

# 2025 CIO of the Year & Tech Titan Awards

Categories | Descriptions | Criteria

The Pittsburgh Technology Council and our partners at the Greater Pittsburgh CIO Group are excited to announce an exciting evolution of the annual **CIO of the Year Awards**! This year, we are expanding the program to recognize not only individual CIOs and CISOs, but also the outstanding achievements of their teams and the collective impact they've made in the world of technology.

The newly reimagined **CIO of the Year & Tech Titan Awards** will honor a broader range of categories, celebrating the innovation, collaboration, and transformative accomplishments of tech professionals across all levels. From visionary executives to talented practitioners, we'll shine a spotlight on the remarkable contributions shaping Pittsburgh's thriving tech landscape.

Join us for an evening of inspiration as we celebrate the dynamic leaders, forward-thinking teams, and groundbreaking innovations driving Pittsburgh's technology sector to new heights. This is a unique opportunity to come together and honor the people and organizations that are not only advancing technology but also making a lasting impact on our community.

Guests will enjoy a night of inspiring stories, networking opportunities, and a celebration of excellence in the ever-evolving world of technology. Don't miss the chance to be part of this distinguished event—and an exciting new chapter in celebrating local excellence—as we honor the leaders, trailblazers, rising stars, and teams who are redefining the future of technology in Pittsburgh and beyond at the **2025 CIO of the Year & Tech Titan Awards** on Wednesday, April 9!

## **Please Note**

Nominees from companies that sell IT solutions and services are not eligible for the 2025 CIO of the Year & Tech Titan Awards; however, we encourage you to nominate a customer, peer, or partner. Additionally, all nominees will be judged by an impartial subset of members of the Greater Pittsburgh CIO Group/CISO Group/IT Managers Group based on their contribution to innovation, results, and value delivered to their business. The following areas are included in all judges' scoring: technical depth, accomplishments in current role, continuing education on current/emerging technologies, service to the industry/community, and event involvement/published works.

## **Categories**

CIO of the Year

CISO of the Year

CTO of the Year

Rising Star

Tech Trailblazer

Workforce Champion of the Year

Tech Team of the Year

Tech Community Impact Award

Deep Tech Contributor of the Year

## **Descriptions/Criteria**

# CIO of the Year

### **Description:**

The CIO of the Year Award recognizes a Chief Information Officer (CIO) who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and impact in driving their organization's technology strategy. This individual has successfully aligned technology initiatives with business goals, delivered measurable outcomes, and led digital transformation efforts that have advanced the organization's competitive edge, efficiency, and overall success.

### **Criteria:**

- Holds the job title of Chief Information Officer (CIO) within his/her employer's organization.
- Works at a Southwestern Pennsylvania-based business or local subsidiary.
- Has a minimum of three (3) years of executive IT experience with twelve (12) months of tenure at his/her current employer's organization.
- Possesses primary responsibility for the technical performance of information security of his/her employer's organization.
- Demonstrates innovative leadership through effective use of technology in support of the strategic initiatives of his/her employer's organization.
- Represents the highest standards of leadership in information technology.
- Garner the respect of and be recognized as a role model by his/her peers and staff.

# CTO of the Year

### **Description:**

The CTO of the Year Award recognizes a Chief Technology Officer (CTO) who has demonstrated exceptional technological leadership and innovation in driving their organization's technological advancements. This individual has played a pivotal role in creating and executing technology strategies that not only address current needs but also anticipate future trends, fostering innovation, and achieving transformative results within their organization.

### **Criteria:**

- Holds the job title of Chief Technology Officer (CTO) within his/her employer's organization.
- Works at a Southwestern Pennsylvania-based business or local subsidiary.
- Has a minimum of three (3) years of executive technology experience with twelve (12) months of tenure at his/her current employer's organization.
- Demonstrates exceptional creativity and leadership in driving innovative technologies, product development, or engineering practices.
- Develops and executes a clear and impactful technology strategy that aligns with organizational goals and supports growth, scalability, and adaptability.
- Leads the development of new products, services, or solutions that drive the organization's competitive edge and meet customer needs.
- Contributes to significant improvements in business outcomes such as revenue growth, operational efficiency, or customer satisfaction through technology.
- Builds and leads high-performing, diverse technology teams while fostering a culture of collaboration, continuous learning, and innovation.

- Demonstrates foresight and adaptability in navigating emerging technologies and industry trends to position the company for long-term success.
- Works closely with other business leaders to ensure technology initiatives are aligned with and support broader organizational goals.

## CISO of the Year

### Description:

The CISO of the Year Award recognizes a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in safeguarding their organization's digital assets, information systems, and data. This individual has successfully implemented robust cybersecurity strategies, created a resilient security culture, and led efforts to proactively manage and mitigate risks in an ever-evolving threat landscape. The award honors a CISO who not only excels in technical security but also drives strategic alignment between security and business objectives.

### Criteria

- Holds the job title of Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) or the most senior level IS position within his/her employer's organization.
- Works at a Southwestern Pennsylvania-based business or local subsidiary.
- Has a minimum of three (3) years of executive IS experience with twelve (12) months of tenure at his/her current employer's organization.
- Possesses primary responsibility for the technical performance of information security of his/her employer's organization.
- Demonstrates innovative leadership through effective use of technology in support of the strategic initiatives of his/her employer's organization.
- Represents the highest standards of leadership in information security.
- Garner the respect of and be recognized as a role model by his/her peers and staff.

## Rising Star

### Description:

The Rising Star Award recognizes an emerging leader who has demonstrated exceptional talent, innovation, and potential in the tech industry. This individual has shown remarkable skill and dedication in their field, making significant contributions to their organization or the broader tech community. With a passion for problem-solving and a forward-thinking mindset, the award honors someone who is poised to shape the future of technology and continue driving impactful change.

### Criteria:

- Has between 5-15 years of tech/IT experience with at least twelve (12) months of tenure at his/her current employer's organization.
- Demonstrates innovative and effective use of technology in support of the strategic initiatives of his/her employer's organization.
- Represents the highest standards in information technology.
- Garner the respect of and be recognized as a role model by his/her peers and manager(s).

# Tech Trailblazer

## Description:

The Tech Trailblazer Award honors innovative tech professionals who have been in the field for more than 15 years and who are conquering, navigating, and harnessing the power of tech in their day-to-day roles. This award celebrates an individual who has consistently pushed the boundaries of innovation by leading groundbreaking advancements, introducing disruptive technologies, or charting new paths that have transformed industries and reshaped the tech landscape. The recipient is recognized for their vision, courage to take risks, and relentless pursuit of pioneering solutions that have made a lasting impact on both their organization and the broader tech community.

## Criteria:

- Has more than 15 years of tech/IT experience with at least twelve (12) months of tenure at his/her current employer's organization.
- Disrupts the current norm, pioneer new technologies, and set trends in the industry.
- Brings effective solutions, weighs on current data trends and research, and excels in managing and deriving insights from data.
- Has a record of turning complex technical problems into simple, elegant solutions.
- Creatively thinks and/or codes their way out of any challenge.
- Is a master of networking and infrastructure management.

**Who is encouraged to apply for/be nominated for this award? Some examples include:** IT Manager, DevOps Engineer, Software Development Manager, Network Architect, Data Scientist, Cloud Solutions Architect, UI/UX Designer, Robotics Engineer, Control Systems Engineer, Systems Architect, etc.

# Workforce Champion of the Year

## Description:

The Workforce Champion of the Year Award honors an individual or leader who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to fostering and developing talent within the technology industry. This award recognizes a person who goes above and beyond to support, mentor, and cultivate the growth of others, ensuring a thriving, diverse, and skilled workforce in the tech sector.

## Criteria:

- Demonstrates a strong commitment to talent development, mentoring, and fostering career growth for tech professionals.
- Implements programs, initiatives, or policies that attract, nurture, and retain top talent in the tech field.
- Actively advocates for diversity, equity, and inclusion in hiring and talent development practices.
- Supports continuous learning, professional growth, and skill-building opportunities for individuals at all stages of their careers.
- Champions a positive, collaborative work culture that encourages innovation, inclusion, and employee well-being.
- Is recognized by peers and employees for their leadership in creating pathways for career advancement and talent empowerment.
- Makes a measurable impact on the success of individuals, teams, and the broader organization through effective talent management strategies.

# Technology Team of the Year

## Description:

The Technology Team of the Year Award honors a high-performing, collaborative, and innovative team that has demonstrated exceptional achievement in delivering technology solutions and driving organizational success. This award celebrates the collective efforts of a team that has effectively overcome challenges, implemented impactful projects, and made a measurable difference through technology.

## Criteria:

- Demonstrates outstanding teamwork and collaboration, with both tech-focused roles and other teams or departments.
- Successfully delivers complex technology projects, solutions, or services that meet or exceed business goals.
- Shows exceptional problem-solving abilities and agility in addressing challenges or changes in project scope.
- Implements innovative, efficient, and scalable technology solutions that drive business growth or operational improvements.
- Contributes to a positive and inclusive work culture that fosters innovation, knowledge-sharing, and continuous improvement.
- Delivers measurable, positive outcomes such as cost savings, increased productivity, or improved user experience.
- Demonstrates resilience, adaptability, and exceptional execution in meeting deadlines and achieving project goals.
- Is recognized within the organization and the industry for its impact and contributions to technology advancement.

# Tech Community Impact Award

## Description:

The Tech Community Impact Award recognizes an individual who has made a significant, positive contribution to the local or global tech community. This award celebrates efforts that go beyond business success, highlighting initiatives that foster collaboration, education, diversity, and innovation within the tech ecosystem.

## Criteria:

- Actively contributes to the growth, development, and betterment of the tech community through initiatives, programs, or outreach.
- Demonstrates a clear commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion through actionable initiatives, policies, or programs.
- Supports education, mentorship, or skill-building programs to inspire and develop the next generation of tech talent.
- Collaborates with other organizations or community groups to create shared value and promote tech-driven solutions to societal challenges.
- Leads or supports initiatives that address critical issues such as sustainability, digital inclusion, or community resilience through technology.
- Actively advocates for inclusive practices within the broader tech industry or community, sharing knowledge and best practices.
- Promotes ethical practices, transparency, and social responsibility within the tech industry.
- Demonstrates a clear, measurable impact in improving the lives of individuals or communities through technology.

# Deep Tech Contributor of the Year

## Description:

The Deep Tech Contributor Award recognizes an individual who has made groundbreaking contributions in either physical tech and/or through the development and application of innovative products, services, and processes based on scientific and engineering breakthroughs. This award honors someone who uses technology to solve complex global problems, create new opportunities, and drive meaningful impact across industries.

## Criteria:

- Demonstrates exceptional innovation and impact through advancements in fields such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, biotechnology, cybersecurity/data protection, IoT, sustainable energy/clean technologies, and other cutting-edge technologies that have the potential to radically transform industries and society.
- Propels the development of deep tech solutions, demonstrates a forward-thinking approach, and positively influences the tech ecosystem.
- Leads or contributes to the creation of models, algorithms, or applications that deliver measurable results, such as improved efficiency, accuracy, or decision-making.
- Exhibits thought leadership through research, development, or contributions to open-source projects.
- Drives transformative business solutions, such as automation, predictive analytics, or personalized experiences.
- Promotes ethical practices and ensures transparency, fairness, and accountability in the development and deployment of new technologies.
- Achieves measurable, positive business, social, or environmental outcomes.