

Welcome to the Third Annual



presented by **Y** YORK SOLUTIONS

Please help yourself to hors d'oeuvres and a beverage, we will begin shortly.

What are the Business of IT Awards?

Information Technology is at the forefront of all successful businesses in today's competitive economic climate.

The BIT Awards are designed to recognize members of the Twin Cities IT community who excel in their field and continue to make a difference not only within their organization but outside as well.

Each day, IT leaders within our community are doing amazing things and we wanted to create an event to celebrate and acknowledge them for their dedication and hard work!

Awards

- Barriers to Entry Outstanding Achievement Award
- Barriers to Entry Advocate Award
- Barriers to Entry Student of the Year Award
- Barriers to Entry Big Picture Award
- Resource Acquisition Innovation Award
- Link to Leadership Alumni of the Year Award
- Link to Leadership Faculty Member of the Year Award
- Think IT Philanthropic Award
- Think Advocate Award
- Think IT Facilitator of the Year Award
- Think IT Hall of Fame Award
- Most Impactful CIO Award
- Most Likely to Become CIO Award
- Community Give Back Award
- The Above and Beyond Award

Barriers to Entry Outstanding Achievement Award

The Barriers to Entry Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes the company that has adopted the most Barriers to Entry Participants!

Barriers to Entry Outstanding Achievement Award



TCF continues to be a strong supporter of B2E. Through their partnership B2E has benefited from their participation in panels and mentoring as well as placing participants in assignments across the organization. Thank you, Tami Morton, for accepting this award on behalf of TCF Bank!

Barriers to Entry Advocate Award

The Barriers to Entry Advocate Award recognizes an executive who has given their time and support to helping our B2E participants through their mentorship, guidance, and participation on panels.

Barriers to Entry Advocate Award

Sean Sutton

Senior Principal Business Systems Analyst – IT
Connected Care at Medtronic



“Congrats, Sean! In fact, Sean’s name is very well known around Medtronic given the positive impression individuals have of him, whether meeting in person or on the phone, and that’s just another clear sign of Sean’s compassion for others. Sean has a deep passion for mentoring and developing others personally and professionally. He is always working to help junior members of the team and supporting great organizations like the Medtronic Veterans ERG and York B2E. I can’t think of a more deserving individual for this award.”

– Jack Xu, Senior IT Manager at Medtronic

Barriers to Entry Student of the Year Award

The Student of the Year Award recognizes the hard work and achievements of a B2E participant who has made the biggest impact on overall project success at their respective client.

Barriers to Entry Student of the Year Award

Jim Lawliss

Quality Engineer at RBC
Wealth Management



“Thanks to the B2E program, I got the once in a lifetime opportunity to remake myself and to persevere. For me it was a tough uphill fight against the wind. I was recovering from a medical condition that effected my self confidence in my ability to communicate to others in a meaningful way. B2E placed me at RBC. I stayed at RBC for two years working on several medium sized projects and a several of large projects as a Quality Engineer/Assurance Lead managing the QA efforts to validate software services many of which are in use by RBC today. I pioneered the use of SharePoint 2013 to its fullest extent including customized lists, Wiki sites and integrated MS Project while serving as the source of record for all QA documentation for the project. I was instrumental reworking/recreating the documents the QE Leads rely on to communicate to Sponsors, Stakeholders and Project Team member on the methodology used to validate the software services. My efforts will live-on with other QE Leads and with my boss, Carrie Puterbaugh, Director of QE who encouraged me to take chances and to innovate where needed.”

- Jim Lawliss

Barriers to Entry Big Picture Award

The Big Picture Award is awarded to the IT executive at the company that has implemented the Barriers to Entry program as part of their holistic approach to strategic resource acquisition.

Barriers to Entry Big Picture Award

Teddy Bekele

Chief Technology Officer at Land O' Lakes



“Teddy and his team partnered with York to create a custom program for Land O’ Lakes. Thanks to the vision and partnership of this group, this program will continue to grow and benefit many.”

– Silvia Hinton, VP, Barriers to Entry
at York Solutions

Resource Acquisition Innovation Award

The Resource Acquisition Innovation Award goes to the IT leader who has gone against conventional wisdom to build a large team of IT resources, resulting in a positive outcome!

Resource Acquisition Innovation Award

Daniel Gowens

Senior Director, PMO at Prime Therapeutics



“Dan is absolutely deserving of this award! Dan is unapologetically dedicated to building teams with diverse talent, skills and experience. He never misses an opportunity to challenge the status quo and hire individuals with unique talents and high potential. Dan is focused on partnering with, and resourcing, professionals that have an aptitude for IT growth and progress. I have been profoundly impacted by the chance Dan took on hiring me 3 years ago, as I was certainly not the obvious or conventional choice, and for that I am immensely grateful.”

- Courtney Norman, Director, Prime Project Management Office (PMO)

Link to Leadership Alumni of the Year Award

The Link to Leadership Alumni of the Year Award recognizes an individual who graduated from the Link to Leadership program and has gone on to grow in his or her career, continues to give back to the IT community and actively contributes to further the mission of Think IT.

Link to Leadership Alumni of the Year Award

Erika Johnson

IT Director, Supply Chain at Land O' Lakes, Inc.



“Erika is a very passionate leader who takes development very seriously personally and for team. She prides herself as a continual learner. Erika is recognized as a strong leader in IT at Land O’Lakes who applies her learnings to the overall organization and IT community in the Twin Cities.”

– Marc Carlson, CIO at Land O’ Lakes

“Erika is a strong and well-respected leader that possesses an impressive drive for excellence and accountability, both in and outside the office. Her dedication, enthusiasm and insight is inspiring and influential to all those around her. Congratulations on a well-deserved award and wish her years of great achievements ahead.”

– Brianna Christianson, Sr. Executive Assistant at Land O’ Lakes

Link to Leadership Faculty Member of the Year

The Link to Leadership Faculty Member of the Year Award goes to the IT leader who exemplifies outstanding passion for leadership and education.

Link to Leadership Faculty Member of the Year

Lanna Niemeyer

AVP – Transformation and IT Strategy
Management – Office of the CIO at
Prime Therapeutics



“Lanna was inserted into Module 4 two cohorts ago and has been hugely instrumental in driving uplift via thought leadership regarding how to make the module better. She used her extensive network to seek out and secure a noted executive coaching expert in the Twin Cities to be part of a newly formed panel for the coaching module. The panel was a great add and uplift for the module. Additionally she leveraged her many years of coaching experience and brought a fresh perspective to the module. As a result we have seen resounding positive feedback for the module in areas for which we knew needed some uplift and refresh. Finally, but certainly not least, the energy and style she has brought to the module is infectious and shows through the delivery of the module.”

- Daniel Gowens, Senior Director PMO at Prime Therapeutics

“I have had the privilege of working with and alongside Lanna the last 15+ years. She is a model leader who is continuously improving her leadership and technical skills. Her focus on staying fresh in our industry, always learning, searching for mentors/coaches, and new sources of information – is unprecedented. Her leadership and collaboration skills are recognized and appreciated – and show with her employee engagement. Again, a tremendous leader who never stands still, always wants to learn and improve.”

- Jim Graham, VP of Application Development at Prime Therapeutics

Think IT Philanthropic Award

The Think IT Philanthropic Award recognizes the company who has raised the most money for Genesys Works through Think IT's Link to Leadership and Think IT's Charity Golf Event fundraising initiatives.

Think IT Philanthropic Award

Sean Lennon
CIO at Medtronic



“Sean Lennon is the new Medtronic CIO. As he started in his new role this spring, he immediately saw the value of Genesys Works and Think IT. Out of the gate he was 100% behind his team's initiatives to partner with Genesys Works and Think IT. As a result, under Sean’s leadership, Medtronic has raised the most money for these two organizations over the past year.”

- Sarah Nieters, VP – IT Restorative Therapies Group at Medtronic

Think IT Advocate Award

The Think IT Advocate Award goes to the leader who has portrayed his/her passion for Think IT in many ways. This leader has attended dozens and dozens of Think IT events and has shown an unwavering passion for its mission.

Think IT Advocate Award

Dawn Cooper

Agile Leadership – Sr. Scrum Master
at TCF Bank



Dawn has supported Think IT, B2E and Link to Leadership as well as Genesys Works. She's an advocate and supporter which is evident through her volunteer work, program advocacy, and excitement related to these programs. Dawn consistently shares Think IT events with her team and colleagues. She advocates for and supports B2E candidates and consistently identifies opportunities. She is committed to the Genesys Works program and advocates to send high potential individuals to Link to Leadership knowing the value to attendees and the benefits to the Genesys Works program. Dawn's support of the entire system of programs integrated with Think IT and her long hours of volunteer work make her a worthy recipient of this award!

-Kamille Peterson, VP, Director, IT Service Management
Office – TCF Bank

Think IT Facilitator of the Year Award

The Facilitator of the Year Award recognizes the Think IT executive who consistently goes above and beyond to lead collaborative and productive discussions at Think IT meetings.

Think IT Facilitator of the Year Award

Sayed Reza
VP of Software Engineering at
Optum



“Often in the technology world we look for leaders who have depth of technical expertise and a true leadership presence. That was what I was looking for when I hired Sayeed. Not only as he exceeded my expectations in these regards, but he also has a passion to share his knowledge. From regular internal and external presentations to being an adjunct instructor he is generous with his knowledge. His involvement with the Think IT organization is one that I believe has helped him continue to grow as he helps others do the same. Sayeed, I’m sorry I can’t be there today, but as always you never settle for second best. Congratulations.”

-Dan Abdul, SVP\CTO Data & Analytics Platforms at
Optum

Think IT Hall of Fame Award

The Think IT Hall of Fame Award recognizes a Think IT member who has been involved with our association for many years, consistently participating in Think IT initiatives and being a shining example of Think IT's mission to foster professional growth and development.

Think IT Hall of Fame Award

Andrew Bingenheimer

Senior VP – Financial Crimes
Development at US Bank



“Andy is an executive leader that fosters growth not only for his direct reports but also his entire organization, his peers, and the broader technology industry. He not only cares about people's professional development but also cares about those he’s mentoring as a person overall – often asking about a sports game, family, or the weekend activities. Think IT is a platform that Andy is passionate about, but equally beyond that he is an advocate in the community on fostering professional development.”

– Peter Bucka, VP – Development Group Manager
at US Bank

Most Likely to Become CIO Award

The Most Likely to Become CIO Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies exceptional leadership skills, potential, and actively works to strengthen their knowledge of both technology and effective leadership.

Most Likely to Become CIO Award

Trevor Farnum

VP – IT at Data Recognition
Corporation



“I'm traveling today and wish I could be there to share this recognition for Trevor. Trevor is a key player in IT at DRC. He is an excellent leader and visionary. There truly is no one better than Trevor for leading our technology at DRC into the future. He is my right-hand person and is very deserving of this award. Congratulations Trevor!”

– John Bandy, CIO at Data Recognition
Corporation

Community Give Back Award

The Community Give Back Award recognizes someone who gives back to the IT community both financially and with their time. This may include donating to non-profits focused on STEM education, actively participating in Think IT, publishing articles and books, mentoring others, or speaking at conferences, to name a few!

Community Give Back Award

Jote Taddese

Information Strategy Advisor
Office of the CIO at Medtronic



“On behalf of my family, Medtronic and the broader IT community, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for receiving such a prestigious award for a cause that is near and dear to my heart. The **Community Give Back Award** reminds me of an African philosophy termed “Ubuntu” which basically means “I Am Because We Are”! I have always been a firm believer on the idea that what we do for one another influences people that we will never know. When we mentor and inspire a young professional, we help fulfill the potential of the person as well as change the impact on the communities he or she will touch.

Thank you for your vote of confidence in me. Remember to always aspire to serve others and allow humility and compassion to be the driving force for your leadership.”

- Jote Taddese

Most Impactful CIO Award

The Most Impactful CIO Award recognizes the CIO executive who, through their leadership has created a major business impact through the right blend of staffing approaches, technology environment, and innovation with other leaders throughout their organization.

Most Impactful CIO Award

Francois Charette
Chief Information Officer
Optum RX



“I have had the pleasure of getting to know Francois over the past year and half that I have been at Optum. Although I work in a different group than Francois, he has taken the time to meet with me on a regular basis to advise and mentor me. I can't think of anybody that I have ever come across who has such a strong combination of highly technical and senior executive leadership skills. His impact at Optum is practically immeasurable which is why he is considered as one of the absolute top technology executives in the whole company. He currently leads the technology organization for 75-Billion-dollar entity of UHG.

Furthermore, Francois has a big heart and is heavily involved in working with Genesys Works. I admire Francois not only for his business acumen and leadership skills but also just for who he is as a person.”

– Sayeed Reza, Data Solutions at Optum

The Above and Beyond Award

The Above and Beyond Award goes to the executive who is the “poster child” for how we all should think and operate every day of our lives. This person is selfless, always puts others before themselves, and is a true humanitarian!

The Above and Beyond Award

Kamille Peterson

VP, Director, IT Service Management Office
& End User Operations at TCF Bank



“Kamille is a true humanitarian at heart and goes above & beyond to help others in her daily work as well as through her non-profit. She does not let an opportunity pass by where she can help others. She is intentional in her desire to improve lives through her non-profit. You will often find her fundraising through her nonprofit to build schools or selling items handmade in Ghana to help feed the local children.”

- Dawn Cooper Sr. Scrum Master at TCF Bank

“Kamille is an exceptional leader and mentor who demonstrates daily how focusing selflessly on **people** is the key to success. She is a successful leader at TCF, is raising a family of 8, and growing, and on top of all of that she also:

- Inspires cultural engagement activities like the Hackathon’s, Day of the Dead and more
- Actively mentor’s countless people regardless of their current employment status or line of work
- Co-Owner of Genuine Therapy Center, a group of mental health clinics in Anoka, Ham Lake, and Monticello.
 - Co-Founder and President of OptioVillage an international non-profit that provides:
 - Chemical health education and services via a Chemical Dependency center in Anoka
 - Poverty and Humanitarian relief in Ghana, West Africa including:
 - Assurance of Hope for the Needy, a Children’s Home and Orphanage.
 - Fern House, A crisis Pregnancy Center serving woman and infants in needing, medical care, food, shelter and clothing.
 - Deliverance School, providing free education and safety in a highly impoverished community.
 - Advisory Council member for DiaspoCare, an emerging growth technology for diasporas, improving health in developing countries in Africa and beyond.

Kamille also stays connected to the IT network and has taught us that focusing on other people's success, and living with passion, allows you to be extraordinary.”

- Tami Morton, Sr. Enterprise Service Availability at TCF Bank

Thank you for attending and congratulations to all of the BIT Award recipients. Please stick around and celebrate their hard work and accomplishments!