

PLAYBILL

An  **ORANGE**
SLICES Production

2025

**ELEV FEDERAL
EXCELLENCE
PROGRAM (FXP)**

*Where Visionary Leadership Meets
Operational Excellence*

PLATINUM SPONSOR

ERP
INTERNATIONAL, LLC

Round House Theatre

May 9, 2025
8:30 AM -
12:00 PM

Bethesda, MD



FEDERAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM (FXP)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECOGNIZED PROGRAMS & ALL ASSOCIATED PARTIES

**CMS End Stage Renal Disease Quality Reporting System,
Office: Information Systems Group**

CMS Marketplace IT Group

**CMS OFM FMSG Healthcare Integrated General Ledger
Accounting System (HIGLAS) Technical Support
Contract**

DHS Procurement Innovation Lab (PIL)

**DHS US Coast Guard Chief Data & Artificial Intelligence
Officer (CDAO)**

DHS USCIS Transformation Delivery Division

DoD Defense Innovation Unit (DIU)

DOL IT Operations and Services

FDA CDRH MDE AI Initiatives

FDA Office of Digital Transformation

**HHS Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
Flexible Data Analytics & Infrastructure Support
program**

HHS HRSA Provider Relief Bureau (PRB), Office of the
Associate Administrator (OAA)

**HUD Zero Trust Architecture, Enterprise Identity,
Credentialing, and Access Management Program**

NIH Enterprise Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)
Program

VA Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization

VA Technical Acquisition Center (TAC)

VA Veterans Experience Office

VA VHA Digital Health Office

VA VHA Strategic Investment Management (SIM)

DONATING TO A LOCAL NON-PROFIT



**A portion of sponsorship and ticket sales from this event
will be donated to**

The Nature Generation

<https://www.natgen.org/>

The Nature Generation (NatGen) is a 501(c)(3) environmental nonprofit that inspires and empowers children and young adults to make a difference in their communities.

For 21 years, NatGen has fostered and encouraged environmental stewardship through innovative programs in literature, science, and the arts. Their mission to Read Green, Teach Green, and Act Green is put into action through specific programs and initiatives.

Read Green

They award the best in environmental literature for children and young adults through the annual flagship program, the Green Earth Book Award (GEBA). They recognize winners, honor books, and recommended reading, with winners receiving a cash prize. This award has become the premier literary award for environmental books for children and young adults.

Teach Green

No Planet B Conversations bring thought leaders and environmental experts online for insightful, interactive presentations on the environmental challenges and issues of the day. They also offer environmental Lesson Plans and other resources for educators and parents. These plans can augment existing curriculum or stand alone.

Act Green

Through STEM Seed Grants, NatGen makes small-scale grants to other nonprofits or individuals that engage with GEBA books in on-the-ground projects at schools, libraries, community centers, etc.

NatGen is a fully donor-funded organization. All programs are made possible through individual and corporate donors and steadfast supporters..

AGENDA

9:00AM: Welcome

Shelley McGuire & David Blackburn
OrangeSlices

9:10AM: Keynote

Melinda Plaugher, ERP International LLC

9:15AM: Panel #1

Driving Impactful Collaborations: Best Practices in Industry Partnerships

Moderated by Melinda Plaugher, ERP

Mohammad Elias, RELI Group

Naveen Krishnamurthy, RIVA Solutions

Amy Marasco, The Nature Generation

Aaron Moak, PingWind

9:45AM: M&A Fireside Chat

Moderated by Steven Vito, Vito & Associates LLC
with Sharon Heaton, sbLiftOff

10:00AM: Panel #2

**Empowering Employees for Efficiency:
Accountability, Autonomy, & Engagement**

Moderated by Monica Padron-Harris, The Procurement Pros

Bob Amos, Independent Consultant

Melvin Brown II, CANI

Katherine Crompton, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Jeffrey Grant, Schedule F Healthcare Strategies, LLC

10:30AM: Sizzle - Meeting the Moment with Marketing

Stacey Piper, Piper Strategies

10:40AM: Panel #3

Leveraging Data and Agility to Achieve Operational Excellence

Moderated by Stacey Piper, Piper Strategies

Beverly Beavers, Procliv-IT

Tim Borchert, Tria Federal

Sukumar Iyer, Brilliant Corporation

Malissa Ross, PhD, National Institutes of Health

11:10AM: Closing Remarks → Mingle & Mimosas



NOW SHOWING

THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS



Monica Padron-Harris*
The Procurement Pros
Founder
*(former Sr IT Acquisition
Advisor, U.S. Department of
Homeland Security)*



Stacey Piper
Piper Strategies
Founder & CEO

MODERATORS

** Former Fed*



Melinda Plaucher
ERP International LLC
Chief Growth Officer



Steven Vito*
Vito & Associates
Founder & Principal
*(former Senior Adviser - Strategic
Communications, Office of
Information and Technology (OIT),
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)*

PANELISTS



Bob Amos*
Independent Consultant
(former Division Director, CMS)



Beverly Beavers*
Procliv-IT
CEO
*(former DHA, Office of
Surgeon General + US
Army Commander)*



Tim Borchert
Tria Federal
CEO



Mohammad (Sam) Elias
RELI Group
Founder & CEO



Melvin Brown II*
CANI, LLC
*(former Deputy Executive
Director, U.S. Office of
Personnel Management)*



Katherine Crompton
DHS
Sr. Dir, Innovation &
Alternative Procurements



Jeffrey Grant*
Schedule F Healthcare
Strategies, LLC
President & Founder
*(former CCIO Deputy Director
for Operations, CMS)*



Sharon Heaton
sbLiftOff
Founder



Sukumar Iyer
Brilliant Corporation
Executive Chairman & CEO



Amy Marasco
The Nature Generation
Founder & President;
President, ReThinkIt Associates;
Mayor-Elect, Lewes, DE



**Naveen
Krishnamurthy**
RIVA Solutions, Inc.
CEO & Founder



Aaron Moak*
Pingwind Inc.
CEO/Founder/Owner
(former Army Captain)



Malissa Ross, PhD
National Institutes of Health
Chief, IT Support Services
Center for Information Technology



SPEAKER BIOS



Bob Amos - Independent Consultant (*former Division Director, CMS*)

Bob Amos is a technology and product leader with 20+ years of experience in such areas as AI, cloud computing, agile software development, DevOps, cybersecurity, and digital healthcare. As Director of Website Operations at CMS, he helped lead the transformation of [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov), [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov), and [cms.gov](https://www.cms.gov), enhancing performance, security, and user experience for millions of Americans. Bob brings a unique blend of public- and private-sector expertise, with a proven track record of delivering secure, user-focused, cost-effective solutions at scale.



Beverly Beavers - CEO/Founder/Owner, Procliv-IT (*former DHA, Office of Surgeon General + US Army Commander*)

Beverly A. Beavers retired from the United States Army as a Medical Service Corps Colonel 30 November 2019 with 28 ½ years of active-duty service. During her career, Bev deployed in 2003 to Iraq and in 2008 to Afghanistan. Early in her career Bev held leadership positions including Platoon Leader, Company Commander, and Battalion Commander. In addition to tactical assignments, Bev served in many senior leader staff assignments such as a Combat Developer and Information Systems Management Officer for the Directorate of Combat and Doctrine Development for the Army Medical Department, the Commander, United States Army Medical Information Technology Center (USAMITC), for the Army Medical Department and the CIO/G6 for the Office of the Surgeon General, Army Medicine. Bev's capstone military assignment was in the Defense Health Agency J6 where she led the Infrastructure, Operations and Sustainment Division for 24 months as the Division Chief with the oversight of providing worldwide 24/7 network support and sustainment operations to the 9.6 million TRICARE health plan beneficiaries of the Military Health System. Since July 2022, as an entrepreneur, Bev has been serving as the CEO of ProclivIT. ProclivIT is a mission focused and objective ready company specializing in providing technical and professional services to Federal, state and local government agencies and the private sector. The 8 ProclivIT team members provide program support specialists, programmatic transformation services, enterprise information technology services, integration services, and quality support services in the areas of administrative management, configuration management, change management, data analytics, strategic planning, and acquisition support. The ProclivIT team members collectively provide extensive expertise in the deployment, operations and security of dynamic networks across the military health system (MHS).



Tim Borchert - CEO, Tria Federal

Mr. Borchert serves as the CEO of Tria Federal. A career executive with more than 25 years of industry experiences leading multidisciplinary teams through complex operational improvement and digital modernization initiatives, he is responsible for creating, communicating and implementing the organization's vision, mission, and

strategy. Serving as the CEO since September 2021, he has led the company through significant growth, including multiple strategic acquisitions that have enhanced Tria's capabilities across the full range of modern digital services, including artificial intelligence, cloud engineering, human centered design, agile development, and comprehensive data analytics. Tria's program managers, technologists, and software engineers leverage insights drawn from 20+ years of deep customer relationships to provide efficient, effective solutions that help revolutionize and transform federal government missions and systems.



**Melvin Brown II - CANI, LLC (Contract Administration Network International, LLC)
(former CIO, U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM))**

Melvin Brown II recently retired from his position as the Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), where he served until January 21, 2025. In this role, he oversaw a \$200 million IT portfolio, guiding a dynamic workforce of 300 federal employees and 400 contractors. As CIO, Melvin was responsible for steering OPM's information technology strategy and policy, ensuring the agency remained at the

forefront of federal IT innovation and transformation. His leadership was instrumental in modernizing OPM's digital infrastructure and enhancing operational efficiency.

Prior to his role as CIO, Melvin served as the Deputy Chief Information Officer (DCIO) at OPM for four years. In this capacity, he played a vital role in shaping the agency's IT operations and preparing for future challenges. His career also includes a notable tenure as Director of the Enterprise Business Management Office within the Office of the Chief Information Officer at the Small Business Administration (SBA), where he spearheaded technology-driven initiatives to streamline agency processes. Earlier, Melvin held various leadership positions at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), further demonstrating his expertise in managing complex IT environments. His technology journey began at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), where he worked as an IT Program Manager, laying the foundation for his accomplished career.

In addition to his federal service, Melvin actively contributes to professional and community organizations. He holds leadership roles in the American Council for Technology (ACT), the Industry Advisory Council (IAC), the Advanced Technology Academic Research Center (ATARC), and serves as a FinOps Foundation Board member. His commitment to advancing the IT profession extends beyond his federal responsibilities, reflecting his dedication to fostering innovation and collaboration across the field.

Melvin, a proud United States Marine Corps veteran, served from 1984 to 1991, a transformative period that shaped his strong sense of discipline, leadership, and dedication to service. His outstanding contributions to federal IT have earned him widespread recognition and acclaim.

In 2025 and 2023, Melvin Brown II was named a Top Fed100 Winner by Federal Computer Week, an esteemed award celebrating the most innovative and impactful IT leaders in government. In 2024, he was honored as the Top Government Executive of the Year by ACT-IAC. Additionally, he has been featured in numerous magazines and media outlets as an industry thought leader, sharing his expertise on IT modernization and optimization strategies.

Melvin's academic achievements are equally impressive. He holds two Master of Science degrees, one in Cybersecurity Policy from the University of Maryland Global Campus and another in Social and Organizational Learning from George Mason University. He also earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Strayer University. For 14 years, he served as an adjunct professor at the University of Phoenix, where he taught graduate and undergraduate courses in business management, further showcasing his passion for education and mentorship.



Katherine Crompton - Senior Director of Innovation & Alternative Procurements, Department of Homeland Security

Katherine Crompton serves as the Senior Director of Innovation & Alternative Procurements at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In this capacity, she acts as the DHS Chief Acquisition Innovation Advocate (AIA) and oversees the

implementation of the DHS Acquisition Innovation Roadmap. Ms. Crompton leads the Procurement Innovation Lab (PIL), which fosters experimentation and the adoption of innovative acquisition techniques across DHS. She also spearheads the Champions for Alternative Procurements to Secure the Homeland (CAPSL) initiative, aimed at expanding knowledge and facilitating the appropriate use of alternative and non-Federal Acquisition Regulation (non-FAR) authorities.

Prior to joining DHS, Ms. Crompton spent more than 25 years with the Department of Defense (DoD) and the U.S. Army, where she held several leadership roles. She played a pivotal role in establishing the contracting office for the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer (CDAO). Additionally, she served as the Branch Chief for the Army Contracting Command Rock Island (ACC-RI) and supported various fields, including cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, information technology, procurement, and production.

Ms. Crompton holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elective Studies with a minor in Accounting from Saint Ambrose University and an Associate Degree in Accounting from Black Hawk College.



Mohammad Elias - Founder and CEO, RELI Group

Before founding RELI Group in 2013, Mohammad Elias held various Sr. Program Manager roles in the private sector, supporting the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services for a decade and managed teams of up to 50 subject matter experts on CMS IT Health initiatives. Elias holds strong business domain knowledge of Medicare and Medicaid,

Healthcare IT, Property and Casualty Insurance, Life Insurance, and Health Insurance. Mr. Elias is an active leader in the professional association community and continues to actively serve the missions of local charitable and industry organizations through his family nonprofit, the Elias & Sultana Foundation. Mr. Elias received his MBA in Management Information System from Drake University, Des Moines, IA, and B.S. in Computer Information Systems from St. Cloud State University.



Jeffrey Grant - President and Founder, Schedule F Healthcare Strategies, LLC (former Deputy Director for Operations, CCIIO, CMS)

Jeff Grant is the President and Founder of Schedule F Healthcare Strategies, a consulting practice specializing in federal health programs, health information technology, and government contracting. He is currently using Schedule F as a platform

to place recently terminated CMS employees in private sector jobs. Jeff has over 30 years of experience as an entrepreneurial manager of major health programs in the Federal sector, leading the implementation of Affordable Care Act, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit payment policies, operations, and systems. He also gained valuable private sector experience at Health Risk Partners, LLC, supporting Medicare Advantage plans in revenue strategy, risk adjustment and enrollment reconciliation. Jeff most recently served as the Operations Director in the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, leading 600 Federal staff and thousands of contracted personnel to support the enrollment of millions of Americans in private health insurance coverage and the provision of protections from surprise medical bills. Jeff has a BA in History from the University of Michigan and a Masters of Public Administration from the George Washington University. He is a retired Navy Reservist with 22 years of service.



[Sharon Heaton](#) - Founder, sbLiftOff

Known as one of the country's leading small business advocates, Sharon Heaton, founder of sbLiftOff, is an avidly sought speaker on small business, growth strategies and M&A. "I founded sbLiftOff," says Heaton, "to serve those special people who sit at their kitchen table come up with an idea, start a business, hire people, pay their taxes, and fuel our economy. Small business owners are the backbone of the American economy, and we are honored to make sure they get a fair deal." sbLiftOff serves commercial and government contracting companies with \$10 million to \$100 million in revenues and more than \$2 million in EBITDA.

Heaton's book, LIFT OFF: 12 Things to Know Before You Sell Your Company, published by FORBES and in its second edition, is available on Amazon. Appointed to the Small Business Administration's Investment Capital Advisory Committee, she is working nationally to increase small business access to investment capital. Heaton publishes in Harvard Business Review, Forbes, Washington Business Journal, Alabama.com and regional outlets around the country.

Heaton has been associated with the global law firms of Skadden Arps and Latham & Watkins and has served as Senior Counsel on the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. She co-founded Wellford Energy Group, an investment bank serving clean energy and low carbon companies. Previously, she was Deputy Counsel of a Fortune 500 company operating in ten states.

Ms. Heaton holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Chicago Law School and a B.A. from Barnard College.



[Sukumar Iyer](#) - Executive Chairman and CEO, Brilliant Corporation

Mr. Sukumar Iyer is the founder, Executive Chairman, and CEO of Brilliant Corporation. Sukumar has more than 28 years' experience in management consulting, information technology and software at companies such as Accenture and with Fortune 100 clients in different industry sectors. Sukumar was named as an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® Mid-Atlantic finalist for the second time in 2024. In 2022, Sukumar was named as winner of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce GovCon Executive of the Year Award (\$75-\$300M).

At Accenture as a senior executive, Sukumar worked with Government and Fortune 50 commercial clients, establishing a track record of successful projects. Prior to Accenture, Sukumar led the technical sales activities for a small engineering software company developing business with varied clients in the automotive, aerospace, semiconductor, biomedical, electronics, and retail industries. His areas of expertise include business / organizational strategy, data science driven applications and AI driven solutions to deliver client value.

Sukumar founded Brilliant with the vision of helping solve client problems combining innovation with the right mix of technologies and business processes to deliver uncontestable value. His business philosophy with the Brilliant team is to hire partners (rather than employees) and share the rewards; tying incentives directly to each person's personal contribution and accomplishments.

SPEAKER BIOS



[Naveen Krishnamurthy](#) - CEO and Founder, RIVA Solutions

Naveen Krishnamurthy is an accomplished two-time business owner and CEO. Since starting RIVA fifteen years ago, Naveen has worked to define a culture that inspires employees to consider their relationships with each other and their clients, while achieving unimaginable personal and professional development.

While focused on the basics of results innovation values and accountability (what RIVA stands for), Naveen is better known for his out-of-the-box and disruptive thinking. Through social media, he shares real-time vision with his team and the community, demanding and inspiring action that betters government.

His passion and perspective have earned him opportunities to work on high profile Federal programs, speak on Executive Leadership panels, support nonprofit boards, mentor small businesses, and earn industry accolades -- most notably, the prestigious Fed 100.

Early in his career, Naveen established himself in Silicon Valley during the dot-com era after earning a triple degree and Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Maryland. After twenty years of working for government contracting giants, Booz Allen and CACI, he has established himself as an influencer in the Federal contracting community. Naveen is happiest learning while still mentoring others. He is a loyal Washington Capitals fan and doting father to daughter Mia and son Rohan.



[Amy Marasco](#) - Founder and President, The Nature Generation; President, ReThinkIt Associates; Mayor-Elect, Lewes, DE

Amy Marasco is the founder and president of The Nature Generation and is responsible for the strategic direction of the nonprofit organization. She is an executive management consultant with more than 35 years of experience providing business and organizational consulting services to government agencies, public and private sector companies, and nonprofit organizations. Her firm, RethinkIt, specializes in consulting on the environment, education, transportation, and infrastructure and she coaches clients and their organizations on innovative solutions to transform operations to improve effectiveness.

Ms. Marasco is highly regarded as a leading consultant for and mentor to small businesses and woman- and minority-owned firms and their executives and staff. She is a successful entrepreneur and was the co-founder and CEO of a \$50-million, 350-person IT and environmental management company. She managed hundreds of millions in Federal government contracts with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Departments of Transportation, Energy, Defense, Agriculture, and Interior. In addition to her duties as CEO directly managing multi-million-dollar high profile projects, she led multiple management studies, facilitated executive strategic planning retreats, and coached clients on innovative organizational initiatives. Ms. Marasco led an array of management improvement and organizational studies that resulted in more efficient and effective government programs, including assisting senior government executives to define and implement quality management practices and governance, thereby creating successful leadership teams and management operations.

Ms. Marasco is currently the Mayor-Elect of Lewes, Delaware. She served a City Council member, where she was recognized for her leadership in re-engineering the City's budget process and in launching the Lewes Resiliency Fund. She served on the Lewes Planning commission and chaired the environmental subcommittee. Ms. Marasco serves as the City's Chair of the Finance Committee and is the City Treasurer. She is also leading the City's grant writing efforts, bringing in more than \$220,000 in transportation funds during the past year.

She has served on the executive board of three of the fastest growing small companies in the Washington D.C. metropolitan region. Ms. Marasco has served on numerous private-sector and community boards and was most recently board chair of a 500-person global energy and environmental services firm.



[Aaron Moak](#) - CEO/Founder/Owner, Pingwind (former Army Captain)

Aaron leverages extensive military and private sector leadership experience in his role as CEO to steward PingWind's growth and strategic vision. He served as an Infantry Officer in the US Army, leading soldiers in combat operations through two tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Aaron then worked at ExxonMobil in a variety of international and domestic leadership roles including operations, supply chain, strategy development and process improvement. He has a BS in Biophysics from The Johns Hopkins University and an MBA from the University of Maryland. Aaron is an Adjunct Professor at George Mason University Costello College of Business, and Adjunct Instructor at The Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School, and volunteer for Boy Scouts of America.



[Monica Padron-Harris](#), Founder, The Procurement Pros (former Senior IT Acquisition Advisor, DHS)

As an acquisition consultant with over 30+ years of experience in a variety of Federal agencies, Monica specializes in identifying strategic acquisition targets, understanding the federal contracting marketplace specifically within DHS with the last 12+ years spent at USCIS as a Contracting Officer, Sr. Procurement Analyst, and a Sr. IT Acquisition Advisor to the senior leadership team within OIT and the Office of Contracting.

As a Sr. IT Acquisition Advisor, Monica advised on the acquisition strategy, the evaluation factors, and a technical advisor SME on program contract requirements. She led procurement strategies on cross functional committees for OIT and the Office of Contracting.

Monica provided executive leadership and guidance on development and implementation of sound and innovative acquisition policies and procedures for programs consistent with contractual regulations and policies. Advised on program plans and priorities that are fundamentally significant in establishing, meeting, and in evaluating mission objectives and program goals.

She has a deep understanding of federal regulatory frameworks, including the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and agency internal regulations and approval processes.

Monica has intimate knowledge of DHS and USCIS OIT and Office of Contracting programs as well as the roles of the decision makers that drive procurement decisions.



[Stacey Piper](#) - Founder and CEO, Piper Strategies

Stacey Piper is a strategic marketing leader with deep expertise across the civilian, defense, and technology sectors. With 25 years of experience helping government contractors elevate their brand, drive demand, and win business, Stacey is known for transforming marketing into a force multiplier for business development. She has

coached government marketers and capture teams, trained staff across the federal sector, and built high-impact marketing programs that connect mission to message. Stacey earned her Master of Science degree from Johns Hopkins University, served as an Adjunct Professor of Marketing at Marymount University, and led the mentor-protégé program for Government Marketing University. She currently lives in Fairfax with her husband and daughter and serves on the Board of Directors for Brain Injury Services, a local non-profit providing services and support to empower survivors of brain injury, stroke, and concussion. As founder of Piper Strategies, she partners with CXOs to modernize marketing, build internal capability, and meet the moment with bold, human-centered strategies that resonate in today's public sector landscape.



Melinda Plaughter - Chief Growth Officer, ERP International LLC

Melinda Plaughter is a senior executive leader with over 25 years of experience in service delivery, strategy, and growth within the health and human services industry. Within CMS, she has successfully delivered programs for the Office of Information Technology (OIT), Center for Program Integrity (CPI), Office of

Communications (OC), and the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ). Over the course of her career Melinda has enjoyed building high-performing teams and using her skills and experience to tackle progressive leadership roles with a focus on solving complex business problems and creating efficiencies to achieve desired results.

Her extensive experience within the government consulting space includes working with both large and small companies to support the critical missions of State and Federal government customers including Medicare and Medicaid Reimbursement; Medicaid Eligibility and Enrollment; Fraud, Waste and Abuse; Healthcare Quality and Safety; and Enterprise Service Delivery. Melinda has her Project Management Professional (PMP) certification and a Master's Degree in Management with a concentration in Finance.

Prior roles include:

- Vice President, Government Services – Moser Consulting
- Vice President and HHS Division Manager – ManTech International
- Executive Vice President – Edaptive Systems



Dr. Malissa Ross - Chief of Information Technology Support Services, Center for Information Technology, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Dr. Malissa Ross is an accomplished IT executive and Chief of Information Technology Support Services, in the Center for Information Technology, at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). With over 25 years of leadership experience

spanning the federal government, military, and private sectors, she specializes in driving large-scale technology transformations that deliver measurable impact. A proud disabled veteran who served in both the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, Dr. Ross leads with authenticity, resilience, and a results-oriented mindset.

She earned her Ph.D. in Organization and Management from Capella University, where her research on the Impostor Phenomenon in IT provides actionable strategies for building agile, high-performing teams. She also holds a Master of Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma and senior-level Federal Acquisition certifications.

Throughout her career—including leadership roles at the U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Transportation Command, and Air Force Network Integration Center—Dr. Ross has championed inclusive leadership practices that fuel innovation and organizational excellence. Her philosophy centers on empowering teams, strengthening resilience, and creating environments where people thrive and deliver strategic outcomes.



Steven Vito - Founder and Principal, Vito & Associates LLP (*former Senior Adviser - Strategic Communications, Office of Information and Technology (OIT), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*)

With a distinguished career spanning both public and private sectors, Steve Vito brings a rare, 360-degree perspective of the Federal marketplace. A seasoned expert in strategic communications and media, Steve has built deep relationships and gained nuanced insights into the complex challenges facing government contractors of all sizes.

As a senior media executive, Steve has led several of the most influential government-focused publications, including FCW, GovExec, Nextgov, and GovCIO Media. He also co-created Government Matters TV—a premier broadcast platform for federal leaders—on ABC’s Washington, D.C. affiliate, WJLA. Recognized for his expertise, Steve was recruited to serve as Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) within the Office of Information and Technology (OIT). At VA, he launched Digital VA, an industry-facing website and newsletter. He also spearheaded a groundbreaking initiative that brought together 20 senior VA IT leaders with executives from 16 top Silicon Valley tech firms—establishing critical lines of communication and collaboration. These efforts directly influenced the VA’s agile and effective IT response to the surge in demand driven by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Steve holds an MBA from Boston College and is the founder and principal of Vito and Associates, LLC, a strategic advisory firm that empowers IT clients to navigate and thrive in the federal market.

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ERP is a health and technology solutions provider utilizing attentive and engaged leadership practices and brilliant talent to create transformational results for our government customers. From military healthcare staffing, research and readiness to emerging technologies and business process management in the national security space, we support and enhance mission performance, delivering the best possible value, outcomes and satisfaction. Our ability to enhance organizational vitality – for our customers, our communities, and our nation – is what drives us to Be the Best®. ERP is appraised at CMMI DEV Maturity Level 5 and CMMI SVC Maturity Level 3, and is certified as compliant in the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standard, ISO/IEC 20000-1:2011 Service Management System, and ISO 27001:2013 Information Security Management Standard.



Since 2012, **Index Analytics** has invested heavily in people: our clients, the public they serve, and the Index experts ready to empower both groups.

It's a unique approach that fosters excellence in customer experience, 50% year-over-year company growth, and real results for our clients in federal health: the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Administration for Children & Families (ACF).

With ever-expanding expertise in established and emerging technologies and a commitment to meaningful professional relationships, our people come to every engagement with a drive to build and implement the best solution flawlessly.



Established in 1981, **RHO** specializes in Information Technology Consulting services for the Federal Government and its Prime Contractors. With over 40 years of experience, we deliver exceptional IT Consulting, Staffing, and Project Management services. Our core mission is to provide best-in-class IT consultants in a timely and cost-effective manner.

We understand business challenges and secure top talent to drive client success. Leveraging our technical expertise, we deliver outstanding IT services for mission-critical applications on a national level.

RHO partners with national clients and government agencies that need exceptional technology professionals to meet their business demands. When you collaborate with RHO for contract staffing, project work, incumbent capture, project intel, or placements, you can count on a prompt response with outstanding candidates.

We are dedicated to placing the right professional in the right position—the key to the success of any project and business relationship.



In less than 30 years, **Capital One** has grown from a credit card company to a full service Fortune 100 bank. Headquartered in Tysons, VA, our understanding of the government contracting industry allows us to build thoughtful solutions to drive growth and success for your business. Our team of 200+ Business Bankers and product specialists work with our clients to help anticipate and prepare for the challenges that may lie ahead. They are here to empower you with personalized advice and customized products and services designed for today's government contracting companies.



Arch Systems LLC (Arch) is a Baltimore-based, Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) leading AI-powered IT modernization for federal agencies. A six-time Innovations Award winner across multiple federal agencies, Arch integrates nearly two decades of expertise with next-generation AI, data analytics, and cloud computing to optimize decision-making, enhance operational efficiency, and drive mission success.

With a proven track record of 50+ federal IT projects—earning Exceptional CPARS ratings—Arch is at the forefront of AI/ML-driven transformation. The company has spearheaded 20+ AI/ML initiatives at HHS agencies, revolutionizing data-driven decision-making. Backed by a team of Ph.D.-level AI researchers and data scientists, Arch delivers cutting-edge AI solutions seamlessly integrated with federal IT ecosystems.

At the helm of AI innovation, Dr. Alain Briançon, Executive Director of AI Innovation, holds 90 patents (including 29 in AI) and extensive expertise in AI-powered data systems. Under his leadership, Arch ensures federal agencies stay ahead of the technological curve.

A multi-year Inc. 5000 Award recipient and a Top 3 CIO-SP3 SB Contractor (Q3 2024), Arch upholds the highest industry standards with ISO 9001, 20000, 27001, and CMMI Level 3 certifications. As a trusted federal partner, Arch delivers secure, scalable, and intelligent technology solutions for the government's most complex, mission-critical challenges.



GovDash: Win More Contracts. Support Agency Missions.

GovDash is the AI-powered business development platform for government contractors. We streamline the capture and proposal process—so you can focus on winning work and delivering impact.

From smarter opportunity discovery to AI-generated proposal drafts, GovDash helps teams move faster, write better, and operate more efficiently. Proposal managers reduce admin work, capture leads stay ahead of deadlines, and executives gain full visibility—without growing headcount.

The result? Fewer hours per bid, higher in rates, and stronger support for agency missions.

We're not just automating proposals. We're building the operating system for modern government contracting. GovDash empowers contractors to grow smarter, work leaner, and deliver more value where it matters most.



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**Congratulations
to all honorees!**

