative strategies revolutionizing IT. He has been instrumental in driving technological advancements to create transformative solutions for patient care improvement, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to advancing patient care. Chennareddy truly stands out as a visionary steward, revolutionizing both Information Technology and Healthcare IT.

SUCCESS STORY

Chennareddy is driven by a passion for technology and a desire to make an impact in the healthcare industry. Starting out as a network engineer, he quickly developed technical proficiency and honed his ability to troubleshoot complex problems. As his experience grew, so did his ambition; this led him to pursue roles of increasing influence within the healthcare sector until becoming VP of IT & CTO at Prime Healthcare. It is rewarding for him to see initiatives come together that truly benefit patients through improved access to quality care enabled by technological advances - something that would not be achievable without dedication from everyone involved.



CAROL FAWCETT

Corporate VP, CIO
Golden State Foods

For more than 35 years Carol Fawcett has spent her career in the technology industry. Her consistent goal: understand the "what and why" before jumping to solutions.

Since 2017 with Golden State Foods, one of the largest diversified suppliers to foodservice and retail industries, Fawcett shares its values-driven culture, written in GSF's creed: "...our success is dependent upon the success of our customers, and that only by working together can the ultimate success of all partners be assured."

SUCCESS STORY

Fawcett thrives on being part of a team and bringing people together to succeed as a team. She believes there is no greater feeling than seeing those around her reach across the "aisle" to listen, collaborate and discover new ways of doing something innovative for the betterment of the company and its associates. Working together, business and IT, Fawcett and team have delivered great solutions answering the need to be as efficient and transparent as possible in an effort to make GSF one of the easiest companies to do business with across all divisions.



ALVIN JOSEPH

VP & CIO
Orora Packaging Solutions

Alvin Joseph has served as Vice President, IT & CIO for Orora Packaging Solutions since 2019. He is responsible for technology strategies to achieve operational excellence and enable new digital capabilities. Previously, Joseph was Director of Corporate Business Systems at Tower Semiconductor where he built best in class global systems that transformed operational efficiency and customer experience. He has also held IT leadership roles at Jazz Semiconductor and Conexant Systems. Joseph holds a BSEE and an MBA.

SUCCESS STORY

Joseph's strategy revolves around three drivers: achieving frictionless business through reimagining experiences, implementing best-in-class processes via digital transformation, and gaining competitive edge through technology innovation. He led the revitalization of the IT organization, transitioning to scalable and highly available digital infrastructure. Enhancing IT service experience was achieved through AI-based technologies. Joseph and team developed a new customer digital experience platform, optimized business processes, and seamlessly integrated M&A ventures. Their data-driven approach, powered by business intelligence, played a pivotal role in achieving PBIT goals. Joseph and team implemented a comprehensive global security program. His journey continues, driven by a relentless pursuit of excellence and innovation.



RAVI NEMANI

EVP & CIO
Enlyte

Ravi Nemani has forged more than 25 years of success in building teams and leveraging technology to drive innovation and solving key business challenges. Currently,

Nemani serves at the EVP & CIO at Enlyte, and has multiple patents in AI. He previously led IT strategy, governance, and managed M&A integrations and product at Mitchell. Nemani has also led global teams for cloud product delivery and technology strategy consulting engagements. He currently serves as a board member at Dreams for Change. Nemani has an MBA from the Wharton School and an MS in computer science and carries certifications in ITIL, COBIT, and AWS.

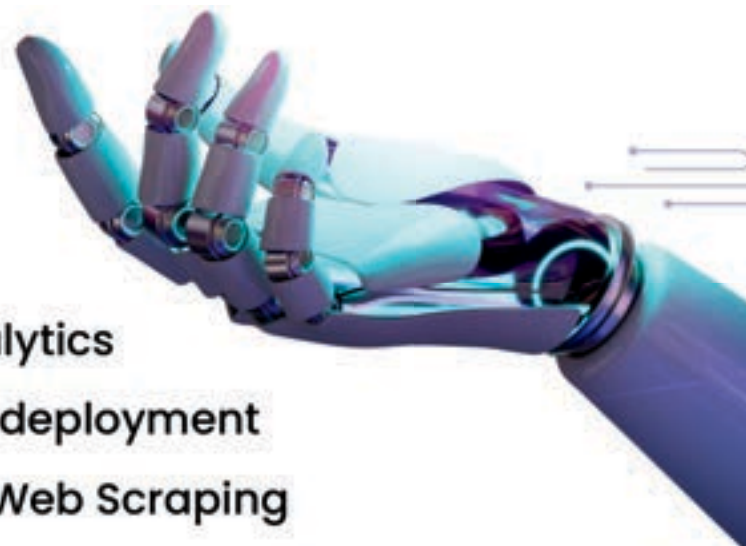
SUCCESS STORY

Nemani and team successfully completed several major M&A integrations, driving company growth. Not only did they successfully integrate their last major acquisition in record time, but also migrated them to the cloud. They were able to drive an almost 30% reduction in operating costs through application refactoring. A synergy-driven approach lowered IT costs and boosted the BU's 2022 EBITDA significantly. Nemani and team established a strong cloud landing zone, governance processes and automation capabilities. Leveraging AWS, they transformed infrastructure delivery and support, implementing managed services, tiered DR, and more. Fusion teams and client services executives bridged the gap between IT and business, leading to multi-million dollar savings and improved business value.




Building Responsible AI at scale

We are a leading AI solution & Data Engineering company with proven expertise in helping enterprises achieve growth & ROI through cutting-edge technologies.



- ✓ 65% Customer Retention through Predictive Analytics
- ✓ \$15M+ Annual Savings through MLOps platform deployment
- ✓ \$20M Revenue Increase through NLP & Custom Web Scraping

Talk to us today!

 <https://blackstraw.ai>

 info@blackstraw.ai



www.fortinet.com

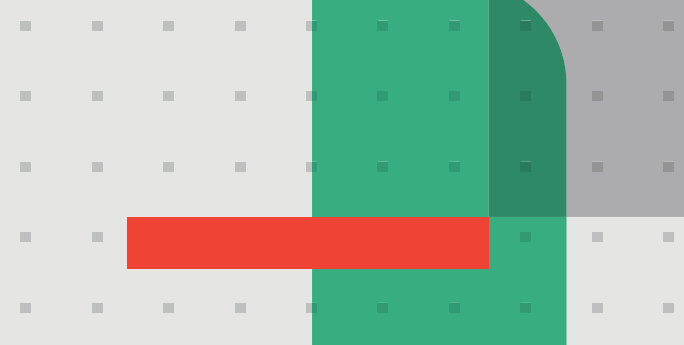
The Worldwide Cybersecurity Leader

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



Congratulations to the 2023 SOCAL CIO of the Year Award Winners and Nominees



SOCAL ORBIE AWARDS

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

Over \$750 million annual revenue



KEVIN ABBOTT

Head of Global IT & Security
Panasonic Avionics

As a global technology leader, Kevin Abbott has built teams that elevate organizations through innovative technology solutions and transformational enterprise initiatives – from helping to launch the first iPhone as an IT leader with Cingular wireless to enabling inflight entertainment and connectivity to over 2.7 billion travelers every year as head of IT for Panasonic Avionics. Abbott learned that innovation occurs when organizational culture and teams are built around the intersection of strategy, empowerment, entrepreneurship and structure.

SUCCESS STORY

Abbott has successfully led transformative initiatives including: the headquarters campus move and migration to the cloud for on premise infrastructure; global implementation of CSM, ITSM and HRSM; being a two-time winner of Panasonic's global cost savings/process improvement award. But what Abbott is most proud of is leading a global workforce through the pandemic and its impact on the aviation industry. During those uncertain times and in the wake of the "great resignation" is where his leadership really mattered. He adopted the philosophy of Konosuke Matsushita (founder of Panasonic): "Treat people you do business with as if they were a part of your family."



SHIRLEY GAO

CIO
Pacific Sunwear

Shirley Gao is the Chief Digital and Information officer at PacSun. She previously served as the CIO for PSEB LLC, a group company including PacSun and Eddie Bauer. Prior to joining PSEB, Gao held the position of SVP and CIO at Young's Market Company for four years and led the digital transformation for the \$3.5 billion revenue wholesale distribution business. Gao advanced her career to global CIO during her 12 years of service at Guess?, Inc.

SUCCESS STORY

Gao is truly grateful for the entrusted opportunities and invaluable guidance she has received, which have facilitated her professional growth. She consistently stays focused on aligning IT strategies with organizational goals, resulting in technology solutions that not only meet the business immediate needs but also support long-term scalability. This forward-thinking approach has led to several innovative projects that have transformed the company's operation processes, enhanced productivity, and empowered its workforce. Gao remains at the forefront of emerging technology, seeks enterprise-ready solutions to drive sales and enhance customer experiences. She has successfully built high performing IT teams that contribute significantly to the company's accomplishments.



KEVIN GRAY

CIO
City of Burbank

Kevin Gray has served as the Burbank's Chief Information Officer since 2018. He is responsible for driving the city's digital transformation and technology strategies, and managing the overall operations of the IT Department. Gray serves on several boards including the Municipal Information Systems Association of California, the Southern California Society for Information Management, Innovate@UCLA, University of California Riverside Extension Executive Design Thinking Program, CIO Summit – California and the Burbank Community YMCA.

SUCCESS STORY

Under Gray's leadership, the City of Burbank is proud to be the only local government agency in California to successfully adopt the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) for the entire city, driving innovation across all business value streams of the city. Burbank's SAFe adoption enabled IT to grow its project portfolio by six times without additional staff. Burbank delivers IT projects 70% faster. Plus, it has driven up IT and business engagement up by 400%. New digital solutions save the city over \$9 million dollars annually in city time and effort and save the community members over 4,200 hours of their time.



BRIAN KRAKOWER

EVP & CIO
BJ's Restaurants, Inc.

Brian Krakower is a business-focused, seasoned technology executive with an extensive technology foundation. He is also an accomplished visionary with a strategic yet nimble approach. He has a proven track record in growing and developing technology teams and solutions focused on the business, innovation and efficiency. Krakower is passionately pursuing the journey of mastering technology and relationships in an effort to continuously and repeatedly drive differentiated business value while having a positive, lasting influence on team members, peers and communities.

SUCCESS STORY

An IT leader for over 20 years, Krakower's passion for getting people to share his excitement about technology has resulted in continued innovation in a scalable, supportable fashion. Across multiple companies, Krakower, with his team and internal and external business partners, has been the first or among the first to achieve enterprise-wide deployments of guest-facing platforms such as digital ordering, call centers, and mobile payment. Complete adoption of order-entry tablets and electronic tip distribution were also industry firsts. Industry-wide adoption of these innovations speaks to the differentiated delivery of business value using technology embraced by guests and team members.



ERIK QUADE

CIO
Tillys

Erik Quade has over 25 years of IT experience, was awarded the CIO of the Year award twice, in 2008 and 2010, by the San Diego Business Journal, and has been recognized as a retail leader. Quade has held leadership roles for such companies as Cisco Systems, Linksys, ResMed, Fox Racing, Spy Optic, Billabong, and Hot Topic.

SUCCESS STORY

Quade considers Tillys a truly amazing company to work for. He joined right before the pandemic hit. The greatest accomplishment within his role was to support the business and even expand business through the global pandemic. While most companies furloughed employees, Quade was able to keep IT employees employed and focused on strategic competitive initiatives. Tillys pushed key initiatives such as curbside pickup, same-day deliveries through UBER, and touchless customer pickup and built a new data center incorporating Disaster Recovery and business continuity. The ability of Quade and his team to deliver under such circumstances and while working 100% remotely was truly remarkable.



Neudesic, an IBM company, is the trusted technology partner in business innovation, delivering impactful business results through digital modernization and evolution.

Our consultants bring business and technology expertise together, offering a wide range of cloud and data-driven solutions, including custom application development, comprehensive managed services, and business software products.



Congratulations to the 2023 SOCAL CIO of the Year Award Winners and Nominees

SOCAL ORBIE AWARDS

LARGE CORPORATE FINALISTS

Over \$500 million annual revenue



DEREK LAZZARO

CIO
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard and
Smith

Derek Lazzaro is an attorney and Chief Information Officer with experience at a large national law firm, major university, and government-sponsored research institute. He has extensive experience with various information security and privacy frameworks, including NIST, HIPAA, classified information and more. He also has operational experience leading teams of 400 IT professionals.

SUCCESS STORY

While CIO of Lewis Brisbois, Lazzaro has led several transformative initiatives, which have directly reduced IT expenses, improved the security and resilience of the firm's network, and streamlined the daily workflows for firm personnel. Successes include renegotiating the firm's printer/copier contracts, saving millions annually while deploying hundreds of large, managed copiers. He also implemented a SOC/MDR cybersecurity solution to enable 24/7/365 monitoring for all assets. Lazzaro led migration to cloud-native/web-native applications for virtually all core applications and migrated the firm from an MPLS architecture to Viptela SD-WAN, improving security and saving millions annually. He also transitioned the collaboration platform from Webex to Zoom meetings/phone.



HITENDRA MISHRA

CIO
Legalzoom

Hitendra Mishra, the CIO at Legalzoom, boasts a rich background spanning retail, eCommerce, product development and IT, marked by impactful roles at Walmart-labs, Peet's Coffee, and Stitch Fix. He epitomizes leadership by example, nurturing teams with empathy and fostering cross-functional collaboration. Renowned for his exceptional team-building prowess, Mishra brings a unique product-centric perspective to IT. His strategic vision and collaborative approach continue to propel transformative success within Legalzoom and beyond.

SUCCESS STORY

In just two years, Mishra has orchestrated a remarkable turnaround for his IT team. He initiated a comprehensive reorganization with a combination of fresh blood and experienced folks and aligned roles and responsibilities with the company's strategic goals. He has fostered a culture of collaboration and successful execution helping Legalzoom notch one successful initiative after another. Mishra has cultivated open communication and fostered effective cross-functional partnerships. Under his guidance, the team's productivity and morale have skyrocketed, resulting in streamlined IT operations, reduced downtime, and a reputation for consistently delivering impactful IT solutions, ultimately contributing significantly to the company's overall success.



HELEN NORRIS

VP & CIO
Chapman University

Helen Norris is the CIO at Chapman University. She oversees all technology at the university, and also manages the University Library. She serves as board chair for EDU-

CAUSE, and is a member and former chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Endowment for Financial Education and for the Southern California Society of Information Management. Norris is a nationally-known expert on technology in higher education, and recently testified before the Senate HELP Committee.

SUCCESS STORY

Norris and her team played a critical role in supporting Chapman through the pandemic. They supported the move to remote teaching, moving 4000 courses from the classroom to online in under a week, simultaneously migrating to a new Learning Management System. The entire IT organization supported faculty and students in two teams – "Teaching Remotely" and "Working Remotely" – to ensure a smooth transition. Norris' team also prepared the campus for hybrid work and teaching, equipping over 200 classrooms and 50 conference rooms with the equipment to support a fully online, fully in-person or hybrid experience – all while paying attention to security and privacy issues.



LANCE RALLS

Global CIO and CTO
MerchSource

Lance Ralls is a unique, hybrid global CIO/CTO who rapidly delivers impact to profit and revenue. He is a rare bilingual executive who can speak both the language of business and technology fluently. Ralls' global executive management experience spans multiple industries and includes tenures during dramatic growth at Belkin International, Pelican, MerchSource, Mattel, DIRECTV, Sony, Warner Bros, NBC Universal, Cognizant, and PricewaterhouseCoopers. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering UCLA.

SUCCESS STORY

Over the prior three years, MerchSource has doubled in size, prompting Ralls' role in transforming an external IT department into an internal Technology & Data Services (TDS) business partner. Through a spirit of servant leadership and support, Ralls and team provide exceptional TDS to both internal and external customers. Shifting from symptom treatment to problem-solving, his department of around 20 resources now supports global functions securely. The shift from being perceived as "just IT" to a true business partner has been Ralls' proudest moment. He and his team have laid a strong foundation, driving high-growth and committed to continuous improvement and innovation.



JONATHAN SEE

CIO
Pepperdine University

Jonathan See has been Pepperdine University's CIO since 2012, bringing 34 years of experience in higher education. He previously held roles such as Senior Director for IT Administration and Client Services, and Deputy CIO at Pepperdine. He also served as head of administration at the Getty Research Institute for three and a half years and spent 14 years at California State University, Los Angeles, where he was Deputy Executive Director for Commercial Operations.

SUCCESS STORY

See's standout accomplishment is the Application Development Internship Program, launched seven years ago in collaboration with the undergraduate computer science faculty. It provides year-long, paid internships where students apply their knowledge to real business problems at the University. Participants receive compensation, course credits, and present their projects before University executives. The program's success lies in offering real professional experiences, improving problem-solving skills, and enhancing job prospects, with many students receiving job offers before graduation, fulfilling the goal of both education and gainful employment support.

Cloudflare Zero Trust

Stop data loss, malware and phishing with the most performant Zero Trust application access and Internet browsing platform.

Our network now spans 275 cities



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



SOCAL ORBIE AWARDS

CORPORATE FINALISTS

Up to \$500 million annual revenue



TODD BRITTON

VP for IT & CIO
University of La Verne

Dr. Todd Britton is a senior executive cabinet member and University leader well versed in organizational leadership, information technology, risk management, program and project management, lean six sigma, and technology governance. Britton has over 25 years' experience in increasingly complex roles across education, manufacturing, and finance. His current role is leading the Information Technology division at the University of La Verne, where he provides strategic leadership and operational management through oversight of information technology.

SUCCESS STORY

Responding to the pandemic, Britton knew he needed to ensure students continued learning, faculty continued teaching, and the staff continued working. Over one month, he and his team deployed devices to the entire workforce (about 2,500 employees) in order to provide reliable remote connectivity and productivity. Britton and team also digitized the University's physical computer labs so that students could maintain their lab work, and continued deployment of virtual desktop infrastructure so all could access the needed software to learn, teach, and work. The significance of these efforts was the sheer scope and scale of these changes occurring all at once.



MARTIN IGNATOVSKI

CIO
SimplePractice

Dr. Martin Ignatovski brings vast experience in IT leadership, overseeing diverse functions such as product infrastructure, internal IT, security, compliance, and data management. He spearheaded significant digital transformation initiatives, resulting in substantial cost savings and operational efficiencies. His leadership style fosters an environment of empowerment and continuous learning. Committed to innovation and operational excellence, Dr. Ignatovski steered the team towards achieving top-tier industry certifications and customer satisfaction, while boosting revenues through strategic technology deployments.

SUCCESS STORY

As SimplePractice's CIO, Dr. Ignatovski's multi-faceted role spans product infrastructure, internal IT, security, compliance, data and fraud. He and his team's innovative use of Kubernetes and containers during their digital transformation not only trimmed infrastructure costs but also bolstered system uptime, contributing directly to uninterrupted patient care. With excellent customer satisfaction rate, quick response and resolution times, and stringent security measures culminating in HITRUST and PCI certifications, the team has strengthened customer trust and loyalty. Their unwavering commitment to operational efficiency and on-time project completion has cut costs and elevated a data-driven approach. Dr. Ignatovski's use of AI/ML technologies has helped SimplePractice's business and customers.



MUKUND KAUSHIK

CTO
Inspire Energy

Mukund Kaushik is a seasoned CTO with a passion for making a positive impact. His work spans across software engineering, product management, and IT,

always with an eye toward contributing to companies that aim to better the world. Kaushik's leadership style is rooted in empathy and a clear vision, guiding his teams toward success.

SUCCESS STORY

Under Kaushik's guidance, his team adopted a product development methodology emphasizing creating software features to grow the business and improve customer satisfaction. He efficiently manages operating costs, actively engages in company-wide innovation initiatives, and has played a pivotal role in seamlessly integrating technology with Shell. By strategically tapping into coding boot camp talent and utilizing nearshore staff augmentation, he effectively increased the development team's capacity while keeping expenses low. He consistently exhibits confidence, empathy, and adaptability, leaving an indelible mark on the teams he leads.



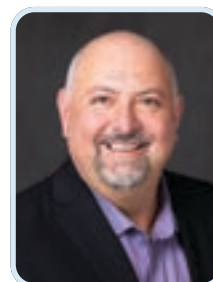
THOMAS PHELPS

SVP of Corporate Strategy
& CIO
Laserfiche

Thomas Phelps IV is the CIO and SVP of Corporate Strategy for Laserfiche, the leading SaaS provider of intelligent content management and business process automation. He is the executive chair of Innovate@UCLA. Additionally, Phelps is a board director on the audit and finance committees for Cal State University, Long Beach 49er Foundation. Previously, he was an adjunct professor at USC Marshall School of Business and the national entertainment and media champion for cybersecurity at PwC.

SUCCESS STORY

Phelps leads the Business Innovation and Technology organization at Laserfiche. As the CIO and SVP of Corporate Strategy, he has led strategic initiatives and technology innovation to transform the business, optimize costs, and enhance security and compliance. Under his leadership, Laserfiche was recognized as a visionary and leader by industry analysts, and was named a 2023 Gartner Peer Insights Customers' Choice for Content Services Platforms. Phelps has co-authored/contributed to five books and been frequently quoted in the Wall Street Journal. He has also been cited in the Los Angeles Business Journal, Forbes, The Economist, The Enterprisers, CIO.com and Tech Target.



GEORGE TSOUNIS

CTO
Stretto

In his role as Chief Technology Officer at Stretto, George Tsounis leverages over 25 years of substantive B2B and B2C technology expertise and

a long track record of achieving significant results through the skillful creation and execution of strategic department and business development plans. Tsounis brings diverse and in-depth experience to his role from working at industry-leading firms within various sectors outside of legal technology, including the payroll/HR business services company, ADP, and top tiered tax-software business, TaxAct.

SUCCESS STORY

As CTO at Stretto, Tsounis feels blessed to lead such a passionate and world-class technology team. Working closely with the company's business stakeholders and technologists, Tsounis and team established an exciting technology roadmap that delivers on Stretto's strategic business objectives. His organization accomplished numerous goals that have positively impacted Stretto's associates and delivered coveted solutions and improvements for clients. Since joining Stretto, Tsounis removed departmental silos and improved communications and collaboration. He is very proud of the high-performing technology leadership team that delivers on Stretto's growth objectives.

Congratulations

RAGHU CHENNAREDDY
Chief Technology Officer

**2023 SoCal ORBIE
CIO of the Year**
finalist nomination from the
Los Angeles Business Journal



ANNUAL MEMBER CONFERENCE

CONVERGE

DALLAS, TX | AUGUST 13-15, 2024

SCAN &
REGISTER



Converge24 registration is exclusive to Inspire Leadership Network members

SOCAL ORBIE AWARDS

HEALTHCARE FINALISTS

Nonprofit and Public Sector
Healthcare organizations



JOHN HENDERSON

VP, Chief Information
& Digital Officer
Children's Hospital of
Orange County

John Henderson is an experienced, value-focused technology executive leader at Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), a leader in pediatric healthcare. Henderson is responsible for the Information Technology organization and leads a team of more than 170 with budget responsibility of \$86 million. Henderson focuses on modernizing technology and delivery to improve access and care delivery our patients. He established an automation program and leading analytics partnership with the business to drive improvements across business and clinical operations.

SUCCESS STORY

Henderson is very proud of CHOC's culture and the amazing team he has the privilege of working with that partners to deliver excellence and value every day. He likes to quote the airline industry where they say, "put your oxygen mask on yourself first before helping others, so you can be in the best position to take care of others." He believes his team's collective oxygen mask is its commitment to CHOC's people and its 90th percentile associate engagement results, allowing them to deliver tangible results for the health system and patients by leveraging analytics, data science, automation, EMR and other technologies to achieve CHOC's mission.



RAY LOWE

SVP/CIO
AltaMed Health Services

Serving as SVP/CIO for AltaMed Health Services since 2018, Ray Lowe is a strong advocate of health equity and is driven to close gaps in healthcare for the underserved communities. He has over 25 years of healthcare experience and has been recognized as an award winning CIO, receiving the 2023 HIMSS "Change Maker of the Year Award"; the 2023 Healthcare Digital "Top 10 CIOs in Healthcare;" and Becker's Hospital Review's "Top 100 Healthcare CIOs to Know" list in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

SUCCESS STORY

Lowe views the CIO role as information, innovation, informatics and influence. Each of these traits have helped him develop into the leader that he is today and he continually strives to model these attributes at all times. Also important to him is being a servant leader and looking to help others and the next generations of leaders. He is honored that by championing health equity for all and advocating for the low income, Spanish speaking and socially disadvantaged population, demonstrates that we can all be change agents.



MICHAEL REAGIN

SVP, Chief Information
& Innovation Officer
Sharp HealthCare

Michael Reagin has served in a variety of healthcare operational, strategy, innovation, and information technology leadership

roles over the past 27 years. Throughout his career, Reagin has been at the forefront of identifying and implementing strategies to improve health care quality, customer experience, efficiency and safety utilizing technology. His experience and vision for improving health care by addressing the entire continuum is evident in his work on digital strategies, population health and data analytics.

SUCCESS STORY

Reagin has been recognized for his strong business acumen, communication and strategic planning skills to lead a large healthcare IT business. Under his leadership, Sharp HealthCare (SHC) has embarked on the implementation of several large-scale initiatives, most notably to bring together four acute-care hospitals, three specialty hospitals, three affiliated medical groups, numerous outpatient facilities and a health plan under a single electronic health records system. Reagin led the launch of Sharp Ventures, SHC's first formal innovation program, uniting innovators from around the country and partnering with Sharp leaders in the development, testing, and deployment of new innovations.



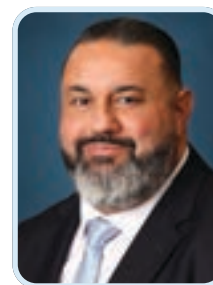
DOSS TYCHICUS

CIO
AIDS Healthcare Foundation

Doss Tychicus is an IT executive with more than 29 years of experience in management, software development, budget development profit and loss, strategic planning, marketing, operations and new business development. Currently he is working as Chief Information Officer for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which is the largest provider of HIV/AIDS medical care in the world. He holds a Master's Degree in computer science. Tychicus' experience spans, building EMR /EHR, claims systems DB and web apps.

SUCCESS STORY

Tychicus and his team have successfully instituted a new EMR system by combining three different systems into one, with a less than 1% error rate. They also moved their pharmacy system from on-premises to cloud with a less than 1% error rate. Tychicus stabilized infrastructure operations by reducing IT outages by 98%, and major outages to zero. He adopted a DevOps model in all new digital development initiatives delivering continuous tangible results to the business. He has implemented cloud storage, backup, virtualization, DR/BC strategy, and significantly improved the organization's regulatory compliance posture. He also achieved capital expense and operational cost savings exceeding multimillions of dollars.



WAEI YOUNAN

CIO
CalOptima Health

Wael Younan is the Chief Information Officer / Chief Information Security Officer at CalOptima Health. In his role he provides leadership and oversight

for enterprise-wide technology needs, operations, cybersecurity and strategy. He is currently working on a digital transformation and workplace modernization strategy with a goal to be the first health payer to provide real-time claims payments, 24-hour treatment authorizations and annual Social Determinant of Health assessments for members.

SUCCESS STORY

As the CIO for CalOptima Health, Younan and his ITS team have been working diligently on a full digital transformation initiative to build out a Digital Health Platform for CalOptima Health. The goal is to provide 24-hour treatment authorizations, real time claims payments and at least annually conduct a Social Determinants of Health assessment to ensure the organization is diligently taking care of its members and providers. In the first year, Younan's team was able to achieve 18 hour turnaround times well ahead of goal and continue to work the other initiatives to success.

2023 CIO OF THE YEAR

ADVISORY BOARD OFFICERS



CHAIR
Derek Peterson
Boingo Wireless



VICE CHAIR
Mark Hagan
AMN Healthcare



PROGRAMS CO-CHAIR
Dr. NeeCee Cornish
Western University of Health Sciences



MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR
Lynn Fyhrlund
San Bernardino County



MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR
Ash Rangan
ICANN



AWARDS CHAIR
Frederick Donatucci
New-Indy Containerboard

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



Edmund Clark
California State University



Allen Fazio
Houlihan Lokey



Dr. Vince Kellen
University of California - San Diego



Paul Maldonado
SoFi Stadium



George Tsounis
Stretto



Michael Zahigian
Amgen

SoCAL CIO MEMBERS

Luis Cupajita
Toyo Tire USA Corp

Brian Faulkner
Inter-Con Security Systems

Ben Gordon
SoCal Gas

John Henderson
Children's Hospital of Orange County

Satya Jayadev
Skyworks Solutions

Hitendra Mishra
LegalZoom

Michael Reagin
Sharp HealthCare

Cisco Sanchez
Qualcomm

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

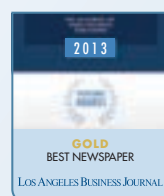
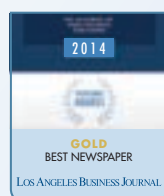
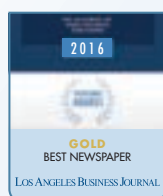
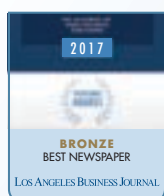
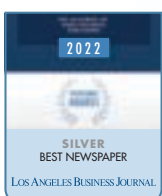
ADVERTISE WITH THE BEST



Our award-winning team delivers comprehensive news and analysis of the Los Angeles business landscape. With multiple touchpoints including weekly print issues, daily digital content and in-person events, we help you **align** your brand with content used to make business decisions, **connect** with influential business leaders and **develop** new relationships to grow your business. **We call that a win-win.**

**JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF BUSINESS™ .
ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY.**

advertising@labusinessjournal.com





PRESENTED BY



SPONSORED BY



MEDIA SPONSOR



NATIONAL PARTNER

