CIO OF THE YEAR AWARDS

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The inaugural Seattle CIO of the Year® ORBIE® Awards program honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Corporate, Healthcare & Public Sector categories will be announced on November 13 at the virtual SeattleCIO ORBIE Awards.
CONGRATULATIONS 2020
SEATTLE CIO OF THE YEAR® AWARDS NOMINEES

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Fred Hutch

SHANA ALLEN
1st Security Bank of Washington

ERIK ARNOLD
Microsoft Philanthropies

JULIE AVERILL
Lululemon Athletica

ANAND BAHL
Micron

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Zillow

MICHÈLE BLESER
Slalom Consulting

ANDREAS BRAENDLE
Milliman

TODD BRUCE
Nintendo of America

CHRIS CARTER
Blueprint Technologies

ZAFAR CHAUDRY
Seattle Children’s

KARI ESCOBEDO
Bartell Drugs

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TANYA HANNAH
King County, WA

JUDITH HENDERSON
Farmers New World Life

MARGARET HOPKINS
Puget Sound Energy

BOB JOHNSON
Kidder Mathews

LIZA KLUMPAR
Franklin Pierce Schools

JOEL KNEISLEY
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CHIP SUTTLES
Seattle Seahawks

SUE TAYLOR
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

CHRIS VAN LIEW
Seattle University

WERNER VOGELS
Amazon

JEFF WEEKS
PEMCO

GARRETT WHITNEY
Delta Dental of Washington

ELLEN WIEGAND
Virginia Mason Medical Center

JEFF WILE
Starbucks

DAN WILLEY
Wilbur Ellis
At the beginning of 2020, no one could have imagined the enormous change we would all experience in the first year of this new decade.

By mid-March, Chief Information Officers everywhere realized their systems and teams would be stretched beyond belief in the largest work-from-home experiment in the history of the world. Thanks to cloud-first systems, tools and services created by technology innovators we have held virtual meetings, had food and goods delivered to our doors, and remained connected to colleagues, friends and loved ones. We have adapted, survived and adjusted to our new abnormal.

CIOs are leading this overnight virtual transformation from office-based to remote work. Without their planning and implementation of the systems and services to support remote work, conducting business would be impossible under these circumstances. Thanks to Covid-19, there’s greater appreciation for CIOs and the technological sophistication required to provide secure, available and scalable systems to enable digital business.

SeattleCIO is an executive peer leadership network focused on helping CIOs maximize their leadership effectiveness, create value, reduce risk and share success. Convening Seattle’s leading CIOs in member-led, non-commercial programs, CIOs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges, solving problems and avoiding pitfalls.

From the beginning of this crisis, SeattleCIO members have participated in regular local ZOOM collaborations and national ZOOM calls featuring CIOs from industry, higher education, healthcare and technology. In any gathering of CIOs, the answer is in the room. The challenge one CIO is facing has likely been solved by another CIO. What was their experience? What did they learn? What would they do differently? How could other CIOs benefit from sharing their experiences?

Peer-based leadership groups have incredible ROI when leaders share a common problem set. The vertical/industry and size/scale may be different, but similar approaches to effective leadership and problem solving are transferrable. Every leader’s perspective is valuable and contributes to the conversation – and everyone wins when leaders engage, share ideas, experiences and best practices.

For over twenty years, InspireCIO has been inspiring CIO success through the annual CIO of the Year ORBIE Awards – but this is just the tip of the iceberg. By joining SeattleCIO, technology executives take their leadership to the next level through year-round, member-led programs and interaction. The power of CIOs working together – across public and private business, government, education, healthcare and nonprofit organizations – creates enormous value for everyone.

Together, we are transforming our organizations with technology and enriching our region and our world. On behalf of SeattleCIO, 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,

Brian Shield
2020 National Chair, InspireCIO
VP of IT, Boston Red Sox
Jacky Wright makes her mark as a global tech leader

Microsoft Chief Digital Officer Jacky Wright started out in college as a political science major with ambitions to change the world. Instead of driving change through government, Wright is making a difference through tech at a time when it has never been more necessary. As the Covid-19 pandemic accelerates the digital transformation of business, Wright leads a team engaging with new markets and developing new tools. She reports directly to Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella. A native of North London, Wright recently returned to Microsoft after a two-year secondment in the U.K., where she was responsible for one of the biggest digitally enabled transformations in Europe with HMRC, a part-IRS, part-customs and trade agency of the British government responsible for plans to exit from the European Union. Wright spoke with the business journal about the rapid pace of digital transformation and about the opportunities it presents for more women and people of color to find careers in technology.

What led you to tech?
In college, I took a part-time job at a bank. There was an IBM PC there, and I took it upon myself to learn it. I would go around to different departments and ask what they were doing and tell them, “I can put that on this computer for you.” I switched majors to computer science. When I went to work in the data processing department, there was only one other woman, and she taught me how to navigate the culture. That was an important influential moment in knowing what to do as a leader.

How is the CDO role different from CIO?
This is a customer-facing role. It is multifaceted. I help drive digital transformation for customers, build those relationships and provide communities of practice. Prior, I was in a CIO role. The advantage of the CIO role is you have the purview of the entire organization. Your seat at the table is as a business leader helping guide how to digitally transform the company. The role I have here is to transcend industries and to think of services that Microsoft offers that can help business transform who they are and how they grow. We may be Microsoft, but our job is to understand the industries. That is a differentiator.

How has the shift to working from home changed the priority of new technology developments?
The pandemic has heightened the focus on the concept of a digital twin, or the ability to mirror your environment to accelerate what you want to do. That is something we did not look at a lot before, but we are now. The whole notion of telehealth is a big one. The pandemic has blown up the paradigm for companies that did not have a work-from-home policy and now it’s the norm and it’s working. Digital is the way right now. As we come out of this pandemic, we will come to some semblance of what normal is, but the question of how far we go back into the old world is yet to be seen.

Tell me about your stint with the British government tax department leading their digital transformation.
We looked at how to make sure customers can effectively pay taxes. In light of Brexit, we looked at how we bring things across the border and understand those trade agreements. All of that was against a backdrop of being digitally enabled.

How do we foster more women and people of color in tech?

I take my role to be the leader to deliver service. As a woman and woman of color, I see it as my role to advance opportunities for women and people of color. I launched our Accelerate program to help people gain skills across the country, making sure we serve underserved communities. It is my North Star. We must all remember the role we play in society.

— Laura Williams-Tracy

“The pandemic has blown up the paradigm for companies that did not have a work-from-home policy and now it’s the norm and it’s working. Digital is the way right now.”

JACKY WRIGHT

InspireCIO is launching the first cohort of a new talent development program called Next Gen Leader, an exclusive benefit of SeattleCIO membership.
LEADERSHIP AWARD | PAUL MOULTON

His diverse background helped him modernize Costco

Paul Moulton spearheaded the opening of Costco locations across Europe and Asia and was helming global real estate development for the Seattle retail giant when he was tapped to lead the overhaul of nearly every one of its software systems as chief information officer.

Having served in leadership posts across the company for more than a decade, the transition away from its legacy technology would be the first time he would return to a role and eventually become his longest stint in one position.

“When I got asked to come back to IT, it was really when we were on this cusp of needing to modernize this company,” Moulton said. “The challenge really was that every system we use, every screen that a user looks at, every way they do their work today had to change. There was nothing really that was going to be left untouched.”

Similarly, there hasn’t been an area of the company Moulton hasn’t influenced. His job has taken him from the warehouse floor, managing locations across the Pacific Northwest, to the floor of the stock exchange as director of budgeting and strategic planning and eventually vice president of finance and corporate treasurer. After serving as senior vice president of international operations, he returned to Seattle to head up IT and lead the development of Costco.com before moving on again to select and build new Costco locations around the world.

That kind of cross-pollination is endemic in the company and guides its IT efforts, Moulton said. Around half his team got their start in another area of the company.

“We’ve always been a lot more integrated and collaborative with the business and technology than most places,” Moulton said.

With around 785 stores and 156,000 employees worldwide, Costco reported $166.7 billion in revenue in its fiscal year 2020, for slightly more than $4 million in net income. At $374, shares have risen 28% since the start of the year, valuing the company at $165 billion.

Working at the forefront of major new projects taught him that whatever he builds may be obsolete within just a few years.

“In the last 10 years, we’ve changed over almost every system that we’ve had,” he said, from payroll to its memberships.

Among other messaging and collaboration tools, his team has worked to launch a scalable cloud solution. As the Covid-19 pandemic has unfolded, it’s also implemented systems like curbside pickup for online orders.

“The key right now is being able to be flexible and agile in terms of responding to whatever the changes are. Just like we didn’t see this coming, there’s always something we don’t see coming.”

Paul Moulton

Congrats to all of the 2020 Seattle CIO of the Year Awards finalists!
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CIO OF THE YEAR
ORBiE
AWARDS

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AS AN UNDERWRITER FOR THE ORBiE AWARDS

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NOVEMBER 13, 2020 | 7:30 - 10:00 AM (PT)  SEATTLECIO.ORG/TABLE
PUBLIC SECTOR FINALISTS

GOVERNMENT & EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS

TANYA HANNAH
CIO, King County

SUCCESS STORY
“My greatest source of inspiration is the continued growth and development of my team. King County Department of Information Technology is an award-winning recognized team which provides and supports the technology that powers King County, for everything from health and human services, transportation and E-911. Recent innovations have included using augmented reality googles to train staff, develop an app allowing the public to report dangerous invasive plants, and an integrated data hub to gather information on our unhoused population to determine the best solutions to the ongoing crisis. Its GIS program was recently named the #1 program in the US.”

LIZA KLUMPAR
CTO, Franklin Pierce Schools

SUCCESS STORY
“Our challenges were enormous: change from an in-person, front of the classroom teaching approach to using technology resources with distant learning. This required our entire team to brainstorm ideas and processes in place. Being equitably minded, our team worked to expand the ability to create logistics. We also opened our help desk operations to all, including expanding our hours availability and expanded our capabilities to do remote assistance with students/parents from home. Our work has not stopped. We are continuing with forward-thinking plans to ensure remote learning capability is readily available and improved. Tough Times don’t last. Tough Teams Do.”

DR. SASI PILLA Y
VP IT Services & CIO, Washington State University

SUCCESS STORY
“My greatest accomplishment is building a customer focused, high performance team that understands the importance of service resulting in many significant outcomes. As we transitioned to remote instruction, a loaner laptop and Wi-Fi hotspots program was created and working collaboratively with others, deployed Wi-Fi in parking lots. Over 200 Chromebooks and hotspots were distributed and 50 parking lots were equipped with Wi-Fi. This served students of WSU and other institutions including the local community by providing free access to the internet. These efforts assisted in addressing the digital divide among our students and also served Washington citizens.”

Providence congratulates
B.J. MOORE

for your innovative approach to streamlining information systems before the COVID-19 crisis and your leadership throughout these unprecedented times. The caregivers and patients of Providence thank you.

Congratulations!

Blueprint and Sentinel are excited to congratulate Chris on being nominated as a Seattle CIO of the Year Finalist!

CHRI$ CARTER
Vice President of Technology
B.J. MOORE
EVP & CIO, Providence

SUCCESS STORY
“We accelerated Providence’s digital transformation through the COVID crisis, making years’ worth of progress in a matter of months. We triaged patients through our electronic health system (Epic) and partnered with Microsoft to create the first COVID bot, allowing our communities to triage their symptoms and take actions online. We scaled our Telehealth business from 10 visits a day pre-COVID, to 10,000 virtual visits a day, deploying the technology to support virtual visits, electronic health records, and billing. We improved our cyber resilience against increasing malware, phishing, and ransomware attacks and enabled our non-clinical workforce offsite.”

ELLEN WIEGAND
VP & CIO, Virginia Mason Health System

SUCCESS STORY
“I consider it a privilege to be part of the Virginia Mason team, which is committed to continually improving – through technology and best practices -- the health care experience for everyone. Perhaps the accomplishment I am most proud of, is that we’ve enhanced the culture of teamwork, transparency and innovation in the IT Department by using resources of the Virginia Mason Production System, our organization’s management methodology. In so doing, we’ve also strengthened collaboration with our clinical, operations and business colleagues across the organization as we work together in leveraging technology to advance care quality, patient safety and operational efficiency.”

DR. ZAFAR CHAUDRY
SVP & CIO, Seattle Children’s

SUCCESS STORY
“The greatest accomplishment in my current role is the support for the COVID-19 crisis: I’ve built the capacity and capability to allow 3,500 employees to work from home using Citrix VDI on a hyper-converged infrastructure with an uptime of 99.997% on all our applications. I’ve implemented the technology aspects of the telehealth program to support patient visits from 1,399 appointments completed via tele-health in 2019 to 45,599 in 2020, without which kids wouldn’t get the care they need. These are significant because they have kept our patients safe, and allowed our organization to continue to deliver hope, care and cures.”

A big congratulations to Kari Escobedo, SVP of IT and all the finalists of the 2020 SeattleCIO of the Year ORBIE Awards. Honoring CIOs for their exceptional leadership, innovation and vision since 1998; inspiring the next generation of technology leaders.

Get news all day long @PSBJ
CHRIS CARTER
VP IT, Blueprint Technologies / CTO, Sentinel

SUCCESS STORY
“Moving IT from a back-office cost center to a trajectory of profit center is a massive change in how we think about technology investment - it’s no longer just “keeping the lights on”, but a vision for how we embrace our broader capabilities in technology development, security and privacy across our whole organization. Blending a mindset of product development and solution engineering with traditional IT services, the ultimate measure is how well we can grow IT staff into engineers and consultants, while maintaining excellence in meeting the critical needs of an IT department servicing a company 100 times their size.”

VAL GRASPARIL
VP IT, Brighton Jones

SUCCESS STORY
“These past few months have forced us all to reimagine everything about our lives, how we connect, collaborate, and build relationships. Over the past few years, I have been working on improving our collaboration and remote working capabilities. Some of these improvements consist of implementation of an enterprise document management system, VPN connectivity, providing secure access to corporate resources, and tools that foster remote collaboration. Attention to change management also ensured that our team had the tools and training, enabling them to work in any location, resulting in our transition to WFH in this pandemic seamless.”

MARTIN RUES
CISO, Outreach Corporation

SUCCESS STORY
“When I made the decision to go cloud-native in 2016, finding the right cloud solutions meant diligence in researching vendor integrations and data analytics features. Focusing on those capabilities meant avoiding siloed software purchases. The extensive provisioning, authorizing and deprovisioning automation we’ve built since is a result of that 2016 decision. Combined with the work we were doing to automate endpoint rollouts - including cloud-based endpoint protection, any concerns with going remote versus relying on our office network for performance and protection were alleviated. We transitioned overnight earlier than most during the pandemic.”

RAVI SOIN
VP IT & Operations, Edifecs Inc.

SUCCESS STORY
“I joined Edifecs ten years ago to help pivot its offerings for U.S. healthcare Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). Healthcare companies’ EDI environments are incredibly complex: including millions of consumers and care delivery sites, and ever-changing regulations. Today, Edifecs’ technology powers over 350 healthcare customers serving over 215 million lives, with a single point solution that connects all partners and ingests, correlates and optimizes digital health data. By developing our customers’ solutions on-premise and via the cloud, my team and I helped build one of the fastest growing healthcare IT companies, taking our revenue from $30M to $180M during my tenure.”
CIO OF THE YEAR AWARDS

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER $200 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

KARI ESCOBEDO
SVP & CIO, Bartell Drugs

SUCCESS STORY
“In today’s competitive, convenience-driven landscape, retailers are challenged to adapt to consumer behaviors. In partnership with NimbleRx, we implemented prescription delivery program that gives customers the choice of delivery or in-store pick-up. Those interested are able to select when and where they want their prescriptions delivered from their mobile device. Bartell’s also focuses on improving the pharmacy experience for its customers. New this year, customers can safely schedule their vaccinations to ensure proper physical distancing and safety measures are maintained. This scheduling program lives on BartellDrugs.com and enables customers to choose which of our locations they want to visit.”

JOHN MICHAEL GROSS
CIO, Cascade Environmental

SUCCESS STORY
“Simply put - changing the culture our Information Services department and Cascade as a whole from traditional (somewhat adversarial) technology supplier to true business partnership. With the various system and data silos and the limited channel integration of our platforms, users were severely limited in what they could accomplish. Our strategy was to embrace the cloud to eliminate the nearly 100% on-premises system, data and channel silos to allow our users to work across all systems securely across all platforms (desktop, mobile) whether in the office or on the road, a strategy that was tested and proven during the COVID crisis.”

BOB JOHNSON
Director of IT, Kidder Mathews

SUCCESS STORY
“My greatest accomplishment has been leveraging the current team at Kidder Mathews to raise the bar on support, service & ability - this was done by assessing each team member and playing to their strengths and abilities to engage them. The result, support levels at Kidder Mathews improved dramatically and the overall perception of IT has shifted from negative to an extremely positive experience. We continue to improve daily, well on our way to being a world class IT department.

CHIP SUTTLES
VP IT, Seattle Seahawks

SUCCESS STORY
“In 2020, Chip Suttles was an instrumental part of the success and has shown incredible leadership in assisting the Seahawks return to play. The pandemic and subsequent Stay Home, Stay Healthy order greatly challenged Chip and his team to seamlessly transition the entire Seahawks organization and football operations staff to a virtual work-from-home environment in less than a week. Chip also stepped up to the challenge of supporting a completely virtual 2020 NFL Draft. Despite the challenges, the NFL Draft was a huge success, thanks in part to the flawless technical execution by Chip and his team.”
LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS

OVER $500 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

STEVEN GALLAGHER
Vice President Technology & Systems, Avenue5 Residential

SUCCESS STORY
“Building a full support team from the ground up to support 2000 associates and 300 plus office locations across the USA has been one of my top achievements. Seeing those I directly hired and manage succeed by ultimately either getting promoted or moving into new roles based on their success in the technology department. Creating amazing associates who not only are great at their jobs but also wonderful human beings. I am proud to call this group family.”

JUDITH HENDERSON
Head of Enterprise Operations, Farmers New World Life (Farmers Life)

SUCCESS STORY
“At Farmers, our ambition is to be the leader in delivering peace of mind and innovating for customers whenever and wherever they need us. Life insurance plays a key role in being able to deliver on this mission, to help our customers protect their families, when they need us most. Innovation and transformation are words and actions not often associated with brands that can proudly proclaim a heritage that spans more than 100 years. I am extremely proud to be leading our technology transformation to meet the continuing needs of our customers now and in the future.”

LAURY MILLER
SVP & CIO, Seagen

SUCCESS STORY
“Guided by Seattle Genetics’ mission to develop and commercialize transformative therapies targeting cancer, I lead the Global IT team in delivering technology solutions and resilient hardware to improve capability, productivity, satisfaction and adoption by all employees. Those goals, combined with a strong user-centric focus, allowed us to support an incident-free, one-day transition of our entire workforce from campus to home. We not only maintained our project pipeline and support for the business, we improved our on-time delivery and SLA adherence by 80%, while receiving the accolades of our colleagues across the company. It showed that teamwork makes the dream work.”

JENNY MOSHEA
Director of Technology, Sellen Construction

SUCCESS STORY
“After conducting a listening tour and understanding the common threads across project teams and back-office functions, I established the Sellen Digital Core. The Digital Core is a suite of supported applications across the company. The Digital Core is a result of extensive research, cross-functional input, and investment so that project teams have the tools they need to ‘Build Great’. Applications are evaluated through a Gear Up process and prioritized for business case justification. During the Gear Down process applications are retired to eliminate waste and inefficiency. Each tool maps to a function. The Digital Core is now the Sellen way.”
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MICHELE BLESER
VP IT, Slalom

SUCCESS STORY
“I love my work at Slalom as a technologist, a leader, a challenger, an accomplice, a voice for our women, an ear for our creators. Leading IT for a technology consulting firm is a never-ending balance of experimentation, embracing the energy from our experts, and doing what is right for our company and employees. I am surrounded by people who are passionate about building solutions to enable our employees to create their best work. I love my work because it is meaningful, the results are tangible, and our team is recognized as a strategic advantage for our company’s growth.”

CODY SANFORD
EVP, CIO & Chief Product Officer, T-Mobile

SUCCESS STORY
“I’m honored to lead the combined Product and Technology teams from both T-Mobile and Sprint through the close of the biggest telecom merger in US history – in the middle of a pandemic. I’m also proud of what we delivered for all of our customers, employees, business partners and shareholders – a seamless first day as a legal entity, with all necessary divestitures and a seamless launch of our consolidated brand with unified front and back office services that will pave the way for New T-Mobile to build out the world’s best 5G network.”

VIVEK SINGH
Chief Technology Officer, Zones

SUCCESS STORY
“Whether it is world class computing, innovation, security, mobility, adaptation to a changing world, we’ve excelled. We’ve got a great process for innovation that aligns employees’ growth aspirations with the company’s needs. We’ve got a team that moves fast, in anticipation of changes in the industry, our company and our customer’s organizations. Our security has earned us laurels from customers & partners; yet we keep bolstering it further. We continue to make strides in simple, ubiquitous access to information. We pivoted to support our customers’ employees as they work from home. Zones IT is proud of its contribution.”

SUE TAYLOR
CIO, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

SUCCESS STORY
“At the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation we often reference this African proverb, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” My greatest success has truly been empowering my team to advance their digital skills and business acumen to create strong and lasting partnerships with our foundation colleagues. By listening to our partners, and developing trusted relationships, we designed our “Beyond 2020” strategy and established how we work, what to deliver and how we measure impact, directly supporting the organization we are so proud to be a part of.”
InspireCIO is the preeminent executive peer leadership organization of chief information officers. Local chapters convene leading CIOs and foster meaningful relationships by hosting non-commercial, member-led programs—helping CIOs gain leadership advantage.

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