



**Pittsburgh
Technology
Council**



**2024 CIO of the Year, CISO of the Year,
Tech Trailblazer, and Rising Star Finalists
& CIO Choice Lifetime Achievement Award Winner**

2024 CIO Choice Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

Charles Bartel

VP, IT & CIO

Duquesne University

As VP for IT & CIO, Charles “Chuck” Bartel is responsible for the overall management and strategic planning for all University IT services including administrative computing, centralized infrastructure, and a variety of technology support services including enterprise reporting, communication services, and information security.

Bartel joined Duquesne University as its first CIO in August 2014. Prior to joining Duquesne, he was Director of Global IT Services (GITS) at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). Bartel oversees Computing and Technology Services (CTS), which is comprised of four directorates that provide computing and technology services to the Duquesne University community.

Bartel serves on the following University committees: Member - Cabinet, Executive Sponsor - DU Staff Advisory Council (DUSAC), Member - University Budget Committee, Member - Academic Council, Member - Enterprise Computing Committee, Member - Tech Partners, Member - Business Managers Council.

Bartel is a member of the KINBER Board of Directors, the Greater Pittsburgh CIO Group, the Evanta Pittsburgh CIO Governing Body, the C-CUE Governing Board, and the AICUP Member Services Committee. Chuck also serves as an adjunct instructor & coach for the Heinz College CIO Certificate program at CMU.

With more than 40-plus years of experience in higher education IT, Chuck is a recognized expert and has presented on wireless LANs, DR/BC, global programs and emerging technologies at EDUCAUSE, ACUTA, CSG, CMU, MIT, and Harvard. He served as the Chair of the Board of PREPnet (PA’s first ISP) and represented CMU in the founding of Internet2. Chuck served on the EDUCAUSE Evolving Technologies committee as chair (2004) and as a member of the faculty of the EDUCAUSE Management Institute (2015-2017). He was a member of the EDUCAUSE 2006 Program committee and a voting member of the IEEE 802.11 Working Group.

Bartel was named CIO of the Year in 2017 for the Education Sector in Pittsburgh and is a member of the Greater Pittsburgh CIO Forum, a member of the Evanta Pittsburgh Governing Body and as a past member of the Judging Panel for the CIO/CISO of the Year in Pittsburgh.

Bartel is a Frye Fellow-Class of 2005 (now EDUCAUSE's Leading Change Institute), a graduate of the MOR Associates IT Leaders Program (ITLP)-Class of 2009 and a graduate of the EDUCAUSE Leadership Institute-Class of 2014.

Bartel holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering Technology from Thomas A. Edison State University and a Master's Degree in Public Management from CMU.

Rising Star Category

Chris Belasco

*Sr. Manager, Data Services & Chief Data Officer
City of Pittsburgh*

Chris Belasco is the Senior Manager, Digital Services and Chief Data Officer for the City of Pittsburgh in the Department of Innovation and Performance, where he manages analytic, data engineering, database administration, and software development efforts to improve City operations. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. Belasco received his PhD in Public and International Affairs, Master of Public and International Affairs, BS in Information Science, and BA in Sociology from the University of Pittsburgh.

During his spare time, he likes to cook, travel, cycle, and visit museums with his two daughters. A 20-year resident of Bloomfield, he can often be found working to restore his old house.

Daniel Elliott

*Director, IT
The Wilson Group*

Daniel Elliott is a Network Engineer with a rich and multifaceted professional journey. Armed with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from Phoenix University, with impact at renowned organizations like Wells Fargo, UPMC (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center), and Comcast.

Beyond his career achievements, Elliott derives genuine fulfillment from his role as a devoted family man. Residing in Crafton, he shares his life with his loving wife, Deseia, and their six wonderful children, who bring joy and purpose to their days. As a family, they embark on travel adventures, immersing themselves in diverse cultures and creating memories.

Recognizing the importance of quality time with his loved ones, Elliott actively seeks opportunities to explore new destinations and share extraordinary experiences. This blend of professional success and family moments defines Daniel as a well-rounded individual who values the bonds of love, excitement of travel, and the joy of embracing innovative technologies with his Family.

Christopher Kosek

*Director, Enterprise Applications
K&L Gates*

J. Christopher Kosek is an encouraging manager and analytical problem-solver with talents for team building, leading, and motivating, as well as excellent customer relations aptitude and relationship-building skills. With over 19 years of IT experience in leading large scale and complex IT projects, Kosek can get the job done. He has skills and is dedicated to applying training, monitoring, and morale-building abilities to enhance employee engagement and boost performance for his organization.

Clayton Mathis

*Director, IT
Seegrid*

Over the last three years, Clayton Mathis has made a transformative impact on Seegrid—a robotics company revolutionizing the way materials are moved. Mathis is a strategic and results-driven IT leader with an eight-year track record of driving digital transformation, enhancing operational efficiency, and aligning technology with business objectives. Throughout his career in the Pittsburgh robotics industry, previously at Bossanova Robotics and Carnegie Robotics, Mathis has consistently demonstrated a talent for leveraging his expertise in cloud computing, enterprise applications, cybersecurity, and project management to achieve impactful results, including migrations, new data management initiatives and a focus on information security. This has recently resulted in achieving ISO 27001 Information Security Management System certification for Seegrid.

He holds a BA in Public Service from the University of Pittsburgh.

Jonathan Oeler

*Global Director, Digital Transformation & IT Center of Excellence
Reed Smith*

Jonathan Oeler is the Global Director of Digital Transformation & IT Center of Excellence at Reed Smith LLP, leveraging over 13 years of managerial experience to align business objectives with innovative technology solutions. Oeler's dynamic leadership catalyzes strategic initiatives, merging technical prowess with business insight. His team's solutions—recognized by the Financial Times, The Lawyer, Association of Corporate Counsel, Legal Technology Association, and CIO Magazine—bridge the legal and technology realms, earning accolades and awards. As a results-driven professional, Oeler delivers comprehensive digital initiatives across diverse functional domains, leading high-performing teams to success. A strategic thinker with exceptional relationship-building skills, Oeler possesses a comprehensive understanding of the legal technology landscape, ensuring impactful transformations within Reed Smith.

Madison Oliver

*Sr. Manager, Advisory Database Curation
GitHub*

Madison Oliver is a McKeesport native, vulnerability transparency advocate, and senior security manager at GitHub, leading the advisory database curation team. She is passionate about vulnerability reporting, response, and disclosure, and participates in related OpenSSF and CVE program working groups and serves on the CVE Board. Her views are enriched by her prior experience as a product incident response analyst at GitHub and as a vulnerability coordinator at the CERT Coordination Center at the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). Oliver loves engaging with students and is a former undergraduate cybersecurity adjunct professor at Duquesne University and serves on the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) College of Information Sciences and Technology alumni board. She earned an M.S. in Information Security Policy and Management from CMU, and a B.S. in Security and Risk Analysis from PSU.

Brian Stein

*Digital Transformation Analyst
Koppers*

Brian Stein has been in the Business Analysis field for approximately 9 years working in the manufacturing, banking and retail industries. Stein considers his ability to learn quickly his greatest strength, and he uses this skill to understand complex business problems, elicit detailed requirements and provide creative, valuable technology solutions. He focuses on providing value to his stakeholders through technology solutions that streamline business processes, provide valuable insights and enhance the user experience. He embraces the concept that people, processes and technology must align to provide value to stakeholders. Stein currently leads the digital transformation team at Koppers where he is involved in project inception, requirements elicitation, design, solution implementation and support and monitoring.

Tech Trailblazer Category**Rachael Afolabi**

*Founder & CEO
Paradigm Global Innovations*

With 17 years in education technology, user experience, web applications, and immersive technologies, Rachael Afolabi is a Senior Instructional Designer at Google Fiber. She has held significant roles, including Lead Instructional Designer at Apple, Cloud and Web Curriculum Lead at Google, and Associate Director at Freedom Mortgage Corporation. As the Dean at Carlow University, she led Online and Digital Learning and Workforce Development, enhancing the university's digital learning landscape. Afolabi's global experience spans firms like Deloitte, Accenture, Motorola Solutions, Colgate-Palmolive, and Washington Metro Area Transit Authority, contributing to healthcare, manufacturing, and transportation projects. An entrepreneur, she operates ventures in Pittsburgh, PA, USA, and Osogbo, Nigeria, with clients in France and the UK, showcasing her commitment to global business ties.

Ebony Dendy

*Sr. IT Project Manager
University of Pittsburgh*

Ebony Dendy, a Senior IT professional and U.S. Army veteran with 23+ years of experience, is renowned for her integrity, transparent communication, and strategic leadership. Currently serving as a Senior IT Project Manager at the University of Pittsburgh, Dendy's multifaceted career spans finance, education, and technology sectors. Holding an MBA in International Business and a BA in Economics, she combines academic excellence with practical expertise. Ebony holds certifications such as Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and is pursuing PMP certification. Engaged in community service, she volunteers with organizations like Pennsylvania Women Work and Just Mediation Pittsburgh. Passionate about equity and inclusion, Dendy is participating in the Spring 2024 Cohort for RECI (Racial Equity Consciousness Institute) at the University of Pittsburgh. With a commitment to excellence in both professional and personal endeavors, Dendy is dedicated to driving positive change and fostering inclusive environments.

Jorge Guajardo Merchan, PhD

*Lead Expert and Sr. Manager Security and Privacy Research Group and Bosch CERT North America
Bosch Research + Technology Center*

Dr. Jorge Guajardo Merchan is a lead expert and the manager of the security and privacy group at the Robert Bosch RTC in Pittsburgh, USA, where he leads research on security and privacy technologies for Bosch Research NA. Prior to Bosch RTC, Merchan was a senior scientist at Philips Research in the Netherlands where he performed fundamental work in the development SRAM Physical Unclonable Functions, which lead to the creation of the company Intrinsic-ID. He has authored more than 50 scientific publications in refereed conferences and journals and holds over 40 issued patents. Since 2023, he also manages the incident response team for Bosch NA and serves as an associate editor of the Journal of Cryptographic Engineering. Merchan holds a B.Sc. degree in physics and electrical engineering and M.S. in electrical engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a PhD in electrical engineering and information sciences from the Ruhr-Universitaet in Bochum, Germany.

Sondra Hunter

*Founder & CEO
Tech Savvy Consultants*

If one were looking for an example of a community trailblazer full of passion, drive, and resilience they would need to look no further than Sondra D. Hunter—a woman who has navigated life as a born leader. No matter what title Hunter has held—mentor for Pittsburgh Public Schools or the Pittsburgh Technology Council's L.A.U.N.C.H Initiative, Founder of Tech Savvy Consultants, Founder and CEO of BGC a community based non-profit organization, Allegheny County Democratic Party Committee member, or Cyber Security Professional—Hunter's love for and commitment to the community has never faltered.

Crystal Morgan

*Sr. Systems Engineer, Enterprise Architecture
UPMC*

Crystal Lee Morgan is a Senior Systems Engineer with Enterprise Architecture at UPMC, where she champions the responsible use of emerging technologies, emphasizing the importance of accessible and inclusive technology.

She is the founder of The Tech Twist and a graduate of the prestigious Harvard Business Analytics Program. Through this program, Morgan underwent rigorous cross-disciplinary training, collaborating with Harvard Business School (HBS), the John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS). As a dedicated advocate for diversity and inclusion in the tech sector, Crystal joined the Board of Directors at Prototype PGH, an organization committed to building gender and racial equity in tech and entrepreneurship. She mentors young women through the PTC LAUNCH mentorship program.

Frank Pascoe

*Manager, Emerging Technologies
Koppers*

Frank Pascoe has exceptional IT skills at Koppers, a leading company that makes treated wood, wood preservatives and carbon materials. He started working for the company 44 years ago as a process control engineer and then switched to the

IT department, where he learned about networking and server management. He is now developing cutting-edge Industry 4.0 and AI applications using Microsoft Azure, a cloud computing platform. Pascoe is dedicated to using technology to improve efficiency, quality, and safety in the wood products industry. He also mentors many younger colleagues and passes on his knowledge and skills.

Janeen Peretin, PhD

*Director of Communication, Innovation, & Advancement
Baldwin-Whitehall School District*

Dr. Janeen Peretin, as Director of Communication, Innovation, & Advancement at Baldwin-Whitehall School District, has significantly impacted education over two decades. She has seamlessly integrated technology with learning, establishing a 1:1 environment to ensure equitable access to digital resources for all students. She led the transition to Canvas LMS during the COVID-19 pandemic, spearheaded the creation of a mobile fabrication lab, founded a competitive esports program, and launched the innovative "Fly Like a Girl" drone academy. Under her guidance, the district became a Google Reference District, earned recognition as a Common Sense Media district, and was invited to join the League of Innovative Schools and the AASA Learning 2025 cohort. With a commitment to fostering community partnerships and a relentless pursuit to ensure that education is inclusive, empowering, and innovative, she dedicates herself to not just shaping the minds of the next generation but crafting a new paradigm for learning.

Julie Prough

*Senior Director, IT
UPMC*

Julie Prough is Sr. Director of IT at UPMC, responsible for Enterprise Data Quality, including MDM, Data Catalog, and Dynamics 365 platforms oversight.

Prough joined UPMC in 1989 and has held multiple operations and IT positions before her current role. Her team's mission is to Connect & Protect as they work across UPMC to ensure correct identification and quality surrounding data that support Clinical, Analytics, and Reporting needs. Prough's primary responsibility is to function as a change agent and liaison, ensuring smooth identification/coordination and remediation of the enterprise's ID management and data quality challenges, targeting process improvement, and growing the data management platforms supporting UPMC's evolving footprint.

Since 2018, Prough has chaired UPMC's Women in Information Technology (WIT) External Outreach efforts and supported their IT Rotational program as an interviewer and advisor. Prough holds an MBA and Bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

CIO Category: Gigabyte

Lisa Biondi

*CIO
System One*

Lisa Biondi is the Chief Information Officer for System One, where she is responsible for corporate technology strategy, enterprise IT solutions, infrastructure, cybersecurity, acquisition integration, and technology support. She has been with System One since its inception in 2008.

Biondi started her career as an electrical engineer and has worked in technology for more than 30 years, mostly in the staffing industry. Prior to becoming System One's CIO, Biondi held a variety of information technology leadership positions with both public and private professional staffing firms.

Biondi is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees in Electrical Engineering. She is also a member of the University of Pittsburgh's Alumni-In-Residence program where she gives career guidance presentations and mentors students.

Tushar Lovalekar

*VP, IT
Koppers*

Tushar Lovalekar currently serves as the Vice President of Global IT operations and is a member of the Leadership Council at Koppers. Koppers is a Pittsburgh-based global leader in wood preservation and protection technologies. Lovalekar's primary responsibility is to develop a digital strategy focused on innovation and emerging technologies. Lovalekar serves on the Board of Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh (BVRS) and the Greater Pittsburgh CIO Group. Lovalekar has a bachelor's degree in Electronics Engineering from the University of Mumbai and a diploma in Business Management from NMIMS School of Business Management. He is a graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh LP XXXVI. His certifications include ITIL Foundations, Management Essentials from Katz Graduate School of Business, and a Post- Graduate Program in Artificial Intelligence for Leaders from McCombs School of Business.

Dave Reed

*VP, IT
Maxim Crane*

Dave Reed is an accomplished IT executive with over 20 years of diverse experience in the healthcare, education, and rental segments. He has consistently demonstrated laser focus on building solid teams, engaging customers and driving business value through effective IT operations management.

Armed with both technical expertise and a strategic mindset, he grew through the ranks in various organizations, leaving a trail of successful IT implementations and transformations in his wake. Reed has consistently championed the importance of teamwork and collaboration, recognizing that a cohesive and motivated IT team is essential for achieving organizational goals. He believes in fostering a culture of innovation and continuous improvement, empowering his teams to deliver optimal solutions that meet and exceed customer expectations. A true advocate for customer-centricity, he is adept at leveraging technology to streamline operations, optimize efficiencies, and mitigate risks, all while delivering tangible business value.

Jack Smith

*CIO
Federated Hermes*

Jack Smith joined Federated Hermes, Inc. in 2016 as the Chief Information Officer and President, Technology and is responsible for directing all technological aspects of the company's internal and external business needs. SMITH develops and oversees Federated Hermes' Information Technology, which includes hardware, software, applications and telecommunications. In addition, Smith is responsible for the Information Security, Corporate Business Continuity and Enterprise Business Change organizations.

Prior to his role at Federated Hermes, Smith was the Chief Information Officer for the Asset Management and Investments businesses at PNC Financial Services Group. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh, an M.S. in Engineering from Youngstown State University, and an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University. Smith currently serves on the Board of Visitors for the School of Computing and Information and chairs the Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee at the University of Pittsburgh.

Eng Tan

*VP, IT
Automated Health Systems*

With over two decades of experience in IT, Eng Tan has grown from a junior software development intern to the Vice President of IT at Automated Health Systems (AHS). AHS specializes in healthcare contact center solutions for government programs, facilitating access to essential services for families nationwide. As the IT leader, he is focused on developing IT vision and strategies that drive business growth, operational efficiency, customer satisfaction, and building a strong culture of accountability and excellence in my department.

He has been extremely fortunate in his career with key values including hard work, integrity, and always giving his best. Opportunities presented themselves at key junctions in his career, and he was able to provide his services to people who needed them. He takes pride in his work ethic, innovation, leadership, and driving transformative change. Tan is a technology enthusiast and a firm believer in the power of lifelong learning.

CIO Category: Megabyte

Paul Allison

CIO

PennWest University

Paul Allison is the Chief Information Officer for PennWest University, established in July 2022 by combining California University of Pennsylvania, Clarion university, and Edinboro University.

As the founding CIO for PennWest and previously the CIO for California University of Pennsylvania, Allison is responsible for overseeing the merging of the technology services and departments of the three institutions into one PennWest technology ecosystem. He is a critical part of the PennWest leadership team, responsible for providing leadership, vision, strategic planning, management, and accountability for all technology services and strategy, network services, user support, application development, cybersecurity, and telecommunications.

Allison's career includes 25-plus years of technology leadership experience including five years as CIO at PennWest/California and 13 years as Director of Enterprise Applications at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh where he also earned his MBA. He also held leadership positions in the software industry for seven-plus years.

Scott Angelo

CIO

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney

Scott Angelo is Buchanan's Chief Information Officer. He is responsible for the design, implementation and management of the firm-wide information technology and risk management platforms. A dynamic leader, Angelo manages the firm's IT team to further develop technologies to drive creative solutions for the firm and its clients. Scott brings 28 years of experience to continue to support the firm's high-performing culture and efficient client service through an innovative digital infrastructure.

Specifically, Angelo leads the firm's efforts on technology strategic planning, digital transformation, advanced data management, innovation and security and data privacy management.

Prior to joining Buchanan, Angelo was the Chief Information and Technology Officer at global Am Law 100 law firms where he led global technology modernization and digital transformation projects. Notably, he created and ran a client-facing digital innovation center in Pittsburgh that replaced a formerly decentralized IT department.

Jim Dye

VP & Chief Technology and Strategy Officer

#1 Cochran Automotive Group

Jim Dye is a serial technologist passionate about blending management, business, strategy, and technology into innovative solutions, resolving problems, establishing velocity and driving success. From working within bleeding-edge, hyper-growth tech startups to 100+ y/o, global organizations, he has established himself as a proven, collaborative, and influential leader who is known for building highly effective teams, encouraging open exchanges of ideas, creatively solving complex problems, and delivering solutions across high-profile, international projects under tight timelines and constraints.

Dye joined the #1 Cochran team in 2019 as CTO to drive digital transformation throughout the organization with an emphasis on continuously improving our customers' experiences, supporting the Southwestern PA community, partnering across Cochran's team members, and heavily supporting the strategic positioning of the business for long-term success.

Adam Gunnett

Director, IT & Business Intelligence

Busy Beaver Building Centers

Adam Gunnett began working at Busy Beaver Building Centers in 2015 as an IT Specialist, later becoming the Director of IT and, subsequently, Director of IT & Marketing. In these roles, he skillfully combined IT's technical aspects with marketing's creative demands. Recently, Gunnett advanced to Director of IT & Business Intelligence, where he integrates IT solutions with business intelligence strategies to enhance operational efficiency and market impact. Throughout his

time at Busy Beaver, Adam has played a key role in creating a technology-driven environment, equipping associates with advanced tools to improve customer service and reduce manual tasks. His career progression underscores his adaptability, technical expertise, and forward-thinking leadership in IT and business intelligence.

Larry Trenga

CIO

Wesley Family Services

Larry Trenga is an IT professional of 32 years, 20+ years in an executive leadership capacity. Trenga's foundation was in Software Development. Trenga worked for Union Switch & Signal developing software systems for the railroad, US Airways developing software systems for flight scheduling, Education Management first developing software systems for student administration, then moved into leadership over Infrastructure and Operations. Trenga is currently the Chief Information Officer for Wesley Family Services, a non-profit behavioral health agency. Trenga has always been a very strong business process and user advocate putting customer service and business process definition first.

CISO Category: Gigabyte

Brian Abercrombie

VP, IT & Information Security

TeleTracking Technologies

Brian Abercrombie is TeleTracking's Vice President of Information Technology and Information Security. He has over 28 years' experience in IT and Information Security in both leadership and technical functions. He has held CTO, CISO, and individual contributor roles across various market segments. Abercrombie earned an MBA from Duquesne University and executive certifications from Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College of Information Systems & Public Policy. In addition, Abercrombie holds several professional accreditations, including CISSP, CCSP, and CMMC-AB Registered Practitioner (RP) certifications.

Dennis Carson

Deputy CIO & CISO

PennWest University

Dennis Carson is the Deputy CIO and CISO of PennWest University, where he oversaw the development and implementation of a security program for the integration of California, Clarion, and Edinboro Universities. He also manages the Network and Data Center Teams, ensuring the efficiency, reliability, scalability, and security of the IT infrastructure. In his spare time, he enjoys weightlifting, biking, and playing Ultimate Frisbee. He lives in Belle Vernon with his wife Kimberly and son Wyatt.

Tony Krance

ISO

Seton Hill University

Tony France is Seton Hill University's Executive Director of Information Technology/ISO. He works in conjunction with all university departments to maintain a secure data environment. France has been with Seton Hill for four years and he incorporates Seton Hill students in the defense of cybercrime through work study and graduate assistant programs. His focus in cybersecurity has spanned over two decades, primarily working with non-profits and schools. Tony believes the best defense in this digital age is educating and engaging the people behind the screens.

CISO Category: Terabyte

Derek Brown

Director, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure

EQT

Derek Brown serves as the Director of Cybersecurity & Infrastructure for EQT, the largest natural gas producer in the United States. Throughout his 20+ years of experience, he has held roles such as CISO for a large hospital system in

Pennsylvania; CTO for an organization that brought industry and law enforcement together investigating cybercrime; and provided guidance and assistance to various companies in developing their cybersecurity programs and technical architectures.

Samuel Merrell

CISO

Kennametal

Sam Merrell has been serving as the Chief Information Security Officer for Kennametal, Inc. since February 2021. Prior to Kennametal, Merrell served as the Head of Cyber Intelligence for Covestro AG, where he also served as president of the American Chemistry Council Cybersecurity Committee. Before Covestro, he was a Corporate Cyber Defense Center Team Lead in the Bayer Corporation. Previously, he worked at the CERT Program at the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Merrell has experience working with the US Department of Homeland Security, assisting Critical Infrastructure owners and operators to improve their information security management practices. Other work includes supporting the United States Secret Service and improving enterprise security efforts of the US Air Force. Merrell holds a master's degree from Carnegie Mellon, the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification, and certificates from SANS and ITIL.

John O'Rourke

CISO

PPG

John O'Rourke has acted as the Director of IT Security and Chief Information Security Office (CISO) for PPG Industries since 2021. He started with PPG Industries in 2006 and is currently responsible for the protection of PPG's cybersecurity and compliance. He manages the function's overall strategy and operation, including cyber controls; threat and identity management; cyber security services; security assessments, architecture and integration.

O'Rourke has been in the Information Technology Industry for over 21 years with experience in development/programming, mergers and acquisitions, cloud technologies, infrastructure technologies, and cybersecurity frameworks and strategy. O'Rourke draws on his wide experience to assist the team with performing risk assessments, responding to incidents, identifying information governance policy and process improvements, and evaluating information systems architecture and security controls to determine how well they might reduce the likelihood and impact of a data breach.

Pete Zwierzynski

Director, Information Security

Koppers

Peter Zwierzynski has been the Director of Information Security for Koppers Inc. for two years. Before this role, he was the company's Information Security Architect and primary Network Engineer. With a diverse history of experience working in government, complex mission-critical environments, and data centers, he has always focused on ensuring the resilience of critical information assets. In his role at Koppers, he has led numerous global initiatives and created and maintained strategic partnerships in his ongoing efforts to ensure the resiliency and continuity of the business as it navigates through the ever-changing cyber threat landscapes.

CIO Category: Terabyte

Chris Carmody

CTO & SVP, IT Division

UPMC

Chris Carmody has been a health care technology leader within UPMC for more than 25 years in a variety of roles. As Chief Technology Officer and Senior Vice President, he leads more than 1,700 IT professionals on the UPMC single EHR project and IT Technology Shared Services, including data centers; data, voice and video networks; cybersecurity; Analytics, hospital-based technology support, enterprise applications and artificial intelligence. Carmody also serves as a member of the Board of ClinicalConnect Health Information Exchange, which he led as president for more than nine years. Carmody currently serves on Advisory Boards for Microsoft Health and Microsoft Azure AI, Hospital Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) Data Strategy, MEF Enterprise Leadership, Rubrik, and Proofpoint.

Chris Johns

CIO

PNC Financial Services

Chris Johns is a leading voice for diversity in tech and is shaping best practices for change management at PNC, transforming and innovating internally and serving as an example of excellence externally. She is responsible for leading business technology development for the Asset Management Division, as well as Staff Services Technology, which includes human resources, corporate governance, internal audit, and corporate responsibility. As a chair of PNC's Technology Risk Committee and a mentor and thought leader in architectural engineering, Johns has been a champion of change, helping to break down silos and embrace a DevOps approach that encourages innovation through creating a safe space for creativity. She is also a humble yet visible community mentor and a strong force for diversity in financial technology. Chris has supported a variety of hackathons, spoken on women in tech externally, and helped mature PNC's intern and technology development programs, cultivating future leaders.

Kathleen Lovett

VP & CIO, Supply Chain

VSP Vision

As Vice President and CIO, Supply Chain at VSP Vision, Kathleen Lovett partners closely with presidents and executives across the enterprise to advance meaningful business outcomes and help the nation's largest not-for-profit eye health company continue to meet the needs of its stakeholders. Prior to joining VSP, she held executive leadership roles at Thermo Fisher Scientific, where she led global distribution channel technology and eCommerce digital operations teams. Prior to that, she spent 20 years at U.S. Steel in both domestic and international technology and finance leadership.

Lovett received a Digital Transformation certification through the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems from Westminster College, and a dual MBA, and a Master of Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh's Katz School of Business. Active in her community, Kathleen supports several organizations dedicated to advancing DE&I.

Bhaskar Ramachandran

VP & CIO

PPG

Bhaskar Ramachandran, Global Vice President and Chief Information Officer at PPG since January 2021, is responsible for enabling PPG's growth strategy through IT/Digital technologies. Bhaskar has a track record of success in IT/Digital strategy, project management, cybersecurity, and process optimization.

Previously, he was VP and CIO at Jabil Inc., where he transformed manufacturing IT to a cloud-based ecosystem and led a Workday implementation and SAP ECC to S/4 upgrade/cloud migration. Prior to joining Jabil, Ramachandran also held IT leadership roles at Textron, Inc., including VP & CIO for the defense and intelligence segment.

Ramachandran holds a BS in Chemistry, an advanced diploma in systems management, and an MBA from Duke University. He is active in the Pittsburgh community, mentoring through the Pittsburgh Technology Council and RedChairPGH, supporting STEM programs at B&G Club, volunteering as an EMT, and serving on the board of S&T Bank and the executive advisory board for SAP AG.