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The annual Florida 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, Large Corporate, & Corporate categories will be announced March 4 at the Marriott Orlando Downtown.

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Technology is the X-factor between surviving, thriving. **3**

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Nemours' Bernie Rice leads IT-related efforts of nearly a billion dollars in construction **15**

# CONGRATULATIONS 2022 FLORIDA CIO AWARDS NOMINEES

**ROSA AKHTARKHAVARI**  
City of Orlando / Information  
Technology

**SCOTT ARNOLD**  
Tampa General Hospital

**LUIS BEAUMIER**  
PwC

**MARK BILGER**  
One Call

**JAMES BIRD**  
Universal Engineering

**MICHAEL BOUCHET**  
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**HARRY BROWN**  
Massey Services

**PETE CAPUTO**  
Syniverse

**ROBERT CASAGRANDE**  
Valet Living

**CHRIS CHANG**  
Darden Restaurants

**CHASE CHRISTENSEN**  
Jabil

**LISA COCHRAN**  
VyStar Credit Union

**RICK CORO**  
Landstar System

**JOHN CROWLEY**  
Fidelity National Financial

**JIM CULBERT**  
Duval County Public Schools

**ROBERT CURRAN**  
Orange County Public Schools

**MATT DOMIT**  
Red Rover

**LAURIE DOUGLAS**  
Publix Supermarkets

**DENIS EDWARDS**  
Kforce

**LOUIS GRANDE**  
Red Lobster

**JAMES GRANT**  
State of Florida

**SAMUEL HART**  
Tampa Bay Buccaneers

**SHARON HART**  
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**RUSSELL HAUPERT**  
City of Tampa, FL

**DONAGH HERLIHY**  
Subway

**BRET INGERMAN**  
Tallahassee Community College

**STACEY JACKSON**  
Westgate Resorts

**WILLIAM JAMIESON**  
Primo Water Corporation

**DALE JOHNSTON**  
Regency Centers

**ISIS JONES**  
Full Sail University

**ELIZABETH LINDSAY-WOOD**  
Moffitt Cancer Center

**DON LINDSEY**  
Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare

**JEFF LUTES**  
Orlando Magic, Ltd

**MICHAEL MARQUES**  
Halifax Health

**BILL MCCOREY**  
Universal Parks & Resorts

**SHEREE MCFARLAND**  
HCA

**BARBARA MORGAN**  
FIS Global

**GRAY NESTER**  
Brown & Brown

**JACQUELINE NEVILS**  
L3Harris Technologies

**LEN O'NEILL**  
The Suddath Companies

**SCOTT PAUL**  
OneBlood

**BERNIE RICE**  
Nemours Children's Health System

**CRAIG ROY**  
National Retail Properties

**TODD RYAN**  
Hillsborough County Sheriff's  
Office

**MIKE SCHMIDT**  
Deloitte

**JOEL SCHWALBE**  
Transnetyx

**KHWAJA SHAIK**  
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**DWIGHT SMITH**  
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**CHRISTINE STOFFEL MOFFETT**  
NASCAR

**SHERI STROBEL**  
Chapters Health System

**PETER THORNE**  
The School District of Osceola  
County

**WILLIAM WALDERS**  
Health First

**CHRIS WANTLIN**  
Ashley Furniture Industries

**TOM WEEKS**  
Hillsborough County Public  
Schools

**JEFF WYSOCKI**  
Mosaic

## 2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

## 2022 FLORIDA CHAIR LETTER

# TECHNOLOGY LEADERS ARE THE X-FACTOR

Technology is at the center of modern business transformation and leadership is the X-factor between surviving and thriving in today's digital economy.

FloridaCIO brings together leading CIOs of North & Central Florida's largest organizations to help CIOs maximize their leadership effectiveness, create value, reduce risk and share successes. Through member-led, non-commercial programs, CIOs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges, solving problems, avoiding pitfalls and bringing value to their leadership teams and their company.

FloridaCIO members collaborate locally and nationally with CIOs across industries because, successful CIOs understand the 'superpower' of trusted relationships. In any gathering of CIOs, the answer is in the room. The challenge one CIO is facing has likely been solved by another CIO.

There is no textbook for how to be a great CIO. The best way to sharpen your leadership acumen is by collaborating with

other leaders facing similar challenges. The industries and size may be different, but winning approaches to effective leadership 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 helped CIOs succeed in today's most challenging C-suite executive role. By joining FloridaCIO, 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 economy using technology and enriching our region and our world. On behalf of FloridaCIO, 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**

2022 National Chair, InspireCIO  
SVP | CIO Boston Red Sox



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## 2022 CIO OF THE YEAR



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/fran-dramis-630a594>

## 2022 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

# Francis "Fran" Dramis

Senior Executive | Board Member | Angel Investor | Author | Mentor | Speaker.

When you talk to Fran Dramis, it's clear that he loves people. In fact, he is passionate about helping them discover what they're good at and how that translates to a successful career.

In middle school, he was a shy, stammering kid, but one of his teachers, Sister Cornelius, saw a spark in him. One day, Cornelius told him that when she left the room, she wanted him to take over teaching the lesson. Dramis shuffled his way to the front, put another student in charge of the blackboard and started teaching. Little did he know that this precise moment would be one that defined the rest of his career.

Today, Dramis is mostly retired from a long, successful career as a senior executive and head of technology for multiple Fortune 500 companies, in addition to serving as a CEO and COO at other midsize companies. Dramis said he is living one of his life dreams now as a mostly retired person because of one thing: touching people's lives. He is doing that as a mentor, author of three books, public speaker and active angel investor, where he helps



**People may have taken their path without me, but if I can help facilitate that – that is my business life goal and my spiritual goal – to touch lives in that way."**

startup and emerging companies succeed. His end goal, however, is to help business leaders and budding professionals discover what they're good at and determine what story they can tell through their career.

"I want to help convince as many people as possible that they can effectively touch people's lives in a really positive way," he said.

To accomplish that goal, Dramis enjoys sitting down with individuals from all walks of life, helping them map out where they want to go with their career. Together, they work on creating a path that helps them get where they want to be. You'll often hear Dramis say, "What would make the time that you've spent in business worthwhile?" or, "What is your career end goal?"

"People may have taken their path without me, but if I can help facilitate that – that is my business life goal and my spiritual goal – to touch lives in that way."

With his gracious nature and a personality that makes people feel comfortable from the get-go, Dramis has found great success in

helping businesspeople – from executives to front-office staff – be the best versions of themselves. And no matter what, he encourages leaders to engage with their people, especially now that the technology world continues to be reshaped by the pandemic.

"The need for engagement with the people you're working with is absolutely critical to help them maximize their stay with you," he explains.

When asked what advice he has for ambitious professionals just starting out, his advice is simple: Don't be afraid to try new things.

"The definition of the technology field is really important right now – it is so broad with so many dimensions. My advice to aspiring technology professionals is to try as many things as you can, so you can establish a foundation ... and understand what things are meaningful. There isn't any one path in technology now, so throw a wide enough net to see a little bit of everything. Then build your career."

# CONGRATULATIONS JEFF LUTES

SVP Technology, Orlando Magic

FINALIST FOR FLORIDA CIO OF THE YEAR



Thank you for your legendary leadership  
and commitment to innovation.



The Tampa Bay Buccaneers  
would like to congratulate our teammate

# SAM HART

on being named a finalist for the  
Florida CIO ORBIE Awards.

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Award Winners and Nominees

## 2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

## GLOBAL

OVER \$14 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE &amp; MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS

**Barbara Morgan**

Chief Technology Development Officer | FIS

Barb Morgan is an accomplished and innovative technology leader that drives business, technology and people transformations to accelerate sustainable growth for Fortune 100 companies. A visionary and change agent, she leads high performing teams in complex global industries, including financial services, banking, capital markets, FinTech, manufacturing, aerospace engineering, oil and gas, and healthcare.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Ms. Morgan most recently served as the Chief Technology Development Officer and Executive Vice President for FIS Global at Fidelity National Information Services, Inc. (NYSE: FIS), the world's largest FinTech company. She led over twelve thousand technologists globally while overseeing a worldwide portfolio of banking, payments and capital markets capabilities, including technologies that serves forty thousand clients in over one hundred thirty countries. Since joining the company in 2016, she held several leadership positions, expanding her responsibilities with each new role. She started as Head of Development, SVP for the Payments Division of IFS then took on a larger purview as Head of Development, SVP of Integrated Financial Services followed by Chief Technology Officer, SVP of FIS Banking and Payments Solutions.

**Jacqueline Nevils**

Vice President and Chief Information Officer | L3Harris Technologies

Jacqueline (Jacqui) Nevils is Vice President and Chief Information Officer (CIO) for L3Harris Technologies. In this position, Jacqui leads the information technology organization's 1,400+ global employees, and partners with the business and corporate functions to establish strategic roadmaps, leveraging both legacy and emerging digital technologies to provide high-value business solutions.

**SUCCESS STORY**

As a new CIO, the first 100 days are critical in establishing culture, priorities and leadership. Looking back, my "greatest accomplishment" was kick-starting a new critical infrastructure architecture and deployment plan, as the company was the result of a recent merger. COVID had set initial integration plans back. Our team quickly established new strategic roadmaps, leveraging both legacy and emerging digital technologies. Within weeks, we re-architected our entire foundational architecture to aggressively modernize our infrastructure, reconstruct and deploy a new IT support model, and at the same time deliver first-in-industry collaboration tools such as MS Teams.

**Dr. Mike Schmidt**

CIO, Audit &amp; Assurance | Deloitte

Mike is the Audit & Assurance Chief Information Officer for Deloitte. In his US and Global roles, he oversees the overall technology direction and enablement of the Audit & Assurance business. He provides leadership for the technology architecture, development and deployment of Audit & Assurance Products and Solutions. He lives in Tierra Verde, Florida with his wife Shana where they enjoy life on the water and various outdoor activities.

**SUCCESS STORY**

I am honored and humbled to have been nominated by my Deloitte business and technology colleagues for creating a winning transformational technology strategy, leading our US and Global Audit & Assurance businesses to the cloud, and successfully delivering world-class products and solutions. Being nominated for the CIO of the Year ORBIE combined with Deloitte Audit & Assurance being recognized by Accounting Today as the best accounting firm for technology (a team award) validate the investments we've made and continue to make in digitizing our business. This will also fuel continued investment in Audit & Assurance solutions that provide value-added insights to our clients.

**Khwaja Shaik**

CTO | IBM

Khwaja Shaik is the award-winning C-level IT Executive with 25+ years of technology leadership with GE, IBM, BAC & PwC. He was recognized for technical acumen, Innovation, Cloud, AI, Architecture, and Cybersecurity. He has been instrumental in driving major Digital transformations involving the newest innovations, automation, cost reductions, efficiency, agility & competitive advantage to Fortune 500 firms.

**SUCCESS STORY**

As IBM's CTO, I work closely with many of the world's leading CIOs to address key industry issues. Using my innovative mindset, I helped firms use emerging technologies, enterprise architecture, & roadmaps to accelerate business Value by embracing product mindset, future-ready platform models, ecosystems, & doing agile right.

I have spearheaded several large-scale digital transformations -World's largest modernization programs, world's largest AI-infused contact center platform, World's largest cloud-native Banking platform for 5K Banking centers, World's largest mortgage loan fulfillment platform, recognized banking portal & multi clouds. As a Big5 thought leader, I reshaped core business & operating models—protected firms from cyberattacks, digitized business processes.

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# Congratulations

CIO and Executive Education Director, Isis Jones,  
for being named a Florida CIO Corporate Finalist



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# CONGRATULATIONS

## 2022 FLORIDA CIO ORBIE AWARDS FINALIST



# ROBERT CURRAN

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## 2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

## LARGE ENTERPRISE

OVER \$1.8 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

**Elizabeth Lindsay-Wood**VP & CIO | [Moffitt Cancer Center](#)

Beth Lindsay-Wood, MBA, CHCIO, is the vice president and chief information officer at Moffitt Cancer Center. She is responsible for optimizing the cancer center's infrastructure to accelerate digital transformation. Lindsay-Wood oversees Moffitt's IT infrastructure, clinical informatics, cybersecurity and IT applications throughout the enterprise.

**SUCCESS STORY**

In the healthcare market, the power of technology is transforming how we deliver care. Working in Cancer Centers over the past 4 years has allowed me to engage directly in implementing new technologies to accelerate research and improve patient outcomes. The use of high-performance computing, machine learning and AI platforms, and cloud-based analytics provide speed and the capability to consume large amounts of data. Leveraging real-world data on an analytics platform in the cloud allows data to provide precision medicine to the patient by using genetics, environment, and lifestyle information to tailor their treatment. It is more than delivering technologies, it is our contribution to the prevention and cure of cancer.

**Louis Grande**SVP of IT | [Red Lobster](#)

Lou Grande is an Information Technology Executive with over 30 years of experience in creating shareholder value and operational effectiveness through technology. He has worked for organizations of all shapes and sizes, from "mid-market" to Fortune Global 500 companies. He has broad experience in all aspects of system operations.

**SUCCESS STORY**

My greatest accomplishment is my team. I joined Red Lobster in July 2014 just two weeks before Darden sold them to a private equity firm. My organization was seeded with 20 Darden IT employees, but I was approved for a headcount of 60-70. With the help of third-party staffing firms, I hired the balance of my team before we completed the technical separation from Darden in January 2016. Today, my team is composed of 61 high performing individuals that have built a reliable, scalable, and secure hybrid technical environment from the ground up. They make my job very easy.

**Robert Curran**CIO | [Orange County Public Schools](#)

Robert is an Orlando Native who has acquired over 30 years of experience managing technology. Robert started his career by serving nearly eight years in the United States Air Force before pursuing work for a variety of companies in the public sector. He joined Seminole County Public Schools as the Supervisor of Application Development in January 2000.

**SUCCESS STORY**

The SAP Modernization project's main focus was a restructuring of OCPS customized accounting codes to align more with SAP standard. The former budgeting functionality and classic GL's commitment items were no longer going to be supported by SAP, so this change was required.

Implementation of a Student Information System:

- Configure and maintain Skyward system for accurate and timely reporting of FTE in excess of \$3 billion
- Designed, developed and implemented Student Hub of Educational Data (SHED) system which pulls from Skyward replication. To date, 87 reports, 124 procedures, 57 views and 410 ETLs have been implemented in the SHED.

**William Walders**CIO & SVP of Operations Support | [Health First](#)

Walders joined Health First in 2019 as CIO and Senior Vice President of Operations Support with more than 20 years of experience in various Information Technology (IT) leadership roles, along with a 22-year career in the U.S. Navy. Walders received his Bachelor in Information Systems from the University of Maryland and his Master in Healthcare and Business Administration from the University of Florida.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Digital transformation in the time of the pandemic was our greatest accomplishment. During the pandemic, we were able to gain velocity in our 5-year Digital Road Map and escalated our timeline by two years. This transformation allowed us to implement countless technologies that improved the delivery of healthcare, reduced inefficiencies, and showed that IT was not only a partner but a true force multiplier in the organization and community.



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## 2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

## ENTERPRISE

OVER \$1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

**Michael Bouchet**CIO | [Newfold Digital](#)

Michael is an IT industry veteran with over 25 years of experience. He currently serves as Chief Information Officer at newfold digital. Prior to newfold, Michael was the Senior Vice President of Infrastructure and Cloud for One Call. Michael was responsible for all IT infrastructure including the data network, contact center, end user compute, data centers, server compute, storage, security operations, and Cloud.

**SUCCESS STORY**

I feel our greatest accomplishment from the past year was successfully merging two disparate IT organizations together during the pandemic, and all in six months' time. We did this with no significant loss of service levels, and we were also able to show savings back to the company.

**Peter Thorne**CITO | [School District of Osceola County](#)

Pete Thorne is the Chief Information and Technology Officer (CITO) and Assistant Superintendent for the School District of Osceola County, Florida. He provides leadership for the School District's Information Technology Division including Network and Information Security, Information Services, Technology Services, Media and Instructional Technology, and Records Management.

**SUCCESS STORY**

I feel that our greatest accomplishment at the District has been the implementation of our School District's One-To-One Systems Readiness Plan, where every K12 student in the District was assigned a laptop or i-Pad (based on grade level) using Cares Act, and ESSER funding. The plan was comprehensive and encompassed District infrastructure, data systems, and staffing levels. This initiative is significant as it created an environment of equality for all students, leading to equity in terms of broadband access, device access, and digital literacy. This initiative embodies the District's motto of "Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day!".

**Rosa Akhtarkhavari**CIO | [City Of Orlando/Information Technology](#)

Akhtarkhavari has worked for the City of Orlando for over 25 years, and currently serves as the CIO. In this role, Rosa is responsible for the City's Enterprise Architecture, IT strategy, security, and all aspects of IT operation. Rosa has also served as Chief Security Officer, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Client Services Manager, Financial Manager, Application Administrator, Manager, and Developer.

**SUCCESS STORY**

As the City of Orlando's CIO, I am most proud of our focus on strengthening partnerships with the business community and delivering secure and resilient technology solutions that have driven the IT department's transformation throughout my 11-year tenure.

Accomplishment includes; a cloud strategy, deploying major enterprise solutions, optimizing our business processes, and eliminating legacy systems and associated risks. Significant importance is my role as a critical team member for crisis incidents, including the 2016 Pulse Tragedy and COVID-19 response, which required establishing and supporting remote work for our employees to ensure no disruptions to city services during the stay-at-home order.

**Russell Hauptert**CTO, Director of Technology & Innovation | [City of Tampa, Florida](#)

Russell has been helping governments innovate and improve operations through the application of technology for more than 25 years. Working in both the public and private sectors, he has created, installed and supported advanced applications and technology for local governments serving hundreds of thousands of citizens and customers across the United States.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Our finest achievement together has been transforming our IT department to support the City's aggressive roadmap for digital business improvement. With a priority on getting the right training, tools and technology for expanded service, reliability, and performance for the departments we serve, we've improved service and project delivery that's contributed to the City's ability to manage rapid growth and remain resilient to challenging events.

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## 2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

## LARGE CORPORATE

OVER \$500 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

**Christine Stoffel-Moffett**

VP &amp; Head of Enterprise Technology | NASCAR

Christine Stoffel-Moffett is known across the sports and entertainment industry as a global digital transformation executive with multi-dimensional expertise across technology, operations, sales, marketing and business strategy leveraging a mindful and deeply collaborative, change-agent leadership approach.

**SUCCESS STORY**

Christine is recognized as the 1st Female Technology Executive Hired in an NHL Club and the 1st Female Technology Executive Hired in an MLB Club. An entrepreneur at heart mixed with a passion for making a difference in her peer's, friends and family's lives and across multiple industries through her career experiences as well as creating and building 8 companies along the journey.

Christine has built upon her 30+ year technology leadership career and prior sports executive experiences by continuing to champion technology, thought-leadership, collaboration and innovation across the Global sports and entertainment industry. Over the last two years, Christine has served as the Interim Head of Enterprise Technology at NASCAR.

**Dale Johnston**

SVP &amp; CIO | Regency Centers, L.P.

Dale joined Regency in 2012 where he oversees the company's information technology team nationwide and advances the company's information and technology platforms. He has 16 years of experience in leading technology teams and projects for commercial real estate companies. Previously, Dale served as Vice President and Chief Information Officer for EDENS in Columbia, SC.

**SUCCESS STORY**

My greatest accomplishment, which is the ultimate goal of any CIO, is to build a sustainable team of IT professionals that excel in every aspect of what they do. A team that delivered when: our head office was impacted by Hurricane Irma, numerous cybersecurity events, merged with another multi-billion dollar REIT, we needed to allow 460 employees to work during the pandemic. Through and during all of these adversities, our IT team is respected and counted upon by Regency Centers. Our laurels lend us to continuing to have pliable solutions and keep a culture of innovation to meet future challenges.

**Len O'Neill**

CIO &amp; SVP | The Suddath Companies

Len O'Neill is Chief Information Officer and Senior Vice President at The Suddath Companies, a \$750m global provider of Transportation, Logistics & Mobility services. In his current role as CIO, he works with business leaders to accelerate their digital capabilities and strategies for customers, partners & employees.

**SUCCESS STORY**

During my tenure as CIO, I am most proud of how the team continues to maximize the business benefits of technology for the Suddath Companies. I repositioned IT from a cost center to a growth engine and shifted the organization's focus from cost containment to client engagement. The IT team did much of the heavy lifting as we brought the company into the digital age. IT helped drive growth across the company and deliver efficiencies. None of this would have been possible without the support of our owners, the executive team and our dedicated IT professionals.

**Mark Bilger**

CIO | One Call

Mark has broad global experience as both Chief Information Officer and Chief Technology Officer, has managed all aspects of technology management including Enterprise Architecture (certified), Systems Management (certified), Information Security (Master's Degree), Systems Development, Data Management, Cloud Computing, End User Computing, and Outsourcing (as both client and outsourcer).

**SUCCESS STORY**

Cyberattack now poses an existential threat to business and I am very proud of One Call's improvements in cybersecurity. We have added 'perform my job securely' not just to IT professionals but to every employee's performance objectives. We have grown an elite team of security professionals. We have strengthened our defenses on our network, servers, applications, databases and endpoints. We monitor all aspects of our digital nervous system with 24X7 continuous vigilance. We deploy high capacity, high speed backup and recovery capabilities that are 'air gapped' from the internet. Our team stretches itself to the limit to protect customer data.



## THE **ANSWER** IS IN THE ROOM... ARE **YOU**?

### LEADERSHIP *Unscripted*

Leadership Unscripted is InspireCIO's quarterly national program where members connect, build relationships and meet leading CIO's from chapters across the country.

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Congratulations to our partner and **CIO of Suddath, Len O'Neill**, on his nomination for the ORBIE CIO of the Year!

## 2022 CIO OF THE YEAR

## CORPORATE

UP TO \$500 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE

**Isis Jones**

CIO &amp; Executive Director of Education | Full Sail University

Isis Jones serves as Full Sail University's Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Executive Director of Education. During her nearly three-decade tenure at Full Sail, the institution has grown to award undergraduate and graduate-level degrees in the fields of emerging technology, media production, business, and entertainment.

**SUCCESS STORY**

As the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Executive Director of Education, I have served the students, graduates and my fellow employees over three-decades at Full Sail University. During my time at Full Sail, I have helped to grow the institution's award-winning undergraduate and graduate-level degrees in the fields of entertainment media and emerging technologies. Of importance to me is that I have led by providing employees a place to innovate.

**Jeff Lutes**

SVP of Technology | Orlando Magic, Ltd

Jeff Lutes is the SVP of Technology for the Orlando Magic of the National Basketball Association. Jeff leads the information technology and broadcast technology needs of the Orlando Magic, Lakeland Magic, Orlando Solar Bears, and Magic Gaming. Jeff is heading up all technology aspects of the organizations new 100,000 sq. ft. AdventHealth Training Center slated to open in 2022.

**SUCCESS STORY**

I have been empowered to develop our IT and Broadcast Technology teams to a level that we employ some of the most talented individuals in sports and entertainment. My greatest accomplishment is clearly the teams I have been able to develop and the diversity of skills sets that have been interwoven to create world class teams dedicated to one another and to the organization. These teams' have delivered significant technological advances for both the Orlando Magic and its affiliates and the Amway Center. I take pride in having individuals on my team(s) that have worked with me at prior organizations.

**Samuel Hart**

Director of IT | Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Sam Hart has been with the team since 2017 and leads the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Information Technology team as the Director of Information Technology. In this role, he is responsible for the business IT systems including IT security, infrastructure, telecommunications, and technical training. He is also responsible for several systems at Raymond James Stadium.

**SUCCESS STORY**

I believe my greatest accomplishment is preparing the organization for the new challenges in IT before problems were realized. Even before being awarded with hosting Super Bowl LV, we were already focusing more on improving our security environment which was critical to hosting the event. We looked forward to put technology in place to make the organization stronger and head off risks. These systems played a huge role in making us more flexible so we could work well throughout COVID and head off cyber criminals even as we became a huge target with the Super Bowl run and hosting.

**Todd Ryan**

CIO | Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

Todd Ryan is currently recognized nationally as a thought leader and catalyst for improving the collective cybersecurity defense of state and local governments. His tireless commitment to advocating for a community based approach to cybersecurity helps provide much needed resources for underfunded and smaller government entities.

**SUCCESS STORY**

My greatest accomplishment has been leading the IT culture change and revolutionizing the way "we" (IT) function and interact with the business. The foundation of that change is built on adopting frameworks to govern all IT processes, utilizing an IT advisory service (Info~Tech) for guidance, purposefully engaging with our users to learn their challenges and opportunities, and instituting both ticket based surveys and an annual customer assessment of IT's performance. I am very proud of the entire IT division and it is an honor for us to support the men and women that protect our community.

## 2022 CIO OF THE YEAR



### LEADERSHIP AWARD

# Bernie Rice

Chief Information Officer | Nemours Children's Health

Bernie Rice, chief information officer for Nemours Children's Health, is passionate about technology and people. Since joining the team there in 1999, he has leveraged his inherent leadership skills and expertise to lead information technology-related efforts of nearly a billion dollars in construction, including a new free-standing children's hospital, NCH Florida in Orlando. Under his guidance, he and his team created a one-of-a-kind patient command center in pediatrics at the hospital, which has been showcased around the world to various organizations.

#### HERE'S MORE FROM RICE:

**How did you get started in the IT field, and what interested you most about it?** I was always interested in technology, math and science. I really got started in the United States Air Force working with electronics and data communications. After my time in the military, my focus shifted to the programming and engineering aspects of technology.

**What was your greatest success in the past year?** Getting two-thirds of our new Oracle Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system live. This has been a tremendous effort by all



**Your career is in your hands. When opportunity arises, you're the one who can take advantage of it or not."**

involved. An ERP implementation is a big project alone, but I never would have imagined doing a project like this in a 100% remote capacity.

**How did getting that system active impact your workplace?** Many health care organizations are faced with ERP implementations and updates after spending years focused on the clinical side of the business. This work allows the business side of the operation to catch up technically with advances made in the clinical operations over the past few years.

**What do you consider your greatest leadership skill and why?** I would have to say it's confidence. There are many times I believe folks give up before even trying. Having the confidence to make it happen and inspiring others on that journey can really deliver results.

**What advice do you have for aspiring IT professionals?** I think people need to have confidence and courage to go make things happen. IT is such a fast-paced, constantly changing area that creates lots of opportunities. I like to remind them, "Your career is in your hands. When opportunity arises, you're the one who can take advantage of it or not."

**What's the best advice you've ever received?** If you wait until you're ready, you'll never start.

**What heroes or people of inspiration have helped you get where you are today?** There aren't really any big recognizable names on this list. Instead, you'd find some everyday people who embodied traits such as integrity, intelligence, presence, compassion and humility. Along my journey, these people stood out as role models.

**What was your biggest career challenge, and how did you solve it?** Balancing several major construction projects across 1,000 miles while maintaining current IT operations was very difficult. It was great seeing our team pull together and become focused on our efforts during this time. Teams can do great work when goals become laser-focused and noise can be eliminated from our view.

**What are you most passionate about outside the office?** I got involved in cycling some years ago and try to ride at least 50+ miles per week. I recently have added mountain biking, in addition to the road cycling and Peloton workouts. Yes, I know it's Florida, but we can still get in some decent off-road workouts.

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