



FROM OUR CHAIR
ELLISON SCUDDER, PG. 2



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
RIC CAMPO, PG. 6



LEADERSHIP AWARD
SHACHELLA JAMES, PG. 8

HOUSTON CIO[®] OF THE YEAR[®]

ORBIE[®]

AWARDS

The 2021 HoustonCIO of the Year[®] ORBIE[®] Awards program honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. Winners in the Super Global, Global, Large Enterprise, Enterprise, Corporate & Nonprofit/Public Sector categories will be announced at the virtual CIO ORBIE Awards on April 9.

CONGRATULATIONS 2021 HOUSTON CIO AWARDS NOMINEES

ALLEN WUESCHER
Toshiba Corporation

ALYSIA GREEN
Chevron Corporation

AMANDA HAMMEL
Memorial Hermann Healthcare
System

ANDREW ARMSTRONG
Entergy

ANNESSA MCKENZIE
Calpine Corporation

BARON UNBEHAGEN
Encino Energy, LLC

BILL BRAUN
Chevron Corporation

BILL KEILLOR
ExxonMobil

BRAD BREAU
HCC Insurance Holdings Inc /
Tokio Marine HCC
BRAD KROL
Expro

BRAD RECTOR
Phillips 66

CHRIS HANZ
Houston Astros

CHRIS HAYDEN
Sunnova

CHUCK KOCH
48forty Solutions

CORMAC LYNCH
National Oilwell Varco/ Rig
Technologies

CRAIG WOOD
Tricon Energy, Ltd.

DARLA LENTZ
Distribution International

DAVID KOOPMANS
CSAT Solutions

DAVID MOSLEY
J.B. Poindexter

DAVID HANDAL
ALS

DULCE BORJAS
ENGIE NA

GENE BENO
Rubicon Oilfield International

GISELA RIGGAN
Prosperity Bank

GREG MORENO-EARLE
Key Energy Services

HARRY DE GRIJS
Shell

JAMES STINSON
Quanta Services

JASON LU
Stallion Oilfield Services

JESSE CARRILLO
Hines

JOE CARROLL
CITGO Petroleum

JOHN THOMSON
KBR

JOHN VARKEY
Waste Management

JULIE BULLERMAN
USA Compression

JULIE PURCELL
Sava Senior Care

JUSTIN GNAU
CommonSpirit Health

KATHY VANLANDINGHAM
LyondellBasell

KEN LETKEMAN
Houston Methodist

KEN PIDDINGTON
U.S. Silica

KEN BRAUD
Halliburton

KENNETH GASIOR
Talen Energy

KIM HALES
NRG Energy Inc

KLARA JELINKOVA
Rice University

LAURA TIBODEAU
AmSty

LEE LEIBER
Baylor College of Medicine

LISA CARR
Shell - Retail Americas

LISA KENT
City of Houston, TX

LONG PHAM
Fort Bend ISD

LORI KITTLE
Landry's

MANISH MAINI
Academy Sports + Outdoors

MARIA O'NEILL
American Bureau of Shipping

MARK HUSE
Kinder Morgan

MARK STONE
Texas A&M University

MARK MADDOX
Apache Corporation

MARK SEALE
Nova Medical Centers

MARY SLOAN
TEAM

MATTHEW TOOMES
Houston Food Bank

MICHAEL FOSTER
Sysco

MICHELLE STANSBURY
Houston Methodist

MIKE PROCHASKA
Allied International Pipes &
Fittings

MIKE PENNY
Targa Resources

MIKE SCHIFANO
SEACOR Holdings

MIKE PFISTER
ConocoPhillips

NICK LARCOMBE
Hess

NIKOLAJ SJOQVIST
Waste Management

OKPARA YOUNG
Houston Rockets

PAUL FLYNN
Enterprise Products Partners

PHILLIP PAPPAN
Superior Energy

RASHMI KUMAR
Hewlett Packard Enterprise

RICARDO CASTRO
Nexeo Plastics

ROCCO IVANOVICH
EDF Trading North America

RYAN ELLIOTT
Hunting

SARAH URBANOWICZ
AECOM

SEBASTIEN LEHNHERR
Schlumberger

STEVE FORTUNE
BP

STUART MILLAR
TechnipFMC

SUBRAMANIAN MADHAVARAO
Exterran

TANYA ACEVEDO
Houston Airport System

TIM OSBURN
Patterson-UTI Energy

TIMOTHY "TJ" JACKSON
Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc.

TOM CLARK
Cadence Bank

TWILA DAY
Huntsman

VENU MADDURI
Mears Group

YANNI CHARALAMBOUS
Occidental Petroleum

ATHENIAN

CONSULTING GROUP

WISE COUNSEL. SUSTAINABLE RESULTS.

Athenian Consulting Group believes the way you do anything is often the way you do everything. With this in mind, our values permeate every aspect of our decision-making process and actively guide our passion for cultivating business growth.

We collaborate on assignments *instinctively – not dictate*; We address issues *candidly – you will always know where you stand*; we offer solutions that address *the root case and not the symptoms*.

Wise Counsel. Sustainable Results.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Pandemic Elevates CIOs Strategic Role in 2021

Since last March Chief Information Officers everywhere have supported the largest work-from-home experiment in the history of the world. Thanks to these innovative technology leaders, most organizations have managed to continue operating through this pandemic disruption.

Technology has enabled our new virtual lives; provided access to entertainment, food, and products delivered to our homes; and connected us with colleagues, friends and loved ones. Technology has helped us adapt, adjust, and survive our new abnormal. Without the leadership, planning, and foresight of CIOs, conducting business would be impossible under these circumstances.

HoustonCIO brings together leading CIOs of Houston's largest organizations to help CIOs maximize their leadership effectiveness, create value, reduce risk and share success. Through member-led, non-commercial programs, CIOs build meaningful professional relationships with colleagues facing similar challenges, solving problems and avoiding pitfalls.

Throughout this crisis, HoustonCIO members have collaborated locally and nationally with CIOs from across industries. In any gathering of CIOs, the answer is in the room. The challenge one CIO is facing has likely been solved by another CIO. What was their experience? What did they learn?



What would they do differently? How could other CIOs benefit from sharing their experiences?

There is no textbook for how to be a great CIO. The best way to sharpen your leadership acumen is to join a peer leadership network with other leaders working on solving similar challenges. The industries and size may be different, but winning approaches to effective leadership and problem solving are transferrable. Every leader's perspective is valuable and contributes to the conversation - and everyone wins when leaders

engage, share ideas, experiences and best practices.

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

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

Ellison Scudder
2021 Chair, HoustonCIO
SVP & CIO – AIG Travel, Inc



Creating a Future of Applied Innovation, Experiences and Transformation Today

Leading with architecture and design, our next-gen solutions enable enterprises to accelerate their digital transformation journey, and deliver service excellence & successful outcomes.

#StayAhead now with Mphasis

www.mphasis.com

HOUSTON CIO OF THE YEAR
ORBIE
AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2021 Houston CIO of the Year Award Winners and Nominees

2021 HOUSTON CIO AWARDS

SUPER GLOBAL FINALISTS:
OVER \$9 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS



**Hewlett Packard
Enterprise**

RASHMI KUMAR

SVP & CIO, Global IT - Hewlett Packard Enterprise

SUCCESS STORY: My greatest accomplishment is building a world-class team that has enabled IT to be at the center of HPE's transformation, enabling new business models and data insights required to be 'as a Service' (aaS). Building capabilities through how we operate internally, while understanding stakeholder needs and desires, HPE IT has connected the dots with various product lines, creating the capability to have IT systems in a customer-centric standardized way, to get solutions to our customers rapidly, with No/Lowtouch digital experience.



Lyondellbasell
Advancing Possible

KATHY VANLANDINGHAM

CIO - LyondellBasell

SUCCESS STORY: In 2020, I had the privilege of leading LyondellBasell's IT department during the launch of a three-pillar strategy to drive IT excellence and deliver value across the enterprise. This included shifting the culture to focus on outcome and value creation, improving our digital capabilities by shifting to a hybrid cloud-first strategy, and unlocking value through business partnerships. Our greatest accomplishment has been the shift in IT culture. Our team is aligned in a common goal – delivering our strategy and accelerating value creation. We have built momentum in 2020 during exceptional times. I know there is nothing this team can't accomplish.



STUART MILLAR

SVP & CIO - Technip Energies (formerly TechnipFMC)

SUCCESS STORY: TechnipFMC was formed by the merger of FMC Technologies and Technip in early 2017 to create a company of 37,500 men and women. I lead the merger and IT integration of these two large companies to create TechnipFMC. In 2019 I lead the IT portion of a planned spinoff of 15,000 people to create two distinct companies. We achieved spin-off readiness in less than six months. When paused due to the pandemic, we then had to shift to almost full remote working whilst maintaining spinoff readiness. Leading the teams through such seismic changes successfully has been my most significant contribution.



TRICON

CRAIG WOOD

Director of Infrastructure & Security - Tricon Energy, Ltd.

SUCCESS STORY: The motivations of a true leader in any role should be derived from the successes of those that leader is responsible for. Challenges will befall you and those around you, but teaching others to shoulder their burdens while helping others helps provide an environment of empathy and success in collaboration and contribution. If you can succeed in teaching others to promote servant leadership themselves, your successes will compound with each life you have touched and you will have made the world a better place well beyond your own life time.

Congratulations to the Nominees & Winners of the 2021 Inspire Houston CIO Orbie Awards

BlueSky IT Partners is a trusted adviser to CIOs, building the right foundation for their digital transformation initiatives. BlueSky is the expert in network and telecom connectivity, and have over 200 provider and carriers in our ecosystem. We offer consulting and solutions in the following areas:

- Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SD WAN)
- Connectivity
- Hosted Voice Services
- Telecom Expense Management
- Wireless and Wireline Audit / Optimization
- Mobility Solutions
- Data Center / IaaS
- Security
- Global Field Services
- Microsoft Suite

BlueSky is a certified Women Business Enterprise (WBE) and supports Houston through its work with IT leaders and many local charities.

BlueSky
IT PARTNERS

BLUESKYITPARTNERS.COM

(713) 929-0951

SALES@BLUESKYITPARTNERS.COM

CompTIA
PREMIER MEMBER

NWBOC
WBE CERTIFIED

Inc. 5000
WINNER!

2021 HOUSTON CIO AWARDS

GLOBAL FINALISTS:
OVER \$1 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE & MULTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS



BRAD BREAU
SVP & CIO - Tokio Marine HCC

SUCCESS STORY: While we are proud to be acknowledged as global experts in understanding risk, our business would not be possible without information technology. Tokio Marine HCC has established a world-class IT, with a strong focus on security, reliability and innovation. Specific focus have included digital enablement of business processes, underwriting dashboards and customer relationship management (CRM). We have also invested heavily in data analytics for improved actuarial modeling, predictive analytics, and risk management. Other investments has been our cloud-based strategy and IT security. These investments have allowed for our business to scale globally and has been critical to managing cybersecurity threats.



TIMOTHY "TJ" JACKSON
CIO - Diamond Offshore

SUCCESS STORY: The IT team successfully updated and executed our Business Continuity Plan based on the COVID-19 pandemic . Our success was largely enabled by my vision to move the data center to a co-location facility and implement O365 and MS Teams the quarter prior. The most significant 2020 accomplishment by Tim was leading the IT organization through an IT Rationalization effort that saved the company 2.6M. After Diamond Offshore voluntarily filed for Chapter 11 in April 2020, IT's efforts assisted Diamond Offshore to enter into a restructuring agreement to deleverage our balance sheet and prepare to emerge from Chapter 11 in 2021.



LISA CARR
CIO Retail Americas - Shell Oil Products US

SUCCESS STORY: My greatest accomplishment was the transformational journey of or IT estate, which is three-fold: 1) Improving Stability. I drove an intervention to improve systemic issues, which resulted in decreased incidents, increase in customer satisfaction, reduced downtime and TCO savings. 2) Digital Journey. I have brought innovation and ideas to the business and led a team to deliver many firsts as well as a digital platform that is replicable and scalable. 3) Culture Shift. I've worked tirelessly to break down silos, improve collaboration, and create a trusted partnership at all layers with the business. In IT, I've created a community approach of One Team.



ML MADHAVARAO
CIO - Exterran Energy Solutions

SUCCESS STORY: Exterran is transforming to be a world leader in energy services and IT and digital play a critical role in that transformation. Our current IT estate is aged, complex and non standard but presented great opportunity to improve security, operational integrity, efficiency and scalability. I launched and led a business aligned strategic transformation program with clear benefits, business ownership, and cross functional governance. This gave us the opportunity to prioritize, allocate resources and focus on what mattered the company the most. We are seeing clear business benefits, improved partnership and customer focus and excited to be on this journey.

Accelerate Your Digital Transformation Journey



AI powered Quality Engineering. DevOps. Automation.

- #1

in North America
- 2500+

QA Professionals
- 50+

Fortune 500 Companies Trust us

Visit www.cigniti.com

2021 HOUSTON CIO AWARDS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

RIC CAMPO Chairman of the Board & CEO



With Great Risk Comes Great Reward - Sometimes Even \$13 Billion Worth

By Brittani Bell

Graduating from Oregon State University in 1976, Ric Campo knew he was destined for greatness. He landed a position as a staff accountant at Century Development but realized early on that he wasn't utilizing the full spectrum of his potential. He knew he possessed a highly unique skill for solving complicated real estate problems, making him a rare and valuable commodity in the business, but he didn't have the opportunity to showcase his talents in his current role. What does one do in a situation such as this? Create one's own division of the company to perform that unique skill, of course.

An uphill battle later ensued in the form of a market crash, causing real estate prices to plummet. Like a phoenix from the ashes, Campo rose to the occasion by bringing on a partner, Keith Oden, and together they leveraged a buyout of the division to create a new company.

The duo began acquiring apartments, many transactions being completed through a New York hedge fund. In 1992, the hedge fund predicted that interest rates were soon to rise and real estate values soon to fall, so Campo and Oden were advised to sell everything that had been purchased. They decided instead to risk it all, choosing to go public as Camden Property Trust in 1993. The risk paid off in a big way.

Campo has been the Chairman and CEO of Camden Property Trust, one of the nation's largest multifamily Real Estate Investment Trusts, since May 1993. What began as a company with a portfolio of 6,000 apartments valued at \$250 million has swelled into a portfolio of 60,000 apartments valued at \$13 billion.

What differentiates you from others in the real estate industry?

The culture of a company is of the utmost importance. Camden has received the "Fortunate 100 Best Companies to Work For" honor 13 years in a row, five of those landing in the top 10. I

believe a large part of our company being viewed so favorably by employees is that we maintain a culture of giving people the autonomy and authority to do their jobs.

Many companies are all about making a profit and producing total shareholder returns that are superior to others. I subscribe to a different way of thinking. Camden exists as a company to improve the lives of our teammates, our customers, and our shareholders, one experience at a time.

We improve our teammates' lives by creating a great workplace with opportunities such as upward mobility and share pay. We improve our customers' lives by providing a well-priced, safe space that they can call home. We recognize that a customer's home is where they make important memories with their family and friends, and we take great pride in assuring that we create the best possible experience for them. We improve our shareholders' lives with the promise that we'll invest their capital in our business and our people, and we will grow that investment over time. And when it's time to fund a retirement or pay for a child's education, they can exchange their digital share for a higher-valued currency than what they initially invested.

We aim to put smiles on the faces of our employees, which puts smiles on the faces of our customers, which puts smiles on the faces of our shareholders. This philosophy has differentiated us and allows us to stand out amongst others in the industry.

What is your greatest career accomplishment?

I measure my success by how many jobs I create, so I'd say my greatest career accomplishment is creating so many jobs for so many people.

What else are you involved in that you are particularly proud of?

With time and maturity came an understanding that the community was really important to my success, so I began doing things to give back to that community. I served as Secretary Treasurer and Chairman of the finance committee for the Harris County Houston Sports Authority, which was responsible for financing and building Minute Maid Park, NRG Stadium and the Toyota Center. For 12 years, I served as Chairman of the Houston First Corporation, helping facilitate Houston's economic growth through conventions and the arts. During that time, I helped to get the Discovery Green and Marriott Marquis Hotel projects off the ground. I was also the chairman of the Super Bowl LI Host Committee in 2017, running the fan events on behalf of the NFL. I currently serve as Chairman of the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority.

What advice would you give to others wanting to follow in your footsteps?

There are three things one can and should be doing in pursuit of success in any industry.

First, you must work harder than everyone else. You have to be the go-to person. No matter your

age or experience level, if you're considered the go-to person, you're going to be the first person that people think about, and that's a powerful place to be.

Second, never stop learning and adapting. Oftentimes, people get in a rut once they become good at what they do. I used to reinvent myself and learn new things every three to five years. I've changed that to every one to two years now, given the speed at which the world changes. If you stop learning and stop adapting in a world that moves as quickly as ours, you're going to be left behind.

Third, take risks, both personally and financially. If you live in the safety of your comfort zone, it's critical to get out of that space. The younger you are, the more risks you should be taking. If things don't work out, move on to the next endeavor.

If we don't adapt, relearn and take risks in our lives, that's where the true risk lies.

What do you foresee for the future?

With the growth and development of artificial intelligence, I'd speculate that technology will replace upwards of 50% of current jobs in years to come. People will always need a place to live, though, and you can't disintermediate that through technology, so I'd say the future of my industry is bright. The pandemic has certainly set things back, but it's still a great time to be alive, in spite of all the challenges we're currently facing.

I'm also quite bullish on the future in general. It's easy to stress over climate change and problems of the like, but I truly believe technology is going to save the day. We have some of the best technology in the world, and we're going to come together, solve those issues, and be better 20 years from now than we are today.

What's the one thing you hope people listening to your keynote at the ORBIE Awards walk away with?

I hope that they are as optimistic about the future as I am, and I hope they, too, will begin using job creation as a measurement of success.

When you're not busy running a multi-billion dollar company, what are you doing?

I'm chasing six grandkids around, ranging in age from four months to six years. I enjoy a variety of outdoor activities with them, including swimming, skiing and wakeboarding. I don't golf with them yet, but that's next on the list.

2021 HOUSTON CIO AWARDS

LARGE ENTERPRISE FINALISTS: OVER \$2 BILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



JOE CARROLL

General Manager IT & Security - CITGO Petroleum

SUCCESS STORY: My greatest accomplishment is establishing Information Technology as a strategic partner to our operating units. When I took over IT in April of 2019, the department was viewed as a cost center that added little value to the organization. To change this perception, I began developing relationships and opening lines of communication with our Executives. Those discussions lead to a strategy of technology investments in our operating units that aligned with overall corporate goals of operational optimization. I am proud of the IT Organization and the cultural transformation that we have made to be viewed as a valued business partner.



KIM HALES

SVP IT - NRG Energy

SUCCESS STORY: It has been my honor to lead IT and partner with our business through the successful completion of the most significant transformation in NRG Energy's history. Seeing my incredible team creating the most efficient and scalable platforms in our industry while skillfully navigating 30 transactions and delivering on cost savings and growth has been nothing short of amazing. It has truly been a privilege to grow into the largest integrated power company in North America, while focusing on our customers to help us bring the power of energy to so many people and organizations.



AMANDA HAMMEL

SVP & CIO - Memorial Hermann Health System

SUCCESS STORY: In the face of COVID-19, our IT department experienced great pressure to do more and to always be available. Our employees were struggling with disconnecting and were burning out. After returning from a two-week vacation, the team was shocked to learn I did not check my email. I promote that a clean break enables us to return restored and provide new perspectives, and I intentionally serve as a model for them. Our team satisfaction is now significantly higher than the national healthcare average. This is significant because an engaged and highly functioning team is the foundation of all success.



KEN LETKEMAN

SVP & CIO - Houston Methodist

SUCCESS STORY: Houston Methodist is a non-profit hospital system that employs more than 26,000 people and encompasses eight campuses including our flagship hospital in the Texas Medical Center, six community hospitals and a long-term continuing care hospital. The goal of IT at Houston Methodist is to partner with our clinical and administrative teams to deploy technologies and innovations that enhance the experience of our patients and their families as well as improve the efficiency and satisfaction of our care teams.



LAURA TIBODEAU

CIO - Americas Styrenics LLC

SUCCESS STORY: It has been an amazing opportunity to build an IT program, staff, infrastructure and systems portfolio from scratch. We had to author every policy and procedure and even our business continuity documentation. But, by going deep and wide - I have learned a lifetime of lessons in just seven amazing years. And for that, I will always be appreciative.

2021 HOUSTON CIO AWARDS

LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT

SHACHELLA D. JAMES, MBA, PMP Vice President, Information Technology



Blazing a path from quiet confidence to graceful courage

CIO of the Year Leadership Award winner Shachella James is paving the way for future leaders

By Brittani Bell

From a young age, Shachella James was taught the importance of consistency of action in purpose. This lesson, along with her undeniable resolve and passion, has led her down an unstoppable path to success, one in which she hopes others will learn from in their quests to lead the future of technology.

Path to success

James attributes her pursuit of a career in technology to her father's clairvoyant wisdom. "When deciding on a major, my father told me that the future would be technology, and that I should choose a major based on future opportunities and career potential," she said. These wise words led her to Texas A&M University in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems. Upon graduation, she went to work for Conoco, only to be laid off a year later due to a downturn in the oil and gas industry. Rather than viewing this unexpected situation as misfortune, James chose to see it as an opportunity to further her education. She headed to The University of Texas at Austin, where she earned a Master of Business Administration degree with a concentration in Finance.

Propelled with a higher level of self-confidence gained from a previous study abroad program in Germany, she completed a second program at the Copenhagen Business School in Denmark, studying the privatization of home health services in Scandinavia. "I gained a world view on the spectrum of people that I would later learn was representative of the diversity that makes our collective yet individual perspectives invaluable to what we must achieve for our companies, communities and the world as a whole," she said. That was the point when the spark to succeed that was ignited in undergraduate school became a full-blown flame. "I was going to be unstoppable," she declared. Unstoppable she was.

Her technology and financial acumen was sharpened over the years with roles at Bank of America, Ernst & Young and Logix Communications. Then an intriguing opportunity with CenterPoint Energy presented itself. "Remember the big push to get those 'smart meters' on homes? I was the Technology Project Manager for that implementation," James notes. Quickly proving herself within the company, James has been promoted a number of times in her nearly 10 years at CenterPoint, currently serving as Vice President of Technology Operations.

From quiet confidence to graceful courage

While she knew she was capable of great things and certainly checked all the boxes, James had to work to find her voice early in her career. "I started the first 10 years of my career with quiet confidence, trying to establish myself as a woman, particularly a woman of color, in technology," she said. As her skills further developed and her knowledge base broadened, she realized that what she had to contribute was just as important as anyone else in the room. This was the catalyst that transformed her quiet confidence into graceful courage. "I've really learned to find my voice. Where I used to wait for my turn to speak, now I have embraced injecting myself where appropriate. It's better to ask for forgiveness than wait for permission," she said.

Making an impact

While James has been part of many impactful projects over the years, including the implementation of damage assessing drone technology at her utility, she is most proud of her potential impact on future leaders. "It's so important to establish a vision that is future ready. While I don't think there's anything that is 100% 'future proof,' having talent that is ready for what the future brings and can sustain our operations is what I'm most proud of right now," she stated.

Her hard work hasn't gone unnoticed over the years. She has received a number of awards, including the SAP Top Innovator Mobility Award as well as the Leadership in Technology Award from the Association for Women in Computing. She was also recognized as a 2018 "Ones to Watch" award winner in CIO Magazine. Her latest recognition, the CIO of the Year Leadership ORBIE Award, holds a special place for her. "This award means the world to me because I want to continue encouraging women to pursue careers in STEM, especially women of color," she said. "I desire for that population to see that someone like them is making the dream a reality. And if they want to be a leader in technology, they can be. I want them to know that their vision is achievable."

Paying it forward

Understanding the importance of paying it forward, James is paving the way for other bright minds to follow in her footsteps. She maintains an open-door policy, often leading to her advocacy of those who seek out her mentorship. "I make myself very approachable for others," James noted. "I will

agree to have coffee, lunch, or a meeting any day of the week if there is time on my schedule."

Despite the plethora of opportunities available in the field, there remains a stigma causing women to pursue careers in technology far less than their male counterparts. James is doing her part to correct this imbalance through her involvement in Genesys Works, an organization that equips youth from underserved communities with the tools needed to achieve career success. "Being part of such a worthwhile organization that provides skills training for the pipeline of talent who will develop the technologies of the future, that is what gives me purpose," she said.

James currently chairs the CenterPoint Energy Women in Leadership (WIL) Council. Under her leadership, the WIL Council implemented a strategic platform for a "pipeline to leadership." With the understanding that leadership and readiness starts long before a woman arrives at the workplace, James ensures that the council's programs engage at all levels. "Starting with mentorship to young girls through the Girls Empowerment Network, to working with teens through STEM programs in Genesys Works, to helping women in transition via Dress for Success, we support the pipeline," she said. Her work with the WIL Council was recognized in 2018 when the group received the Excellence in Women's Development Award from the Midwest Energy Association.

The future of the industry

When asked about the future of the utility industry, James noted that the transformation toward renewables will continue. "You'll see much more focus on things like decarbonization and cloud technologies in an effort to minimize the footprint. This will all lead to a demand for technology change," she said. While many would view such changes as cause for concern, James sees it differently. "It gives me hope that we're continuing to improve the total ecosystem of the world we live in, and that there is a supply chain in energy delivery and consumption," she added.

On the home front

To balance the often stressful demands of a leadership role in technology, James enjoys regular exercise. In 2020, she achieved Houston Marathon and Half Marathon Legacy Runner status, having officially completed 10 Houston marathon or half-marathon races. She also joined the Peloton Century Club, having completed 100 rides.

When she's not working or racing, she enjoys spending time with Darrell, her husband of twenty-three years, and their two children, Darias and Daschal. She is also an active member of the Mu Kappa Omega graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., serving on the Ways and Means committee to raise scholarship funds via the charitable arm of the Julia F. Thompson Pink on the Green golf tournament.

2021 HOUSTON CIO AWARDS

ENTERPRISE FINALISTS: OVER \$750 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



Hines

JESSE CARRILLO

SVP & CIO - Hines

SUCCESS STORY: This pandemic has taken a major physical and psychological toll on all of our employees. I take great pride in knowing that my team and I were able to take away one major stress area by providing a very reliable and seamless work-from-home experience with the technology we had previously deployed through our “cloud and mobile first” strategy, and the amazing team I had compiled. To me, 2020 was the “Year of the CIO”. I’ve learned and grown so much from this experience; to borrow one of my favorite Winston Churchill quotes, “never let a good crisis go to waste”.



CADENCE

BANK

TOM CLARK

EVP & CIO - Cadence Bank

SUCCESS STORY: It has been my honor to lead a team that has transformed our technology, talent and process capability to meet the needs of a growing business. It is not a single accomplishment but a master plan and a series of activities executed collaboratively by a group of engaged team members who understand and embrace customer needs. Over the last five years, we have more than doubled our asset and customer base, taken our company public and are now a Top 100 commercial bank. We have systematically upgraded our leadership teams, talent, processes, third party alliances and full technology stack.



VENU MADDURI

CIO - Mears Group

SUCCESS STORY: Our Digital Transformation journey has delivered phenomenal benefits. There has been a paradigm shift in our business, which moved from monthly to weekly cycle. Digitizing our Safety program has enabled Safety Leaders to increase their span of control and provide more real-time feedback to field operators. Combined with QR code technologies for Quality certifications, we were able to reduce the paperwork burden for our operators. Digital Transformation has now led to Digital Savviness, where users are ready for more Automation tools. This has been highly accretive in value to Mears. This change in organization’s culture is my greatest accomplishment.



KEN PIDDINGTON

VP & CIO - U.S. Silica

SUCCESS STORY: I’ve had many accomplishments in my role at U.S. Silica. The one that most stood out and helped me grow as a leader has been the pandemic’s challenges. Overnight our people moved to remote work, and our systems and technology infrastructure supported them without issue, even though we had to make staff and budget reductions. Additionally, and despite the business disruption, I was able to execute on our digital roadmap. The continuation and acceleration of our digital roadmap in challenging times is a significant accomplishment. Keeping the business operating in challenging times are table stakes for IT.



BARON UNBEHAGEN

CIO - Encino Energy

SUCCESS STORY: Encino was \$2 billion dollar start up in 2018 with 25 employees and no systems or IT infrastructure in place to support the new business. We drove an innovative IT approach: Cloud First Technology Adoption, Integrate and Automate all functions and make Data a strategic asset. This approach allowed Encino to not only implement a remote COVID working model overnight, but do so without any noticeable impact to our daily operations. This also allowed Encino to focus on value added, innovative development of new platforms to drive more profitability, decrease costs and improve efficiencies in various parts of our business.

2021 HOUSTON CIO AWARDS

CORPORATE FINALISTS: UP TO \$750 MILLION ANNUAL REVENUE



CHRIS HANZ

VP & CIO - Houston Astros

SUCCESS STORY: My greatest accomplishment in my role is assembling and supporting the team with whom I am blessed to work daily. It has been a journey to get to where we are, growing from a transactional IT organization when I first arrived in 2016 to a transformational, trusted partner of our business and baseball colleagues today. Our team is recognized within the club and across the league as thought leaders and examples of technology excellence, and that is all due to the hard work and dedication of the IT team that I am fortunate enough to lead.



ROCCO IVANOVICH

CIO - EDF

SUCCESS STORY: Leading the team through a transformation stage at EDF. Due to limited capabilities and deficiencies with the previous systems we replaced all of our transaction systems for the Wholesale Trading and Retail Business units. Now we are executing a series of "Value Extraction" projects that add new features and capabilities, automation, and integration points between these newly implemented systems. This has led to an improvement in revenue as we have been able to enter new business lines with the additional capabilities offered by these solutions and we have lowered overall business costs as we have added processing efficiencies.



JASON LU

VP & CIO (Now at CSAT Solutions) - Stallion Oilfield Services

SUCCESS STORY: I have led a comprehensive digital transformation of one of the largest oilfield and industrial services companies in the country. Though this journey was a part of an end-to-end reboot of all systems and processes over a three year journey, the COVID19 pandemic coupled with macroeconomic pressures in the Oil & Gas industry made the digital transformation the centerpiece of Stallion's strategy to serve other industry segments while continuing to serve energy customers. This achievement was fully completed from conception to implementation in under 3 years under budget and ahead of schedule. Every system was streamlined and modernized.



GREG MORENO-EARLE

VP IT - Key Energy Services

SUCCESS STORY: One of our team's greatest accomplishments was the shift of our infrastructure and core enterprise applications to a consumption-based cloud model which enabled Key Energy Services to significantly reduce costs during the pandemic induced down-turn.



MIKE PROCHASKA

VP IT - The Allied Group

SUCCESS STORY: Success in this role is seeing the benefits of your vision come to fruition. The promise made of becoming a technology company being kept. It is a challenging but fulfilling journey.

FORTINET®

#1 Cybersecurity Company in the World

**Leading Every Evolution
of Cybersecurity**

- ✓ *Most Deployed*
- ✓ *Most Validated*
- ✓ *Most Patented*
- ✓ *Broadest Portfolio*

www.fortinet.com

HOUSTON CIO OF THE YEAR
ORBIE
AWARDS

**Congratulations to the 2021
Houston CIO of the Year
Award Winners and Nominees**

**Whatever you're trying to solve,
we want to solve it with you.**



Google Cloud

g.co/cloud/solving

2021 HOUSTON CIO AWARDS

NONPROFIT / PUBLIC SECTOR FINALISTS: GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION, & OTHER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS



TANYA ACEVEDO

CTO - Houston Airport System

SUCCESS STORY: During the onset of the COVID pandemic, the travel industry was hit extremely hard and put increasing demands on aviation technology departments including Houston Airports. HAS IT, led by Tanya Acevedo, fast-tracked projects for passengers and the workforce to assist in the mitigation of COVID. The team implemented remote work capabilities and reduced touch technologies working with multi-organizations such as United, Southwest, KLM, and CBP. Implementing facial comparison technology in lieu of presenting boarding pass and automated boarding processes that guide passengers through boarding, agents can the focus on providing excellent customer service while also mitigating the spread of COVID.



RICE UNIVERSITY

KLARA JELINKOVA

CIO & VP of International Operations - Rice University

SUCCESS STORY: My greatest achievement is establishing an innovative IT organization that through the deployment of new capabilities positioned Rice for digital transformation. Since joining Rice in 2015, I have built a central IT organization from several units. The spirit of innovation and can-do attitude that has become the hallmark of the organization was clearly on display in 2020 as the team supported Rice's rapid digital pivot to online instruction and remote work and research. The team worked with faculty to design new solutions for dual delivery, develop new support models and deploy analytical tools that helped keep Rice safe.



LISA KENT

CIO - City of Houston

SUCCESS STORY: My greatest accomplishment has been winning the political, financial, and legal support needed to break through the barriers that were impeding the City's digital transformation. Together with Mayor Turner and City Council's support, we are building the talent and technology capabilities to transform Houston into a digital city for all Houstonians.



LEE LEIBER

VP & CIO - Baylor College of Medicine

SUCCESS STORY: It started with changing the culture, as the previous leader drove the culture into the ground. I have worked to change the mindset of the business units and to believe in IT again. The COVID-19 response was notable because it was not restricted to transitioning staff to work from home but included a transformational change to two significant business lines. IT successfully developed a telehealth capability to facilitate doctor-patient appointments and implement a drive-thru for COVID vaccines. For the second line of business, we were able to rapidly implement tele-education for our medical students, host remote graduation.



LONG PHAM

CIO - Fort Bend ISD

SUCCESS STORY: For the past 7 years, we have been busily rebuilding and upgrading FBISD technology infrastructure. Before the pandemic, the new infrastructure provides full wireless coverage to all FBISD classrooms, ubiquitously providing access to our new district digital devices while allowing our students to bring their own device (BYOD). With a fleet of laptops and iPads, we were able to distribute more than 40,000 devices to our students, allowing them an opportunity to continue their education online during this pandemic; however, the greatest success story in my role as CIO for FBISD is having the best team of dedicated IT staff!



For **over 30 years**, SHI has helped customers of all sizes and in all industries achieve their IT goals through custom solutions and world-class support.

- Data Center and Cloud Solutions
 - Mobility and Security
 - Professional Services and Configurations
 - Software and Hardware
 - IT Asset Management
- And much more!***

SHI.com \ 888-764-8888

CIOs, You Inspire US!

YOUR HOUSTON PARTNER
TO ACCELERATE
YOUR DIGITAL JOURNEY

Data & Analytics,
Robotic Process
Automation,
Modernization
on Azure Cloud



Smartbridge

Smartbridge.com



Integration is bringing technology expertise to a company.



UTTEGRATION[®]
Connecting utilities to the future.[®]

Utegration is using industry expertise to power innovation.

HOUSTON CIO OF THE YEAR
ORBIE
AWARDS

Congratulations to the Houston CIO of the Year finalists and winner, from Utegration, a Houston-based energy and utilities technology consulting firm. We are proud to sponsor this year's award.

© Utegration, LLC. All rights reserved.

Welcome to the 4th Industrial Revolution

Welcome to Lumen.



Network. Edge Cloud. Security. Collaboration.

LUMEN[®]

THE PLATFORM FOR AMAZING THINGS

lumen.com

Services not available everywhere. ©2020 Lumen Technologies. All Rights Reserved.

WHO'S WHO



OFFICERS

Chapter Chair	Vice Chair	Membership Chair	Membership Co-Chair	Programs Chair	Programs Co-Chair	Awards Chair	Awards Co-Chair
 Ellison Scudder AIG Travel, Inc.	 Kristy Simonette Camden Property Trust	 Maria O'Neill American Bureau of Shipping	 Todd Renaud Conn's HomePlus	 Chris Hanz Houston Astros	 Jesse Carrillo Hines	 Jennifer Hartsock Baker Hughes	 George Crawford Catapult Energy Services
 Scott Crowder* BMC	 Kim Hales* NRG Energy	 Akash Khurana* WESCO International	 Alfred Lindseth* Plains All American Pipeline	 Venu Madduri* Mears Group	 Antonio Marin* Star Furniture and Mattress, a Berkshire Hathaway Company	 Brad Rable* Stewart Title Company	 Wayne Shurts* Armstrong World Industries
 Charles Thompson* Port of Houston Authority	 Tanya Acevedo City Of Houston Airport System	 Link Alander Lone Star College	 Jim Bailey Binkley & Barfield, Inc.	 Gene Beno Rubicon Oilfield International	 Brad Breau Tokio Marine HCC	 Lisa Carr Shell	 Joe Carroll CITGO Petroleum
 Rick Castro Nexeo Plastics	 Ishmael Cooper LivaNova	 Vagesh Dave McDermott International	 Myra Davis Texas Children's Hospital	 Michael Dean Tellurian Services, LLC.	 Bryan Gerard Civeo	 Scott Gilhousen Houston Independent School District	 Amanda Hammel Memorial Hermann
 Daniel Iturbe Management Controls, Inc	 Rocco Ivanovich EDF	 Shachella James CenterPoint Energy	 Lisa Kent City of Houston	 Rashmi Kumar Hewlett Packard Enterprise Global IT	 ML Madhavarao Exterran	 Sindhu Menon City of College Station	 Gregory Moreno-Earle Key Energy Services
 Lee Nugent McNair Interests	 Alina Parast ChampionX	 Ken Piddington U.S. Silica	 Kendall Pouland Tellepsen	 Sameer Purao Austin Industries	 Don Reny Gulf States Toyota	 Mark Seale Nova Medical Centers	 Douglas Sellers Puffer-Sweiven
	 Jonathan Sider Mattress Firm	 Mary Sloan TEAM, Inc.	 Rob Spencer SpawGlass	 Kathy VanLandingham LyondellBasell	 Aldrich Varilla Odjell Terminals	 Allen Wuescher Toshiba	

* At-Large Board Member

THE **PREEMINENT**
PEER LEADERSHIP NETWORK OF
HOUSTON
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICERS

THANK YOU TO THE 2021 HOUSTONCIO OF THE YEAR® AWARDS SPONSORS

PRESENTED BY



PARIVEDA

LUMEN®

ATHENIAN
CONSULTING GROUP
WISE COUNSEL. SUSTAINABLE RESULTS.

BlueSky
IT PARTNERS

Cigniti
Software Quality | Assured

SPONSORED BY



MEDIA SPONSOR

FORTINET®

Google Cloud

Mphasis
The Next Applied



Smartbridge

UTEGRATION®

accenture

NETSYNC
CISCO

servicenow

snowflake

tcs | TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

PURESTORAGE®

workday

zoom

betweenpixels.

BlackBerry.

DELPHIX

Infosys

LiquidFrameworks

PERFICIENT

protiviti
Face the Future with Confidence

psig
DIGITAL

pwc

RSM

TIBCO

PARIVEDA
CONGRATULATES
OUR WINNERS, FINALISTS AND NOMINEES

CIO OF THE YEAR®
ORBIE
AWARDS

PARIVEDA PROUDLY UNDERWRITES THE ORBIE AWARDS