



*Excellence  
Awards*

# EXCELLENCE MAGAZINE

HOSTED BY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

08/2025



**Celebrating CEO of the Year Awards  
Midwest USA & Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) 2025**



**Honoring Excellence**



**Dr Yasemin Yazan**

## Editor's Note

**Dear Reader,**

in every industry, there are individuals with the courage to challenge the ordinary and forge new paths. These pioneers aren't afraid to take risks in order to drive innovation and shape the future. In this edition, we celebrate those who push the limits of what's possible with their dedication and vision.

They set new standards, inspire others, and lead the way toward change. Because for them, there are no limits. Discover extraordinary stories and groundbreaking achievements that show what can be accomplished when mediocrity is not an option.

Your Editors of Excellence

website: [www.excellenceawards.global](http://www.excellenceawards.global)



**Almaz Andezion**

---

### **Limitation of Liability**

Excellence Awards as part of Dr Yasemin Yazan LLC takes reasonable steps to ensure the information on our website and magazine are accurate, up-to-date, and complete.

However, we do not assume any responsibility for errors, omissions, or the reliability of the information provided. The content is for general informational purposes and is not intended as financial, legal, tax, or investment advice. Any decisions based on this information are made at your own risk, and independent professional advice should be sought before making such decisions.

Excellence Awards as part of Dr Yasemin Yazan LLC accepts no liability for any decisions made or not made based on this content or for any resulting damages. Any dealings with third parties mentioned on our website and magazine are at your own risk, and we assume no responsibility for third-party products, services, or transactions.



**Mona Tenjo**





*Excellence  
Awards*

# FEATURED IN MEDIA

Our work gets noticed. Check out our mentions in the media



**BENZINGA**





*Excellence  
Awards*

# TABLE OF CONTENS

**05**

BEHIND EXCELLENCE

**06**

THE RACE FOR AI SUPREMACY

**9**

LEADING IN TRANSITION

**12**

THE AI-READY CEO

**15**

AWARDS

**17**

CEO OF THE YEAR AWARDS MIDWEST  
USA 2025

**22**

CEO OF THE YEAR AWARDS KINGDOM  
OF SAUDI ARABIA (KSA) 2025

**23**

CONTACT





Excellence  
Awards

## Excellence Award

# Behind **EXCELLENCE**



**Dr YASEMIN YAZAN**

**Dr Yasemin Yazan** is a seasoned expert in adult education, neuroscience-based transformation, and leadership development. With over 17 years of experience, the multiple bestselling author has worked with major companies like Lufthansa and Volkswagen. With her “brAln Key” approach, she combines neuroscience and AI with innovative learning and leadership methods and inspires a pioneering spirit in a world characterised by complexity and dynamism.



**MONA TENJO**

**Mona Tenjo** is a strategic expert known as the Scaler in Chief for her leadership in driving smart, sustainable growth. With over 15 years of experience, she worked with companies like Siemens and DHL and helped streamline processes and scale businesses of varying sizes efficiently. Through Work On Your Business, she trains businesses to optimize their operations and grow strategically using technology and AI.



**Almaz Andezion**

**Almaz Andezion** is a marketing and AI expert who specializes in developing AI-driven customer experience strategies. With over twelve years of international marketing and product management experience, she helps companies enhance brand positioning and optimize marketing efforts through data-driven AI insights and personalized customer experiences.



Excellence  
Awards

# The Race for AI Supremacy

Why the U.S. Still Leads Over China



## GLOBAL RACE US VS. CHINA

The global race to dominate artificial intelligence (AI) is intensifying — and two nations stand at the forefront: the United States and China. While China has rapidly advanced in AI deployment and infrastructure, the U.S. continues to lead the world in fundamental innovation, research, and commercial influence. But what keeps the U.S. ahead? And where is China catching up?

## INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM: SILICON VALLEY'S UNMATCHED POWER

The U.S. benefits from a decentralized and highly dynamic innovation environment. Silicon Valley, and increasingly hubs like Austin, Boston, and Seattle, host thousands of AI startups, major research labs, and global tech giants like OpenAI, Google DeepMind, NVIDIA, Meta, and Microsoft.

This ecosystem enables:

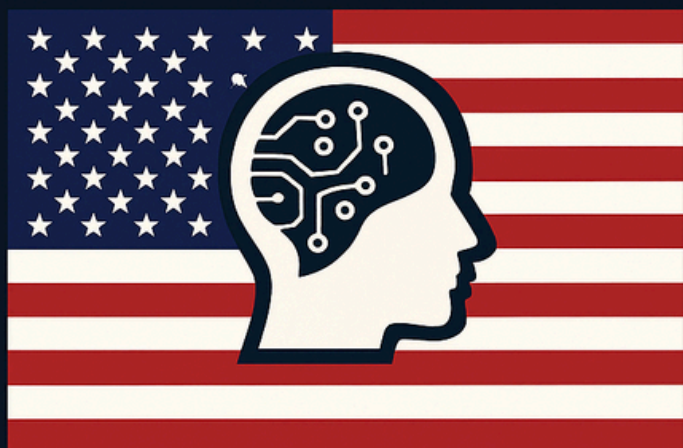
- Rapid commercialization of AI breakthroughs
- A vibrant VC landscape fueling early-stage innovation
- An open academic-to-industry pipeline

China, by contrast, has strong national coordination but a more centralized and top-down innovation model, which can limit bottom-up disruption.

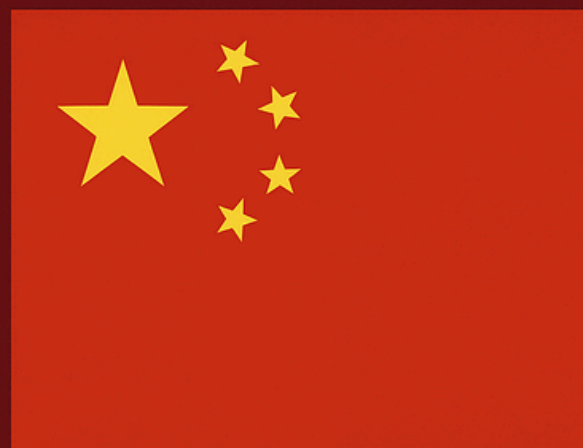
**“Innovation Powerhouse Silicon Valley.”**



Excellence  
Awards



VS



# The Race for AI Supremacy

## Why the U.S. Still Leads Over China



### TALENT MAGNET

Despite immigration hurdles, the U.S. remains a magnet for global AI talent. Top researchers, PhD students, and engineers continue to migrate to U.S. universities and tech companies.

- 60% of top AI researchers are affiliated with U.S. institutions
- The U.S. dominates global AI conferences like NeurIPS, ICLR, and CVPR
- Companies like OpenAI and Anthropic attract world-class talent from around the globe

China has invested massively in education and has a large talent base — but brain drain remains a challenge.

### RESEARCH & FOUNDATION MODELS: U.S. SETS THE PACE

The biggest breakthroughs in foundational AI models have come from American firms:

- GPT models (OpenAI)
- Claude (Anthropic)
- Gemini (Google DeepMind)
- Meta's Llama series

While Chinese models like ERNIE Bot (Baidu) and Tongyi Qianwen (Alibaba) are advancing, they still trail in global adoption, open access, and multilingual capabilities.





Excellence  
Awards

# The Race for AI Supremacy

## Why the U.S. Still Leads Over China



### CHIPS & COMPUTE: THE U.S. HOLDS THE CORE INFRASTRUCTURE

AI runs on powerful GPUs — and NVIDIA, a U.S. company, holds a dominant global position in AI chips.

- The U.S. controls key chip design (NVIDIA, AMD) and cloud compute infrastructure (AWS, Azure, GCP)
- Export restrictions have slowed China's access to cutting-edge chips (e.g., A100, H100)

China is investing heavily in domestic chip production, but the U.S. advantage in compute power remains critical for large-scale AI training.

### WHERE CHINA LEADS OR CATCHES UP

China is not standing still — in fact, it leads in AI deployment across sectors:

- Surveillance and facial recognition at scale
- Integration into manufacturing and logistics
- Government-led national AI strategy and funding

China also benefits from massive datasets due to its large population and more lenient privacy frameworks, giving it an edge in applied AI.

The U.S. bets on open competition, private-sector innovation, and international talent. China pursues a centrally coordinated AI strategy with significant state support.

This difference in approach will shape the future of global AI leadership.



Excellence  
Awards



# Leading in Transition

## CEOs Shaping the Future in the Midwest USA and Saudi Arabia

### Forging Resilience and Innovation Across Continents

Across two regions that may seem worlds apart, CEOs today are facing profound shifts—economically, technologically, and socially. Both the American Midwest and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) are navigating critical transitions that require bold leadership, visionary thinking, and a deep understanding of change.

In the **Midwest USA**—the industrial backbone of the country—CEOs are reinventing legacy industries such as manufacturing, agriculture, logistics, and energy. Digital transformation, workforce shortages, reindustrialization, and sustainability are reshaping priorities at the executive level.

Meanwhile, in **Saudi Arabia**, Vision 2030 has launched an ambitious transformation of the national economy. CEOs are playing a central role in diversifying beyond oil—spearheading growth in tourism, tech, renewable energy, education, and innovation.

**“Whether in Kansas City or Riyadh – today’s CEOs are not only business leaders, but architects of economic transformation.”**



*Excellence  
Awards*



# Leading in Transition

## CEOs Shaping the Future in the Midwest USA and Saudi Arabia

### Midwest: Innovation Rooted in Legacy

The American Midwest carries a rich industrial legacy—but today's CEOs are writing a new chapter. The region is undergoing a renaissance driven by advanced manufacturing, automation, AI integration, and a thriving startup culture.

Leading this shift requires navigating the transition from traditional production models to data-driven ecosystems—without losing sight of long-held values. Many CEOs are investing in workforce upskilling, sustainable supply chains, and academic partnerships to future-proof their companies.

But the transformation isn't only technological—it's also deeply human. CEOs across the Midwest are reimagining corporate culture to attract and retain talent in a post-pandemic world. From flexible work models and employee wellness programs to renewed commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion, leadership today means creating environments where innovation and integrity can thrive side by side.

**"From Detroit to Dhahran, today's CEOs are bridging legacy and innovation to shape the industries of tomorrow."**



## KSA: Visionary Leadership in a New Economy

In Saudi Arabia, the role of the CEO is evolving rapidly. The shift from an oil-reliant economy to a diversified knowledge-based society has elevated executive leadership to the forefront of national transformation.

From giga-projects like NEOM to advancements in digital infrastructure, CEOs in KSA are steering the country toward global competitiveness. But transformation here extends beyond business. Executives are also championing gender equity, youth empowerment, and ethical leadership in emerging tech sectors.

## Shared Values, Different Realities

Despite the contrasting landscapes of the Midwest and Saudi Arabia, CEOs in both regions share a unifying challenge: leading through uncertainty, while aligning business success with societal progress.

Whether in Chicago's innovation corridors or the economic zones of Riyadh, the most impactful leaders combine strategic vision with cultural awareness, technological curiosity, and a strong ethical compass.

At the same time, their approaches must reflect deeply rooted regional dynamics. In the Midwest, leaders are often guided by principles of community engagement, operational resilience, and long-term stewardship. In Saudi Arabia, leadership increasingly requires navigating global investment flows, ambitious development plans, and shifting generational expectations. Across both regions, CEOs who embrace complexity with clarity and purpose are the ones shaping not just markets—but futures.

## Looking Ahead

The years ahead will be decisive for how companies in both regions respond to global megatrends—AI, climate change, demographic shifts, and beyond. In this landscape, CEOs are not just adapting to change—they're driving it.

By linking innovation with integrity, they're not only building more resilient businesses, but also creating bridges across continents, cultures, and generations.

This forward-looking leadership is especially crucial as geopolitical tensions rise and supply chains become more complex. CEOs in the Midwest and KSA alike are reimagining partnerships, accelerating digital transformation, and embedding purpose at the heart of corporate strategy. Their actions today will define what sustainable success looks like tomorrow—for their companies, their countries, and the global community.



**by Dr Yasemin Yazan**

**“True leadership today requires more than business acumen—it demands vision, responsibility, and courage.”**



Excellence  
Awards



# The AI-Ready CEO

## A Framework for Leading Through Intelligent Transformation



by Mona Tenjo

In the age of artificial intelligence, it's no longer enough for CEOs to say their companies are "using AI." The real question is: **Can your organization scale AI where it matters — across processes, products, and decision-making?**

AI is no longer a futuristic bet; it's a present-day competitive advantage. Yet in boardrooms from Detroit to Dhahran, too many companies remain stuck in pilot projects or surface-level integrations. The missing link isn't data or algorithms. It's leadership.

As someone who has worked at the intersection of AI and process optimization for over a decade, I've come to a clear conclusion: **The CEOs who lead in AI don't just invest in technology — they reshape the very systems their organizations run on.**

This article offers a framework for becoming what I call the **"AI-Ready CEO"** — a leader who is architecting their organization for continuous, intelligent transformation.

**"Companies need to get out of "pilot project" mode and finally start real transformations across processes, people and products."**

## Three Shifts AI-Ready CEOs Must Make

While every organization is unique, the leaders who succeed in deploying AI at scale share a common set of mindset shifts. Here are three of the most important:

### 1. From Projects to Platforms

Many companies treat AI as a series of experiments — a chatbot here, a forecasting tool there. But real value comes when AI is embedded in the **core workflows and systems** that drive the business.

AI-Ready CEOs move beyond siloed initiatives and build **data and process platforms** that support repeatable, scalable innovation. This doesn't require technical depth — it requires strategic clarity and the discipline to prioritize systems over showpieces.

### 2. From Control to Orchestration

Traditional leadership models prioritize control, prediction, and standardization. But AI thrives in dynamic environments — where decisions are decentralized, and teams can act on real-time insights.

AI-Ready CEOs rethink their role: from command-and-control executives to **orchestrators of intelligent systems**. They focus on creating the right data environments, incentives, and governance structures so their organizations can learn, adapt, and act autonomously.

### 3. From Optimization to Reinvention

Too often, AI is used to incrementally improve existing processes — faster approvals, better forecasts, lower costs. But its real power lies in **reimagining how value is created**.

AI-Ready CEOs ask bigger questions:

- Can AI help us deliver a new kind of customer experience?
- Could we redesign our supply chain to be predictive instead of reactive?
- What new products or services are only possible because of AI?

These leaders use AI not just to *optimize*, but to *transform*.







## AI Without Process Redesign Is a Dead End

Even the best models fail if they're bolted onto outdated workflows. AI success depends on rethinking processes to be AI-native — flexible, data-driven, and outcome-focused.

This is where the CEO's influence is most critical. By aligning strategy, process design, and digital infrastructure, leaders set the conditions for AI to work not just in theory, but in practice.

### Leadership Across Contexts: Midwest USA and Saudi Arabia

The CEOs we honor this year come from vastly different contexts — from family-run manufacturing businesses in the American Midwest to cutting-edge energy and logistics firms in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

But whether navigating legacy systems or leapfrogging into smart cities, they face a shared challenge: how to **lead transformation with intelligence**.

The key isn't in copying Silicon Valley or Shenzhen. It's in crafting a strategy that fits the **local market, organizational culture, and sector realities** — while still embracing the structural shifts that AI demands.

### Conclusion: The Future Belongs to the AI-Ready CEO

AI is not a silver bullet. It's a lever — one that only works when the rest of the machine is designed to move with it.

The CEOs who succeed in this era won't necessarily be the most technical. But they will be the most *structural*, the most *adaptive*, and the most *strategic*.

They'll know that intelligent transformation isn't about technology alone. It's about the leadership to reshape how their organizations **think, act, and evolve** — powered by AI, but guided by vision.







*Excellence  
Awards*



# AWARDS

**Honoring Excellence Across the Globe**





*Excellence  
Awards*



# AWARDS Methodology

The **Excellence Awards** team works proactively to discover market leaders, innovators, and rising start-ups, often driving nominations themselves to highlight those making significant strides in their industries.

## Nominee Shortlisting

All nominees are formally invited to accept their nomination. If any individual or organization chooses to decline, they are simply removed from consideration.

## Evaluation and Judging

Our dedicated research team carefully reviews all materials submitted by nominees, ensuring that winners are chosen based on merit rather than popularity. In addition, the team conducts independent research using publicly available sources to gather further insights and make well-informed decisions.

## Winners

Once the winners are selected, they are personally informed before any public announcement is made. This allows time for internal communication and coordination of marketing strategies before the news is shared with a wider audience.

## Additional Promotion

We offer a variety of promotional options for Excellence Awards winners, ranging from inclusion in the free winners' directory to digital certificates and advertising opportunities. These packages are designed to help winners showcase their achievements and enhance their visibility across various platforms.





*Excellence  
Awards*

# CEO AWARDS

## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: CEO OF THE YEAR AWARDS MIDWEST USA 2025

At Excellence Awards, we honor visionary business leaders who demonstrate exceptional decision-making, resilience, and the ability to inspire change. These awards recognize CEOs who set new benchmarks in leadership, foster growth, and contribute to economic and industry advancements.

### The Winners are:

- **Ami Alford** – Active Aging
- **Amy Yan** – IT Consulting & Government Contracting
- **Asif Vadaria** – Advisor in Strategic Tax Reduction Planning
- **Azeem Moazzamuddin** – Mezzanine Finance & Commercial Mortgage Solutions
- **Bailey McMurray** – Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Advancement
- **Benjamin Walsh** – Drinking Water Safety
- **Brenda Siri** – HR Consulting & Talent Acquisition
- **Brett Ewing** – AI-Augmented Security Testing & Consulting
- **Brian Kingsolver** – Client-Centered Insurance Solutions
- **Buffie Blesi** – Social Impact Entertainment & Media Production
- **Candice Cherry** – Luxury Glassware & Decorative Gift Collection





*Excellence  
Awards*

# CEO AWARDS

**CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: CEO OF THE YEAR AWARDS MIDWEST USA 2025!**

The Winners are:

- **Chad Dull** – Public Engagement & Community Empowerment
- **Chris Albertson** – Holistic Financial Strategy Development
- **Chris Wilson** – Innovation in Treatment & Mental Health
- **Christina Rodriguez** – Media Strategy for Creator Economy
- **Courtney Jordan** – Leadership in Holistic Mental Health Advocacy
- **Craig Peterson** – VR Gaming & Educational Content Transformation
- **Damian Meredith** – Indoor Air & Health Solutions
- **Dana Georgiou** – Mortgage Industry Leadership & Education
- **Dean Solden** – Innovation in Senior Living
- **Derrell Noris** – Digital Transformation Support for Enterprises
- **Dion Green** – Community-Led Violence Recovery & Support Services
- **Dr Adil Dalal** – Human-Centered AI and Neuroscience Integration
- **Dr Alexis Brinkley** – Global Humanitarian & Social Impact Initiatives
- **Dr Marcia Dinkins** – Community Advocacy
- **Dr Tandy Tipps** – Oncology CRO
- **Dr Tonjia Grimble** – STEM Education
- **Drew Aldinger** – Cybersecurity & IT Solutions





*Excellence  
Awards*

# CEO AWARDS

## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: CEO OF THE YEAR AWARDS MIDWEST USA 2025!

### The Winners are:

- **Ellen Williams** – Business Consulting
- **Faye Nemer** – Business Connectivity & Economic Development
- **Franco Kraiselburd** – Regenerative Medicine Innovation
- **Gopal Chamarthi** – Mobility Technology & Predictive Analytics
- **JD Harris** – Cybersecurity Solutions for SMBs
- **Jolly Nanda** – Predictive Healthcare Analytics & Patient Empowerment
- **Jordan Coleman** – Women's Leadership Empowerment Initiatives
- **Joselyn Villalobos** – Strategic Leadership in Tropical Agriculture
- **Julie Shrader** – Survivor Aftercare & Trauma Recovery
- **JW Curtis** – Media Production
- **Kalob Cavanaugh** – Commercial Cleaning Services
- **Karen Fry** – Transformational Journeys
- **Kerstin Oleta** – Leadership & Body Language Strategy
- **Kevin Lasser** – Innovation in Healthcare Payment Audits
- **Kim Beechner** – Hospitality Marketing & Brand Strategy
- **Kimberly Ferguson** – Financial Strategy and Advisory Services
- **Kodie Kennedy** – Privacy-First B2B Sales







*Excellence  
Awards*

# CEO AWARDS

## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: CEO OF THE YEAR AWARDS MIDWEST USA 2025!

### The Winners are:

- **Kyle Smith** – Leadership in Human-Centered HR Solutions
- **Latame Phillips** – Leadership in Child Food Security
- **Leah Sonogo** – Adaptive Sports & Inclusion Initiatives
- **Linda Hafstad** – Website Redesign & Creative Consulting
- **Luis Cruz** – Leadership in Inclusive Cultural Advocacy
- **Mallory Herrin** – Strategic HR Solutions & Consulting
- **Mark Vandyke** – Emergency Services & Safety Engagement
- **Melanie Barrett** – Innovation in Wheelchair-Accessible Design
- **Michael Conlee** – Security and Digital Service Operations
- **Michael Polk** – AI-Driven Investment Discovery Platform
- **Michael White** – Film Production
- **Moiz Khan** – B2B Lead Generation
- **Neeru Sharma** – Innovation in Executive Coaching Programs
- **Peter Lane** – Aviation Maintenance Technician Education
- **Quentin Sauvage** – Real-Time Tracking Solutions for Supply Chain
- **Rafael A. Silva** – LMS & Workforce Optimization Solutions
- **Rahul Dedhia** – Property Management Solutions





*Excellence  
Awards*

# CEO AWARDS

## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: CEO OF THE YEAR AWARDS MIDWEST USA 2025!

### The Winners are:

- **Raynetta Bates** – Grief Support & Foster Care Aid
- **Rebecca Prejean** – Accessibility Consulting & Inclusive Experience Design
- **Rick Davis** – Mortgage Lending
- **Robert Curry** – Medical Support & Technology for First Responders
- **Robert Powell** – Youth Empowerment
- **Samson Alexis** – Translation Services
- **Sandra Formenton** – Urban Air Mobility Ecosystem Development
- **Sarah Watson** – Heritage & Education-Driven Tourism
- **Sheri Chaney Jones** – Social Impact Measurement Technology
- **Tameka Rushing** – Leadership Development
- **Tammy Marshall** – Health Transformation
- **Tatev Aslanyan** – Global AI Education Platform Leadership
- **Vicky Wu** – Marketing Strategy
- **Will Porter** – AI-Powered Marketing & Business Solutions
- **Yisbet Segrea** – Oil & Gas Logistics & Community Engagement





*Excellence  
Awards*

# CEO AWARDS

**CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: CEO OF THE YEAR AWARDS KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA (KSA) 2025!**

**The Winners are:**

- **Abdullah Afzal** – Import & Supply Chain Kitchen & Home Products
- **Ajmal Khan** – Logistics & Supply Chain
- **Alaa Alsuwilah** – Educational Leadership Training with Finnish Approach
- **Ali Alresaini** – Digital Health Marketplace
- **Khaled Hashem** – Innovation in Tourism Access & Discovery Format
- **Khalid Bahabri** – Risk Strategy for Financial and Government Sectors
- **Mohamed Ibrahim** – AI and RPA in Administrative Services
- **Raia Alballa** – Industrial Parts & Engineering
- **Walid Mahmoud** – Digitization of Commercial Property Transactions







*Excellence  
Awards*

# STAY TUNED!

Our awards honor entrepreneurs and businesses that have demonstrated innovation and excellence across various industries. We recognize the individuals and organizations who are driving transformation and making a significant impact in their fields.

**Sign up to receive the latest updates on award categories, winners, and exclusive digital services directly to your inbox. Don't miss out on important announcements—join our community of forward-thinking entrepreneurs today.**



**Or Just Contact Us :**



<https://excellenceawards.global>



[info@excellenceawards.global](mailto:info@excellenceawards.global)





*Excellence  
Awards*