# 2025 Award Finalists

## 2025 CIO Choice Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

**Alan Levine**
*CISO, Alcoa (retired) | Board Chair, Carnegie Mellon University CISO Executive Program*

Until 2017, Alan Levine was the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) for Arconic (2016-2017), public successor to Alcoa Inc., where he was responsible for all aspects of cyber security, information security, compliance, eDiscovery, and data privacy for a global company. Prior, for 20 years, Alan was the CISO and Chief Privacy Officer for Alcoa Inc. (1997-2016). Previously, Alan was Data Protection Officer for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (1980-1997) and Instructor at Carnegie Mellon University (1977-1980). Alan's specialties include: all aspects of cyber security in a worldwide landscape, global data privacy, emphasis on European privacy provisions, eDiscovery, IT compliance, including SOX, CFATS, NERC, and related corporate regulatory compliance requirements, and controlled data (ITAR, EAR) for U.S. export control requirements. Alan is an experienced cyber security professional with extensive international and regulatory experience. He was a founding member of the Microsoft Security Council, Oracle's GRC Council, and other supplier/customer committees. He is currently Board Chair and founding board member of the Carnegie Mellon University Chief Information Security Officer Executive Program. Alan has received numerous awards for his work in cyber security, including personal commendations from Robert Mueller and James Comey when they were Directors, US FBI, for Alan's contributions to national security. Alan has a bachelor's degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, a master's degree from City College of New York, and is ABD from Carnegie Mellon University.

# CIO of the Year Category Finalists

**Mark Henderson**
*Vice Chancellor & CIO | University of Pittsburgh*

As Chief Information Officer (CIO), Mark is responsible for the development, implementation, and delivery of technology that supports the academic, business, and research missions of the University. Mark serves on the board of directors for the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, as well as the Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research (KINBER). He has more than 40 years of experience in higher education and private-sector information technology. He previously served as CIO at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His other roles in higher education include interim vice president and CIO at Case Western Reserve University, interim vice president and CIO at the University of Maryland, and director of infrastructure services at the University of Cincinnati. Private sector appointments include GE, where he worked as a leader in Global Shops IT Operations and Global Network Operations, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and Procter & Gamble.

**Kathleen Lovett**
*VP & CIO, Supply Chain | VSP Vision*

As Vice President & CIO, Supply Chain at VSP Vision, Kathleen 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.

Kathleen 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 the Pittsburgh community, Kathleen supports several organizations dedicated to advancing DE&I.

**Dan Pavlick**
*CIO | TriState Capital Bank*

Dan Pavlick is the CIO at TriState Capital Bank, where he leads the Technology team. He is responsible for the strategy and execution of technology initiatives, including enterprise applications, infrastructure, cloud, architecture, data management, and process automation. Dan is a strategic leader with strong background leading growth-oriented businesses in technology-driven industries. He is skilled in shaping vision, executing results, managing risks, and driving outcomes. Dan also possesses experience in software development, intelligent automation and AI, M&A, and business transformation.

Dan's career spans technology leadership roles across industries, having served in multiple leadership roles at PNC including CIO for the Corporate and Institutional Bank. Prior to that, Dan was CIO of Philips Respironics and worked in technology consulting with Summa. Dan holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Management Information Systems and Industrial Management from Carnegie Mellon University and an MBA from Duquesne University.

**David Reed**
*VP, IT | Maxim Crane*

David Reed is an accomplished IT executive with over 20 years of experience across healthcare, education, construction, and rental industries. A strategic leader and technologist, he excels at building high-performing teams, engaging customers, and driving business value through effective IT operations.

Starting his career in 2003 after attending the University of Pittsburgh, David advanced through various leadership roles, leading successful IT transformations and implementations. He champions teamwork and collaboration, believing a strong IT team is key to achieving business goals. Committed to innovation and continuous improvement, David empowers his teams to develop customer-centric solutions that optimize efficiency, mitigate risks, and streamline operations. His expertise lies in leveraging technology to drive tangible business outcomes, ensuring IT remains a strategic enabler of success.

**Eng Tan**
*VP, IT | Automated Health Systems*

With over two decades in IT, Eng has led the transformation of Automated Health Systems' technology landscape, positioning IT as a driver of business growth. As Vice President of IT, he oversees strategy, implementation, and optimization of critical healthcare contact center solutions, ensuring seamless access for millions of constituents. His leadership philosophy centers on innovation, operational excellence, and building high-performing teams that drive measurable impact.

Eng believes in the power of technology to transform industries and in the importance of adaptability in an ever-changing industry. Throughout his career, he has blended strategic foresight with hands-on execution, successfully guiding his organization through cloud adoption, AI-driven automation, and data analytics. Eng is committed to fostering a culture of accountability, mentorship, and lifelong learning—ensuring both his team and organization stay ahead of the curve.

## CTO of the Year Category Finalists

**Chris Carmody**
*CTO & Senior Vice President | UPMC*

Chris Carmody has been a health care technology leader within UPMC for more than two decades in a variety of roles. As CTO & Senior Vice President, he leads more than 1,700 IT professionals on the UPMC Bridges project and IT Technology Shared Services including data centers, networks, cybersecurity, analytics, hospital-based technology support, and enterprise applications.

He also serves as a member of the Board of ClinicalConnect Health Information Exchange, which he led as president for more than nine years. Chris also serves on the Greater Pittsburgh American Heart Association Board of Directors. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Westminster College, where he currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees. He earned his Master of Business Administration and Master of Information Systems Management from Robert Morris University.

**Jacob Guertin**
*CTO | Green Impact*

Jacob Guertin is Green Impact's CTO and serves as the organization's lead solution architect for client engagements. Jacob began his career in mortgage banking and served as VP of Business Development for a regional appraisal management company. In that role, he managed development of several new products, including two custom client/vendor portals, an appraiser facing mobile application, and an automated appraisal review engine.

In 2018, Jacob entered the consulting space when he joined Plus Consulting, a multi-practice firm based in Carnegie. He immediately began leading engagements and spent nearly three years implementing Salesforce various enterprises in the Pittsburgh region. Jacob eventually became lead Salesforce Consultant at Plus, where he leveraged his architecture skills to assist with business development efforts on top of his client facing responsibilities.

**Tom Panzarella**
*CTO | Seegrid*

Tom Panzarella is a roboticist and an entrepreneur. Tom's technical work is focused on perception software for mobile robots and he has built and exited several start-up companies that focused on the commercialization of such systems. Tom founded Love Park Robotics in 2011, focused on real-time 3D computer vision for industrial applications and later sold the business (2018) to ifm electronic, gmbh, a ~$1B global corporation, where he served as CTO, Robotics Perception and helped to build ifm's robotics business. More recently, Tom co-founded Box Robotics with the goal of rebuilding the AGV Perception Stack in HD, bringing 3D LiDAR, HD Maps, and Deep Learning into the warehouse. Seegrid acquired Box Robotics in 2020 and Tom is now CTO at Seegrid. Tom has Master's degrees in Computer Science and Mathematics from Villanova University.

## CISO of the Year Category Finalists

**Robert Kemp**
*SVP, CISO | Federated Hermes*

Robert Kemp is a seasoned IT executive with over two decades of experience in information security, risk management, and IT leadership with a strong track record of driving technology strategies that enhance security and compliance. He has built and led corporate IT security organizations, developing structures, tools, and policies that minimize risk while meeting regulatory standards. Known for fostering collaboration across teams, Robert creates high-performing environments that improve productivity and innovation. As a strategic advisor, he ensures technology decisions align with business goals, helping organizations navigate complex challenges.

With experience managing multimillion-dollar budgets, Robert has implemented cost-effective solutions that strengthen security and efficiency. His leadership continues to shape resilient and forward-thinking IT operations.

He holds BS Degrees in Accounting and Finance, and an MBA from Robert Morris College. He has held several industry certifcations in the past: CISSP, CISM, and CISA Certificates.

**Steve Rocco**
*Director, IT Security | Matthews International*

As Director, IT Security, Steve is responsible for ensuring the overall cybersecurity posture of Matthews International while also enabling digital transformation and managing cybersecurity enterprise risk. With over 20 years' experience in Information Technology, he has developed a deep understanding of the many technological challenges that companies face.

Steve's expertise in IT secure architectural design, risk management frameworks, governance, and compliance has allowed him to create and implement effective security strategies for multiple international companies that balance the need for protection with the need for business agility. He has led multiple cybersecurity teams and has been responsible for developing and executing comprehensive security programs.

Throughout his long career, Steve has remained at the forefront of emerging technologies and evolving threats, constantly striving to improve the security posture and cyber resiliency of the organizations he works for. Steve is also very passionate about educating and mentoring others on cybersecurity best practices.

**Eris Symms**
*CISO | Arconic*

Eris Symms is the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) at Arconic, with over 25 years of experience. Eris collaborates with business leaders, legal, HR, and compliance to protect Arconic's operations and information assets, ensuring regulatory compliance and adherence to company policies.

Before becoming CISO in 2020, Eris led security efforts for Arconic's digital transformation projects, including cloud-based collaboration, data loss prevention, and cloud access security technologies. Prior to joining Arconic, Eris held various IT infrastructure roles at Alcoa Inc., Bechtel Bettis, and U.S. Steel.

Eris holds degrees from Saint Vincent College and Robert Morris University, and completed the CISO Executive Certification Program at Carnegie Mellon University in 2021. In 2024, Eris obtained the NACD.DC certification from the National Association of Corporate Directors.

Eris is also active with the Boy Scouts of America and serves as an Adjunct Professor at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

**Pete Zwieryznski**
*Director, Information Security | Koppers*

Pete Zwieryznski is the Director of Information Security at Koppers. With a robust background in cybersecurity and infrastructure, Pete leads a dedicated team to protect the company's digital assets and ensure the integrity of its information systems. He has been instrumental in several key projects, including the development of the company's operational technology security program, the introduction of a data loss prevention program, and close collaboration with other teams to build out the company's asset management program. Pete's expertise and leadership are crucial in safeguarding the organization's data and supporting its strategic goals.

# Tech Trailblazer Category Finalists

**Erin Greco**
*IT Managing Director, Global Pickup & Delivery | FedEx*

Erin Greco is the IT Managing Director, Global Pickup & Delivery for FedEx. In this role, she is shifting mindsets to embrace a culture focused on transforming the speed her team provides technology and tools to optimize FedEx's Global delivery and pickup of commercial and residential packages.

Erin's has 27 years of information technology experience including 18 years at FedEx where she was instrumental in the expansion of the Contractor and Settlement system throughout the European network, as well as optimization within Pickup and Delivery Planning. Erin created the Talent Engagement and Outreach department focused on increasing applicant pipelines and improving retention programs.

Through her outreach she continuously looks for creative approaches to build the local talent pool in STEM careers. Erin is a board member for Girls Inc. of Greater Pittsburgh which focus on inspiring All Girls To Be Strong, Smart, & Bold.

**Adam Gunnett**
*Director, IT & Business Intelligence | Busy Beaver Building Centers*

Adam Gunnett is the Director of IT & Business Intelligence at Busy Beaver Building Centers, where he leads the integration of cutting-edge retail technologies, including Autonomous Inventory Scanning Robots and Electronic Shelf Labels. Passionate about innovation, Adam has transformed IT operations to enhance efficiency and customer experience while empowering associates to focus on service. Recognized as a thought leader in independent retail technology, he frequently shares insights at industry conferences and peer forums. Under his leadership, Busy Beaver became the first home improvement retailer in the U.S. to fully implement ESLs. A two-time CIO of the Year Finalist, Adam is dedicated to driving technological advancements that bridge the gap between independent and big-box retail.

**Chris Kosek**
*Director, Enterprise Applications | K&L Gates*

Chris Kosek is the Director, Enterprise Applications at K&L Gates. With a strong background in technology and leadership, Chris has been instrumental in driving innovation and efficiency within the organization. Known for a proactive and multifaceted approach to staying educated on both current and emerging technologies, Chris excels at bridging the gap with non-technical customers to help bring their visions to life through technology. By regularly attending industry conferences and webinars, Chris stays updated on the latest trends and innovations.

As an active member of several professional organizations and online communities, Chris engages in discussions and shares insights with peers. Continuous learning is a cornerstone of Chris's professional development, focusing on advancements in cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. Additionally, Chris dedicates time to reading about leadership to gain management insights and learn how to be a better human.

**Christine Sethman**

*VP II & Regional Co-Chair, Women in Engineering | BNY*

Christine Sethman is fully versed in ServiceNow and adds efficiencies and value to everything she tackles, as exhibited in 3,500 stories delivered in three quarters. She successfully trained more than 40,000 users in ServiceNow across various experience levels and modules. On the side, she passionately co-chairs a Women in Engineering group at BNY where uplifting and inspiring is the goal. Christine approaches everything she does with 100% effort, emotional intelligence, and a craving to learn and excel.

## Rising Star Category Finalists

**Don Koenig**
*IT Manager | FedEx*

Don Koenig started at FedEx as an engineer in Operations Technology in 2007.  He spent several years deploying handheld and wearable mobile computers and Bluetooth printers to support the FedEx operations. In 2017, he was promoted to IT Manager with the responsibility of mobile device management of the mobile devices used within the Ground operations, In 2020, Don transitioned to the IT Manager responsible for application development and support over many legacy Ground shipment systems. These systems are high-volume, mission-critical systems that feed shipment data to most of the key business functions including hub sortation, first and last mile planning, tracking, and rating.

**Jaime Lowther**
*President | Concensus Technologies*

As President and COO of Concensus Technologies, Jaime is committed to driving growth and delivering exceptional experiences for both employees and clients. Specializing in cybersecurity and Identity & Access Management (IAM), she focuses on solving security and productivity challenges for K-12, higher education, and SMB clients. While not a technical expert, her strength lies in identifying and alleviating customer pain points to enhance security, auditing, and user experience.

With a background rooted in customer service, Jaime's career began in aviation, where she developed leadership skills and earned her Federal Airman's Certificate as a Control Tower Operator. Transitioning into technology, she leveraged her passion for problem-solving and team development to drive success in sales, service, and executive leadership. She thrives on tackling complex challenges, fostering a positive workplace culture, and delivering innovative solutions that make a meaningful impact.

**Anthony Matarazzo**
*Director, Simulation & AI Solutions | Ansys*

Anthony, a Pittsburgh native and Montour HS graduate (2009), earned his bachelor's degree in business from Kent State University (2013).

He began his career at Wesco International, focusing on the Electrical, Communication, & Utility industries. In 2015, Anthony joined Ansys, the global leader in engineering simulation, as their first-ever Remote Sales

Representative. He played a key role in pioneering an international sales & technology development program for 100+ new hires. Over the past decade, Anthony held various sales and management positions, where he helped shape digital transformation strategies for some of the world's most forward-thinking companies. His passion for simulation contributed to innovations in AV & EV development and AI for Data Center optimization. Named Ansys' *Game Changer* in 2023, Anthony now advises on AI strategic initiatives, working closely with CXOs, R&D Leaders, and Corp. Partnerships. He resides in Pittsburgh with his wife Morgan and their four young daughters.

## Workforce Champion of the Year Category Finalists

### John Lange
*Director | Academy Pittsburgh*

A technology leader with a knack for collecting great projects, John spends his days wearing multiple CTO hats—scaling emergency communication infrastructure at accesSOS, teaching the next generation of developers at Academy Pittsburgh (the coding bootcamp he co-founded), and building innovative solutions for gaming communities at Looking for Group. His passion for learning, technology, and people shows up everywhere: from diving deep into troubleshooting code one moment, to teaching electronics or design patterns the next, then wrapping up the day by mentoring new developers and team leaders. With over 30 years of diverse experience in tech, John brings a unique blend of technical expertise, creative collaboration, and community impact to everything he touches, though he's the first to admit you should probably find someone else to pick your color schemes or wrangle with app store submissions.

### Tony Parfitt
*VP, Product Development | Fullsight*

Tony Parfitt is the VP, Software Development at Fullsight, guiding product innovation, team leadership, and strategic technical direction. With over 20 years of experience across diverse industries, he has established a track record of delivering robust, scalable software solutions.

Passionate about growth and collaboration, Tony actively mentors and empowers his teams, championing an environment of continuous improvement. Known for his hands-on leadership, he invests in future leaders by offering personalized coaching, ensuring employees thrive and contribute at their highest potential.

Under his guidance, engineering groups excel, adopting cutting-edge practices to meet evolving business needs. Tony's approach balances innovation with practicality, keeping Fullsight competitive in the modern tech landscape.

### Evan Schell
*Director of Sales | Honeycomb Credit*

Evan Schell is the dynamic Director of Sales at Honeycomb Credit, where he spearheads sales strategies and operations with exceptional leadership and expertise. With a keen eye for market trends and a deep understanding of customer needs, Evan plays a crucial role in driving business growth and expanding market reach.  Evan's commitment to excellence and his ability to build strong relationships with both clients and team members

exemplify his dedication to not only meeting but exceeding sales targets. Under his guidance, Honeycomb Credit continues to thrive as a leading platform in the community-focused financial sector, supporting small businesses with innovative financing solutions.

**Michelle Wardle-Eggers**
*Sr. Analyst Development Manager | ACA Group*

Michelle joined ACA Group in December 2015 as an Analyst working on the Communications Surveillance Team. This was her introduction to the field of Compliance Consulting for the Financial Services Industry. Prior to joining ACA, Michelle worked as the Executive Director of a local history museum. After moving into a supervisory role on the Communications Surveillance team in 2019, Michelle began to focus on new analyst training. That eventually led to providing onboarding support to all of our Managed Services teams, not just Communications Surveillance. In 2023, the Analyst Development role shifted to focus on ACA Group's entire Managed Services Business Unit, where Michelle has provided not just onboarding, but other learning and development opportunities, as well as hiring and employee engagement support to over 230 people in the Managed Services Business Unit.

## Tech Team of the Year Category Finalists

### Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney is a national law firm with a proven reputation for providing progressive, industry-leading legal, business, regulatory and government relations advice to our regional, national and international clients. Our 475 attorneys and government relations professionals across 17 offices proudly represent some of the highest profile and innovative companies in the nation, including 50 of the Fortune 100.

### 412 Food Rescue
Driven by the belief that good food belongs to people, not landfills, 412 Food Rescue launched in Pittsburgh in March 2015 to divert fresh food from going to waste by redirecting it to people facing food insecurity. Today, it is the largest volunteer food rescue organization in the country with a growing community of 24,000+ volunteers. Since more than 80% of the food for pick up is fresh, timely delivery is essential. 412 Food Rescue developed an innovative, integrated platform, Food Rescue Hero, which includes a proprietary app that makes claiming food rescues easy and convenient, guiding each volunteer every step of the way from pick up to delivery. Food Rescue Hero is licensed for use at 20 food rescue organizations in North America.

### Triple
Triple is a fintech startup emerging from the numo incubator, a sub company of PNC. Founded in 2019, Triple has grown from a small founding team to become a critical vendor to PNC providing a core platform this is in use by all of their 10 million retail banking customers. Triple now has 10+ clients outside PNC and is poised to define the next generation of transaction based advertising.

**University of Pittsburgh - Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI)**

CTSI works directly with researchers in collaboration with regulatory agencies to navigate all necessary regulatory pathways, at any stage of their research. CTSI-supported programs and resources extend to all six of Pitt's schools of the health sciences and—through community engagement efforts—to the Pittsburgh region. Through the establishment of 12 Core divisions, CTSI is building institutional infrastructure, including educational, programmatic, facility, and equipment resources to support a wide range of clinical and translational research.

## Tech Community Impact Category Finalists

### Lynn Banaszak
*President | The Caileigh Lynn McDowell Foundation/Amazon*

Lynn Banaszak is a recognized leader in innovation, strategy, and inclusion, with a career spanning innovation, entrepreneurship, public-private partnerships and economic development. She has shaped global initiatives in AI, life sciences, and regenerative medicine, working across corporate, academic, nonprofit, and government sectors to drive meaningful impact. She has led high-profile innovation programs, supported hundreds of startups, and helped secure over $1 billion in funding for transformative technologies. She founded the Tech Belt Initiative to revitalize regional economies and played a pivotal role in establishing the International Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Society (TERMIS).

A published author, she contributed to Digital Transformation for the University of the Future, exploring responsible AI and digital innovation. A passionate advocate for equity and mentorship, she launched multiple initiatives fostering inclusive workplaces and leadership. She also founded the Caileigh Lynn McDowell Foundation, championing youth empowerment and civic engagement.

### Nina Barbuto
*Executive Director | Assemble*

Nina's passion for art, new media, and social learning led her to found Assemble, a community space for arts and technology, in 2011. Nina holds degrees in architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture and Carnegie Mellon University, where she is also adjunct faculty.

### Mike Capsambelis
*Director, Product Management | Google*

Mike is the Director of Product Management at Google Pittsburgh, where he leads product teams focused on building a thriving e-commerce ecosystem. He is also a passionate advocate for inclusive entrepreneurship and social enterprise, leading Google's community outreach efforts in Pittsburgh. In this role, he has worked to increase the participation of underrepresented students in computer science and organized events to connect minority and women entrepreneurs with resources. Mike is the founder of Awesome Pittsburgh, a micro-grant organization that has supported over 150 local initiatives. He is Board Chair for the Program to Aid Citizen Enterprise (PACE) and serves on the board of the Mon Metro Business Equity Initiative (MMBEI). Mike regularly speaks about entrepreneurship, innovation, and product management at conferences and colleges.

**Amil Cook**
*Director, Technology Programs & Curriculum | Community Forge | BootUp PGH*

Amil Cook, M.Ed., is a trailblazing educator, tech disruptor, and community leader transforming underserved communities. With 15+ years of hands-on experience, he shatters the digital divide and empowers Black youth through unconventional methods that harness technology, language, and cultural identity. As Director, Technology Programs & Curriculum at Community Forge, Amil reimagines education with bold strategies. He co-founded BootUpPGH in July 2021 during the pandemic and now leads a team of eight, including four Teaching Fellows, the next generation of community educators. Instrumental in launching and growing #HipHopEd—an international movement harnessing HipHop's raw energy—he guides youth away from crime, violence, materialism, and nihilism by fostering character, personal growth, self-exploration, and cultural respect. A proud alumnus of Morehouse College and Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Amil is passionate about building a community of next-gen leaders committed to education, tech, and economic access to alleviate human suffering and build healthier communities.

**Kashif Henderson**
*Executive Director | Neighborhood Learning Alliance*

Kashif is the Executive Director of Neighborhood Learning Alliance (NLA), leading efforts to expand career-connected learning opportunities and workforce access for underrepresented K-12 youth through partnerships with schools, businesses, government agencies, and universities. Previously, he served as the K-12 Gifted and Talented Coordinator for Pittsburgh Public Schools, overseeing Pennsylvania's second-largest gifted education program. He has collaborated with CMU's School of Computer Science to broaden computer science access, participated in the University of Pittsburgh's NSF INCLUDES grant to diversify STEM fields, and served on Pitt's Counselor Advisory Board. Kashif was part of Pennsylvania's Department of Education (PDE) Building Equity-Inclusion-Belonging in the Neighborhood—a Logic Model workgroup—and was an ambassador for Pennsylvania's Statewide Afterschool Youth Development (PASYDN). Currently, he is a member of the Pennsylvania Educator Diversity Consortium, serves on the board of Cultivating Resilient Youth, and contributes to the College Board's Dream Deferred Committee and Middle States Council.

## Deep Tech Contributor of the Year Category Finalists

### Ujwal Chejerla
*Director, AI/ML | PPG*

Ujwal Chejerla enables business transformation through digital and AI technologies across three top-tier companies. Starting from product development in R&D to manufacturing, supply chain, and customer relationship management, Ujwal's work specializes in aligning technology efficiencies with business goals and creating experiences that inspire end users to adopt a new way of working across the value stream.

**Richard Clarke**
*Chief Analytics Officer | Highmark Health*

Richard Clarke, Ph.D., is Senior Vice President and Chief Analytics Officer of Highmark Health, a blended health organization that includes one of America's largest Blue Cross Blue Shield insurers and Allegheny Health Network.

He drives advanced data and analytic solutions that fulfill Highmark Health's Living Health strategy—a model that blends the payer-provider ecosystem; provides more proactive, personalized, and cost-effective care for patients; and enables better experiences for clinicians. Richard is at the forefront of artificial intelligence and data strategy in health care and works closely with Highmark Health's strategic partner, Google Cloud, to develop the next generation of care that addresses issues such as data interoperability, patient flow, and health equity.

He holds a B.S. in Neuroscience from Allegheny College and a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the Center for Neural Basis of Cognition, a joint program between Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh.

**Siddhartha Mukherjee**
*Principal R&D Engineer | Ansys*

Siddhartha Mukherjee holds a Ph.D. in Structural Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, India. He has been involved in R&D primarily in commercial simulation software in the manufacturing, automotive, and aerospace areas. As Principal R&D Engineer at Ansys, Siddhartha works primarily in the areas of Nonlinear Finite Element, Applied Machine Learning, Optimization, and Reliability Engineering. His expertise lies in algorithm development, workflow design, and several application engineering domains.

He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineering's Verification and Validation 70 committee which develops formal methods and acceptable procedures for machine learning applications in engineering analysis.

He is also an adjunct Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University and offers the graduate course titled *Applied Finite Element Analysis*, and he has several publications and patents to his name in the area of CAE simulation.

**Matt Puchalski**
*Founder | Bucket Robotics*

Matt Puchalski is a deep-tech entrepreneur in Pittsburgh and the Founder & CEO of Bucket Robotics. His journey includes key roles at autonomous vehicle companies, serving as an early employee at Argo AI where he led robotic deployments across the U.S. and Germany, and as Integration Lead at Stack AV, where he helped launch their autonomous trucking fleet. In 2023, Matt founded Bucket Robotics and guided the company through Y Combinator. The company has pioneered synthetic data-driven defect detection in manufacturing, achieving AI deployment speeds 50 times faster than traditional methods. Under his leadership, Bucket Robotics is deploying their technology in automotive and medical device manufacturing, while also collaborating with the Federal Government on robotic processes.