TO EVERY HONOREE AND EVERY NOMINEE FROM THE PAST 10 YEARS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR VISION, FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP, AND FOR YOUR GUTS TO SEE THE FUTURE AND HELP US ALL GET THERE.

YOU ARE TRULY SUPER HEROES.
This year marked the 10th anniversary of what has become the largest celebration of the San Diego region's burgeoning IT community. Hosted at Petco Park for the first time, the annual event drew more than 1200 people on Thursday, May 11, and remains the largest technology recognition event in the history of San Diego. Beginning with Petco's outfield as a drop zone for precision sky divers and ending with a fireworks finale, the festivities featured awards and activities from gaming to culinary and cocktail samplings. A city proclamation declared the day Top Tech Exec Day.

An awards presentation featured the largest nomination and qualification round in the 10 year history of the event. Of the 634 submissions—all nominated by their peers, colleagues, and employers—525 Top Tech Execs qualified for the event. Ultimately, 11 nominees were recognized as honorees, along with a special Lifetime Achievement Award for Douglas Palmer of KnuEdge and a Cox Exemplary Award for Laura Spencer of Lakeside Union School District. Additionally, 10 Lifetime Achievement honorees were inducted into a new Top Tech Exec Hall of Fame.

**LETTER FROM COX BUSINESS**

10 years of Top Tech! What a milestone for San Diego’s IT community and for the community as a whole. This year, we once again hit record highs for nominations as well as attendance. That is a testament to the fact that our community understands the importance and value of these unsung heroes who fuel San Diego’s business engine. Twelve years ago, as I was on my way to another CEO or CFO awards, I thought to myself “where is the event for IT leaders? Why aren’t they getting recognized?” After all, I had worked closely with the IT leaders who were working against a backdrop of too few resources, insufficient funding and too many problems to solve. Clearly, these individuals played, and continue to play, a critical role in their companies’ success. The Top Tech Exec Awards is our way of thanking you for the countless hours you devote to keeping your business operating efficiently and securely.

“Where Are They Now?” feature looking back at some of the winners from the very first year of Top Tech.

After reviewing these pages, I’m sure you’ll agree that San Diego is fortunate indeed when it comes to brilliant tech leadership. That’s worth celebrating, year after year.

As for the celebration itself, well, the honorees certainly earned their accolades, and that’s what this special publication is all about. It’s our honor to introduce you to the talented men and women who give San Diego one of the best IT scenes in the country. It’s no small task to stand out in this competition, so we congratulate all the winners and nominees.

I have been attending business-awards parties, dinners and galas for more than 30 years, but I’m not sure I ever experienced a better one than the May 11 Top Tech Exec Awards at Petco Park. Cox Business hosted a memorable ceremony that allowed the region’s IT community to mix business networking and celebrations of excellence with strolls across the expansive, perfect sod of Petco — where, on other days, San Diego Padres outfielders roam. Folks got to sit in the dugouts where big league ball players usually spit sunflower-seed shells, and they soaked up perfect late afternoon sunshine while sipping cocktails and craft brews, standing where infielders otherwise would be reacting to line drives drilled at their heads.

This was not your average party — and it was my personal privilege to participate as a media sponsor, though in fairness, I had no right to be on that stage. After all, I’m still in my first year in San Diego, and Top Tech was celebrating its 10th anniversary. A lot of folks have worked on this event honoring our local tech stars for years and years, including (to name just one example) my predecessor, Armon Mills, who remains as publisher emeritus at the San Diego Business Journal.

But Top Tech was really the brainchild of one Larry Coval, Cox Business vice president. He had the vision to start it, the drive to make it succeed, and the dedicated team to keep it growing every year for a full decade. Business events can be difficult to pull off well one time, much less twice or more. Concepts have their day in the sun, but many only last a few years. The special ones, however, become an institution in the best sense of the word. That’s what we witnessed out there on the field of Petco on May 11, and it was good to see Coval and his team enjoy what they beheld. They certainly earned it.

For the celebration itself, well, the honorees certainly earned their accolades, and that’s what this special publication is all about. It’s our honor to introduce you to the talented men and women who give San Diego one of the best IT scenes in the country. It’s no small task to stand out in this competition, so we congratulate all the winners and nominees.

Huntley Paton
President & Publisher
San Diego Business Journal
Douglas Palmer, Ph.D.
CTO
KnuEdge Inc.

Dr. Doug Palmer, chief technology officer at KnuEdge, loves the human brain. He has spent his career working with technology companies to build real-time communications systems, develop field-deployed first responder wireless medical devices and teach collegiate-level courses in engineering.

But it was the concept of creating artificial neural systems — computational networks loose based on the biological brain — that led Palmer to help launch one of the most groundbreaking technologies of the decade.

Palmer has been with KnuEdge since 2006, shaping the company over the past decade by playing a critical role. His goal was to build advanced neu-robotical inspired computing machinery that would perform nontraditional signal processing — a processor that could withstand the speeds and power required by today’s most technologically advanced machines: artificial intelligence, self-driving cars, etc.

On June 6, 2016, after leading the company through a 10-year stealth research and development period, Palmer helped launch KnuEdge’s “LambdaFabric” which enables super-scaling of computing of up to 512,000 processors, interconnected in an ultra-low-latency, high-throughput fabric. This allows for adaptable, massively parallel thinking compared with current market offerings.

Following the success of LambdaFabric’s launch, Palmer has continued to work closely with his teams to expand KnuEdge’s product offerings, tying together today’s leading edge voice recognition and authentication technologies with high-powered neural computing unmatched on the market. LambdaFabric’s introduction to the market was met with great success and to date has been implemented into technology solutions across a wide range of industries.

Palmer received his B.A. from the University of California San Diego’s Revelle College and his M.Phil. and Ph.D. in High Energy Physics from Yale University.

He holds more than a dozen U.S. patents and has founded or participated in the startup of many companies. He co-founded Path1 Network Technologies Inc. with UC San Diego professor Ron Fellman, which today is churning out specialized video-over-IP equipment for cable companies to deliver entertainment-on-demand.

A sailor in his free time, Palmer created a software sailing simulator for Dennis Conner in 1992. It accurately modeled all the forces and interactions between a sailboat and the wind and ocean.

Laura Spencer
Director of Educational Technology and Communications
Lakeside Union School District

Laura Spencer is committed to ensuring that technology is used as a tool to engage and educate students in authentic experiences. She has been the director of educational technology for the Lakeside Union School District for three years. Spencer oversees the implementation of technology-integrated instructional programs, professional development standards and the technical infrastructure. Her work has resulted in two Classroom of the Future Foundation school awards, an Innovative Educator Award from Classroom of the Future Foundation, and an Administrator of the Year award from the American Heart Association.

During her tenure as a classroom teacher, Spencer participated in Project LemonLink, a program focused on high-speed internet connectivity, equity, and 1:1 access to thin-client tablets so middle school students could have equitable access to quality digital instructional resources.

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Dr. Christopher Longhurst
CIO
UC San Diego Health

A professor in the Department of Pediatrics at UC San Diego School of Medicine, Dr. Christopher Longhurst trains medical students and residents and conducts original research focusing on the use of biomedical information to improve patient care.

As a practicing pediatrician specializing in the care of neonates, Dr. Longhurst is one of only a handful of CIOs nationwide who uses the IT services and operations that he oversees.

His unique perspective has been particularly valuable in 2016 with the opening of UC San Diego Health’s new 52-bed Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

He has championed a cultural shift at UC San Diego Health that emphasizes using IT to enhance the patient experience. For example, Jacobs Medical Center is the first hospital in California to equip every patient room with an iPad and Apple TV. By employing a combination of technologies not found at other California hospitals, he is positioning UC San Diego Health to be an industry leader in patient-facing IT innovations.

Matthew Brown
Director of Administrative Services
San Diego County Water Authority

The San Diego County Water Authority is a public agency that has been focused on progress and sustainability. Matthew Brown and his IT team have supported that endeavor in a challenging environment of severe drought and changing regulations.

Under his direction the IT team launched an IT Skills Training program. Most of the training was designed, developed, and taught in-house, resulting in an 800-percent increase in employee training. The effort of the IT team resulted in a more knowledgeable workforce of new and longtime employees.

The use of IT analytics for business decision making was greatly expanded. The agency continued to use open-source tools to build a number of data-intensive, powerful applications that help the Water Authority maintain more than 300 miles of pipeline and several thousand assets.

Brown also was a significant player in expanded partnering with other agencies. The IT team set up a grant portal that allowed grant agencies a streamlined approach to submitting compliance documentation.

Peter Battistel
VP of Technology
2-1-1 San Diego

2-1-1 San Diego’s Peter Battistel has been instrumental in helping the non-profit agency address the needs of San Diego’s most vulnerable populations. People often re-use social services, never escaping a state of crisis. To help ease this problem, Battistel is improving 2-1-1’s service by designing, developing and deploying new technology that serves as an intersection across providers.

This technology — 360° Community Coordination — is the first of its kind in the nation for any 2-1-1 service.

Battistel built this innovative program on the Salesforce platform and has overseen a team of its experts for full systems integration since early 2016. The service is scheduled to launch in July 2017 and it will allow for the creation of a single client record.

Additionally Battistel managed the technical build out of the new Connections Center that features seven meeting rooms and a town hall. This new space features an automated room reservation system with real-time digital panels, interconnected 90-inch TVs along with video and telephone conferencing systems.

David Gray
VP of Technology
DMV.org

David Gray demonstrates a rare combination of technical acumen, an innate sense for what makes sound business sense, and the leadership skills to bring execution to fruition. He leads an expansive team covering product development, creative design, software development, infrastructure, and analytics.

He also has the ability to perform each major role himself. Gray has spearheaded several technology initiatives that have made significant contributions to the company’s growth and profitability.

Gray provided valuable business insights by integrating several technologies with a data-centric approach. He led the company’s major relaunch of its search engine marketing program.

Gray also oversaw the company’s technical effort to capture, store, and leverage customer data for the purpose of creating a better user experience via segmentation. Additionally, he led the conception and execution of a self-help widget entitled “Sidekick” on the company’s website. He also led a major upgrade of the company’s enterprise revenue tracking tools and processes, which resulted in improved accuracy, stability, and scalability.

John Hall
Director of Global Infrastructure Services
Gemological Institute of America Inc.

John Hall in 2016 made vast contributions through his extensive expertise in team development, cloud transformation strategies, infrastructure program development, and vendor relationship management.

He led his team in conducting an internal audit and analysis of its existing and long term disaster recovery strategy. The analysis resulted in a technology plan with a balance in cost, agility, and a flexible infrastructure.

He implemented a Wi-Fi solution for GIA’s Carlsbad campus and led negotiations for a wide area network.

Hall also oversaw an evaluation of security. The review included contingency arrangements for technology resources and establishing a longterm strategy.

Additionally his team completed a consolidation of GIA’s existing Shortel PBX phone system. This allowed for easier management, scalability, and reduced IT resources month over month.

Brian Casazza
CIO
Vistage International

Brian Casazza has been a change agent for Vistage International, a 60-year-old company that has traditionally operated a high-touch, in-person business model. Through the application of technology, Casazza and his team are improving the member experience.

Under his leadership the company has developed “My Vistage,” a private social network utilized by its membership of more than 20,000 CEOs around the globe for private group collaboration, connection and networking. Vistage also has launched its first mobile applications.

Casazza has dramatically improved the company’s analytics capabilities by implementing Tableau. Vistage also developed speaker booking systems that have greatly improved the efficiency of staff, which was tasked with booking 8,000 speaking engagements a year through email and spreadsheets.

He has built an offshore development capability in Argentina over the past two years that has dramatically reduced development costs.

Casazza negotiated and developed a new model for field staff and chairs to leverage Salesforce software that has saved the company in excess of $500,000 annually.

He also has seen a team of its experts for full systems integration since early 2016. The service is scheduled to launch in July 2017 and it will allow for the creation of a single client record.

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Bob Millington
EVP, CIO
CUSO Financial Services LP

Bob Millington is that rare tech executive whose skills go beyond technical ability.

As chief information officer for CUSO Financial Services, his regular responsibilities typically comprise several major IT areas: planning overall IT strategy, expanding scale, ensuring information security, developing new IT products, and decreasing budgets and expenses. In 2016 those skills were put to the test as he outlined for an independent auditor all of CFS’ technology systems and safeguards.

He oversaw the successful completion of two audits. The successful completion allows CFS to prove the integrity of its financial services system and the security of sensitive data for clients.

Millington also planned and developed a new mobile product, MPV Mobile, which provides a secure way for clients to work remotely with their financial advisors on portfolio management.

Millington has undertaken several longer-term projects over the past two years, including the acquisition and integration of a software development company and the complete restructuring of the IT department.

Tim Bochard
VP of Information Systems
Glacier Water

As Vice President of Information Systems, Tim Bochard is charged with developing systems that enhance how Glacier Water communicates with its entire staff and the outside salesforce.

The enhancements that he implemented for a new data warehouse improve how data is collected and retrieved. Administrative tasks can be completed more quickly, sales are transmitted faster, and the data is more accessible.

This new application also allows for daily updates from the sales teams via mobile devices in regards to servicing of their 23,000 vendor machines across the U.S.

With the build out of a new data warehouse, Glacier is able to reduce the time it took to process data from two days to 10 minutes, as well as provide users the ability to export the data into an excel spreadsheet for quicker and easier viewing.

This system now provides for a faster approach to problem solving as well as a significant effort to connect with touch points in the field.

The conversion of customers to electronic billing information and allows Millington to sign up customers more efficiently.

Bill Zondler
CIO
Millennium Health

Bill Zondler has worked in the executive role of chief information officer for Millennium Health for more than two and a half years.

When Zondler joined the company, the pharmacogenetics lab was running what had become a risky, homegrown lab system. Through a cross-functional process he and his team realized the lab could run 80 percent of the processes nearly out of the box and focus the remaining 20 percent on the software development of the data analysis system for the genetics platform. The go-live implementation was flawless.

Through Zondler’s leadership in 2015, Millennium drove the conversion from paper-based lab order requisitions to electronic orders. This initiative was successful due to Zondler and his team developing an easy to use, customer facing portal called Millennium Connect as well as a significant effort to connect with the company’s practices through EMR/HL7 interfaces.

The conversion of customers to electronic ordering enables improved order and billing information and allows Millennium Health to sign up customers more efficiently.

Julie Hubbard
VP, Infrastructure Operations & Information Security
AMN Healthcare

Julie Hubbard brings many years of global technology leadership and expertise to her role, which has added value and scale to support the rapid growth of AMN Healthcare.

She has a bias toward action, decision-making and accountability. She has advanced IT’s strategic roadmaps and playbooks for information security, virtualization, service desk operations, acquisition integration, vendor and financial management.

Hubbard places great importance on team development, accountability, and performance. She has a keen eye for talent, partners, and resources to deliver on AMN’s operational and strategic business objectives.

She led 10 new company integrations, including due diligence, integration planning and execution, facility and moves along with operational support expansion.

She also has helped devise an information security roadmap that is continuously improving AMN’s infrastructure. She and her team have completed successful major upgrades and expansion of the company’s Cisco Network, WebEx, Telecomm Quality of Service, and Service Now platform.

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Bruce Carothers
V.P., Workforce Technology Solutions
AMN Healthcare

In the nine years since he was named a Top Tech Exec winner, Bruce Carothers has learned to savor the good things in life. While work remains very important, Carothers, 56, says he has come to see “just how precious time is, both personally and professionally.”

When he won a Top Tech award in 2008, Carothers was recognized for his work as senior vice president, chief technology officer, chief information officer and chief security officer of AMN Healthcare. Today he serves as the company’s senior vice president for workforce technology. He said one lesson the past nine years has taught him is to return more heavily on the people who surround him. “I don’t have to be the best at what I do. I just have to find the best people and get them to work together,” he said.

Helping Others

Carothers has had many opportunities to mentor others in the technology field. He recalls working with a man who owned a small web software company who wanted to raise venture capital. “We developed a good relationship, and I convinced him to focus instead on getting his customers to fund his growth,” Carothers recalled. “He was a brilliant guy but not really a go-to-market business leader. With input from me and others, he agreed soon after to hire a professional CEO. Once he did that, they doubled the revenue every year for three years and sold the company for a very nice sum.”

The executive used the money to pursue other personal and professional goals. Carothers said. “That was very satisfying.”

One thing that hasn’t changed over the years is Carothers’ passion for his work. “I discovered software development when I was still in high school,” he said. “That place I was working after school bought a DEC mini-computer, and I fell in love with programming. I still love working with technology and seeing how we can solve problems and create new solutions for our clients.”

Navigating Change

Carothers says his career has taken “a few interesting turns” over the past decade. “I worked at several venture funded startups before I joined AMN, and you have to do everything in those small companies, from commercial product development to direct sales to solutions, to learning how to make money,” he said. “All that prepared me in ways I didn’t expect when I joined AMN more than 15 years ago.”

Today he’s working with several early-stage companies that AMN has acquired in recent years. He helps them become more successful by understanding their challenges and the opportunities they have.

Steve Romeo
Executive Technologist, Commercial Business Solutions
Breg Inc.

Steve Romeo, an executive technologist for the Breg Inc. orthopedic device company in Carlsbad, said winning a Top Tech Exec Award in 2008 played a big part in shaping his career. “It dramatically influenced my experience,” said Romeo, 44. “Primarily, it introduced me to a new group of IT professionals.”

Romeo said the Top Tech program helped him learn the importance of fostering business relationships. “Without healthy business relationships you aren’t going to be successful,” he said. “I was more of a lone ranger early in my career. Those relationships have been instrumental in helping me work in San Diego.”

San Diego’s technological community is changing, he added. The medical device field is being shaped by new mobile technologies. “Mobile technology in health care is the hottest thing right now,” he said. “It’s accelerating, it’s growing, it’s expanding. The ability to integrate technology into health care is extremely important. As a technology thought leader, we have to constantly come up with new ideas and new ways of leveraging technology.”

New World

New developments are empowering people to conduct their lives over mobile devices, he said. “Our field as technologists used to be about big servers and networks,” Romeo said. “It used to be a different playground. Now it is focused on integrating mobile devices and sensors.”

Romeo said his love of technology goes back to his childhood. “When I was in grade school I had a knack for computers and was fascinated with technology,” he recalled. “I just knew how to use computers as a kid. Back then it was ancient technology. Tandy computers, the Commodore 64, they were my playground, my passion. I felt excited and comfortable about a career in technology.”

If he hadn’t chosen his present career, Romeo might have become a park ranger. “I have only ever known technology, but I wanted to be a park ranger when I was a kid,” he said.

Mentoring Students

As an adult, he has looked for ways to give something back to the community and help others become successful in technological fields.

Romeo is a mentor in the California State University San Marcos Management Information Systems program. It helps students understand how the business world works, he said. It also helps them decide what jobs they would like to pursue after graduation.

“Most what I feel most proud of is helping other people build their careers in this field,” he said.

Romeo tells students that in addition to learning about science, they need to learn how to network with other professionals. “The key in this profession, to building and developing a career, is to network with other people in the industry. Get to know the people in your field. Get to know the companies in San Diego.

Stephen Coggleshall
Chief Analytics and Science Officer
ID Analytics

The world of risk management has gone through many changes since Stephen Coggleshall won a Top Tech Award in 2008.

“The pace of change around Big Data analytics has been swift,” said Coggleshall, who serves as chief analytics and science officer at ID Analytics and LifeLock. “What I see is a convergence of risk management and anything that has an an electronic device with a danger of malware and viruses. It all becomes a seamless protection of your digital lives.”

Coggleshall, 60, manages teams that solve complex problems, but he started off in a much different direction. He began his career at the Los Alamos National Laboratory and spent 11 years working in laser fusion and applied Lie group theory.

A New Passion

He changed fields because he was excited about the practicality of internet applications.

When Coggleshall mentors young people today, he tells them to hone their mathematics and computer programming skills if they want to have a career in technology.

Coggleshall has had a distinguished career. He won a 1996 Distinguished Performance Award from Los Alamos National Laboratory and an IRS fraud detection project and a 1999 Entrepreneur of the Year Award for co-founding the company CASA.

The scientist said the most important thing that he has learned since winning the 2008 Top Tech award is to stay on top of developments within emerging technologies. To do so, it’s important to be able to “sift through the hype and the substantive.”

He doesn’t spend all of his time as an entrepreneur and a manager of scientists, however. Since his 20s, he has pursued a second career as a music conductor. He conducts both choirs and orchestras. He currently directs the St. Thérèse of Carmel Catholic Church Choir.

A New Direction

When he retires from his current job this year, he plans to teach. He currently teaches fraud analytics programs at the University of Southern California and the University of California San Diego. He also enjoys mentoring young scientists through their career development.

He said his greatest achievement was helping his children prepare for their careers.

One thing Coggleshall wishes he had done differently was study business earlier in life. As a student he didn’t enjoy the subject.

“I’ve come full circle from hating business to really enjoying creating businesses and developing data scientists to work in business.” he said.
David Delacalzada’s passion these days is information technology, but his head literally was in the clouds when he began searching for a career path.

Delacalzada, 56, attended the United States Air Force Academy for two years with the goal of becoming a pilot. The problem that forced him to rethink his plan was poor eyesight. He couldn’t see well enough to meet the Air Force’s standards. He knew it was time for a new direction, so he fell back on other passions: mathematics and programming.

“I changed my major from engineering to math and computer science,” he recalled. “I finished school at the University of San Diego.”

In 2008 he was recognized with a Top Tech award for developing a technology culture that had flourished at North Island Credit Union.

As part of a senior executive team there, he was responsible for implementing information and technology initiatives. Today he serves as director of information technology and enterprise architecture at the Sweetwater Union High School District.

Whatever job he holds, Delacalzada says he applies the same best practices he always has used.

“The devices change but best practices are consistent,” he said.

**Desire to Learn**

In the years since he won a Top Tech award, Delacalzada says he has come to understand that it’s important to never stop learning.

“There is always something to learn in technology,” he said. “No one ever knows it all.”

One of his greatest career learning experiences came in 1996 when he worked for Time Warner Communications.

“I worked with the Japanese in deploying the first high-speed cable modem product in San Diego,” he said. “That was a fun project. That was the first time I saw the Windows operating system in a boardroom.

**Paternal Guidance**

Delacalzada says the most influential person in his life has been his 90-year-old father, Lucio Delacalzada.

“My father is a great man,” he said. “He was a SEAL in the Navy for 23 years. He was fortunate to have gone through several wars and survived them. I really get my tenacity, my persistence from my father. He is soft-spoken yet strong willed. I am proud to have acquired some of his characteristics,” he said.

One of Delacalzada’s goals in his role at the Sweetwater district is to make sure that all students have equal access to technology.

“We have the second-largest secondary school in the state of California,” he said. “A number of our students are less affluent and a number of them don’t have access to technology resources.”

Delacalzada said he never has lost his enthusiasm for computer programming.

**Looking for Opportunities**

He said he chose a career in technology and marketing because it offered a challenge and an opportunity to grow. If he had chosen another profession, he says it would have been architecture.

McKusick likes the idea of designing things that are both practical and aesthetically pleasing. He said one of the most memorable people he ever met was late San Diego architect Graham Downes, who is known for revitalizing neglected urban areas.

Asked for advice on how to succeed in a technological field, McKusick tells people to “just keep working.” A big part of success is just showing up for work, he holds.

“The people who show up the most have the most luck,” he said. “The people who are there day in and day out, working hard, usually are the most successful. I haven’t met anyone who is successful who doesn’t put in 110 percent.”

The most important lesson McKusick has learned in the past 10 years is the importance of family.

“I think the biggest thing for me is having a family now, having kids,” he said.

Becoming a parent has changed his perspective, helping him to focus on the things that matter most.

“When I was younger, I definitely was more competitive,” he said.

**Time for Hobbies**

When McKusick isn’t working or parenting, he pursues several hobbies.

“Surfing is a big hobby of mine, being in the ocean,” he said. “I also like to collect random things. I’m a collector of things that have a history, like historic coins.”

McKusick said he is pleased with the way his career has turned out. Looking ahead, he said he sees himself continuing along the same path.

“As long as I still am working and healthy, I will be real happy.”
2008

Marco Thompson
Express Ventures, Wind River
Lifetime Achievement Honoree

Chris Baker
San Diego Gas & Electric

Bruce Carothers
AMN Healthcare

John Cloyd
Vantage International Inc.

Stephen Coughghal
ID Analytics

David Delacalzada
North County Credit Union

Tom Fisher
DriveCam Inc.

Dr. Eileen Heveron
National University

John McKusick
Geya Interactive

Denny Morgan
Remec Defense

Steve Romeo
Ireg Inc.

Glen Umetsu
Leap Wireless International

Gary Wang
SPAWAR Systems Center, San Diego

2009

Norm Fjeldheim
Qualcomm Inc.
Lifeline Achievement Honoree

Elliott Allen
SAGE

cox Business Exemplary Honoree

Edward Babakanian
UC San Diego Medical Center
Nonprofit Small Honoree

Rich Coppa
The Arc of San Diego
Nonprofit Large Honoree

John Merritt
YMCA of San Diego County
Nonprofit Large Honoree

Paul Redfield
Bay City Television
Public Small Honoree

Gerald Ellison
ESET

Public Medium Honororee

Dana Di Ferdinando
Arena Pharmaceuticals
Public Large Honoree

Jim Haskin
Websense Inc.

Public Large Honoree

David Gray
OnlineGURU Inc.

Private Small Honoree

Erik Quade
Technology Integration Group

Private Large Honoree

Celeste Schwartz
Superior Court of California, San Diego

Government Honoree

Christopher Wessells
University of San Diego Education Honoree

2010

Ronald Broersma
SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific
Lifeline Achievement Honoree

Angela Miller
North County Transit District

cox Business Exemplary Honoree

George Beha
San Ysidro Health Center
Nonprofit Honoree

Heather Mosher
San Diego County Credit Union

Business Nonprofit Honoree

Mark Zecca, Ph.D.
Mitchell

Public Small Honoree

Debra Jensen
Jack in the Box Inc.

Public Large Honoree

Jeremy Crawford
Sandice Inc.

Private Small Honoree

Richard Sears
American Internet Services

Private Medium Honoree

Kevin Harris
ICW Group Insurance Companies

Private Large Honoree

Captain Mark Kohlheim
SSC Pacific

Government Honoree

Robert Gravina
Poway Unified School District

Education Honoree

2011

William Spooner
Sharp HealthCare
Lifeline Achievement Honoree

James Cooper
Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Private Medium Honoree

Joni Merritt
YMCA of San Diego County

Nonprofit Large Honoree

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Steve Beal
Covario

Private Small Honoree

Eric Logie
Alexandro Hospital

Private Medium Honoree

Kelly Gunning
BAE Systems

Private Large Honoree

W. Harold Tuck, MBA

MPH

County of San Diego

Government Honoree

Tad Reyna
ESDS, Calit2

Education Small Honoree

Darryl LaGace
San Diego Unified School District

Education Large Honoree

2012

Brian K. Baker
Qualcomm Inc

Lifeline Achievement Honoree

Jessie Daly
ISIS Pharmaceuticals

Cox Business Exemplary Honoree

Scott Gnaau
Teradata Corp.

Corporate Award Honoree

Richard Coppa
The Arc of San Diego

Charitable Organization Honoree

Heather Mosher
San Diego County Credit Union

Nonprofit Honoree

Chuck Phillips
Digitaria

Public Small Honoree

Mark Zecca, Ph.D.
Nuvasive

Public Large Honoree

Gregory Magaril
Ceatus Media Group

Private Small Honoree

Christopher Staszak
Semantic Research Inc.

Private Medium Honoree

Ram Patrachari
Vegas Enterprises

Private Large Honoree

Gary Devan
Mission Federal Credit Union

Private Honoree

2013

Anwar Abbas
North County Health Services

Lifetime Achievement Honoree

Guillermo Perez
U-T San Diego

Cox Business Exemplary Honoree

Marty Larkin
San Diego Humane Society

Nonprofit Small Honoree

Paul Peabody
Palomar Health

Nonprofit Large Honoree

Gary Holden
Vical

Public Small Honoree

Steve Philpott
Ampyr Pharmaceuticals LLC

Public Large Honoree

Kurt Cumming
Global Village Concerns

Government Honoree

Art Kahn
American Specialty Health

Private Large Honoree

Tom Kennedy
Okenham Water District

Government Honoree

Steve Clemens
San Diego County Office of Education

Education Honoree

2014

W. Harold Tuck, MBA

MPH

County of San Diego

(Retired)

Lifeline Achievement Honoree

Gary Devan
Mission Federal Credit Union

Private Large Honoree

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Navy Region Southwest

Government Honoree

Emily Deere
University of California, San Diego

Education Honoree (tie)

Charlotte Klock
University of California, San Diego

Education Honoree (tie)

Robert Burgett
The Elizabeth Hospice

Nonprofit Honoree

Nimer Saikaly
Episcopal Community Services

Charitable Organization Honoree

Noel Dembitz
Ampheni Pharmaceuticals, an AstraZeneca Co

Public Honoree

Christopher Petersen
Kodiak Systems

Private Small Honoree

Jason Janosky
Superior Mobile Medics Inc.

Private Medium Honoree (tie)

Andy Blocksidge
Jazzercise

Private Medium Honoree (tie)

Ab Euguerra
Dudek

Private Large Honoree

Doug Cyphers
Welk Resorts

Private Mega Honoree (tie)

John Ruiz
Karl Strauss Brewing Co

Private Mega Honoree (tie)

Noel “Chuck” Stevens
United States Marine Corps - Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego

Government Honoree

Robert Jensen
San Diego Christian College

Education Honoree

2015

Mike Zill
Becton Dickinson

Lifeline Achievement Honoree

Prudence August
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Cox Business Exemplary Honoree

Joe Gursky
USS Midwest Museum

Nonprofit Small Honoree

Sal Saldivar
La Mesa Community Health Centers

Nonprofit Large Honoree

David Henderson
Sequonim Inc

Public Small Honoree

Jeannette Sanchez
AMN Healthcare

Public Large Honoree

Robert Swisher
Business.com

Private Micro Honoree

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Private Small Honoree

Brian Kelly
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Private Medium Honoree

Terry Orletsky
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Government Honoree

Frank Paredes
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2016

Steve Hart
ViaSat Inc

Lifeline Achievement Honoree

Linda Scott
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Cox Business Exemplary Honoree

Gary Nimtz
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Nonprofit Small Honoree

Andres Gutierrez
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Nonprofit Large Honoree

Kenneth Lanwood
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Public Small Honoree

Philippe Marchand, Ph.D.
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Now with Samumed LLC

Public Large Honoree

Mark Caldwell
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Private Micro Honoree

Marc Romano
Seismic Software Inc.

Private Small Honoree

Peter Hisong
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Private Medium Honoree

Brian Alexander
ARS National Services Inc.

Private Large Honoree

Brian Andrews
Stone Brewing Co

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Brian Croom
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Government Honoree

David Delacalzada
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Education Honoree

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Penco Animal Supplies

John Merritt
Senior Vice President & Chief Information Officer
YMCA of San Diego County

John Merritt has served the YMCA of San Diego County for the past 20 years and has been a technology professional for more than 25 years. Merritt also served in the United States Marine Corps, traveling extensively in Asia and the Middle East while managing and supporting satellite communications systems. In his role of CIO, he is responsible for tactical and strategic technology operations.

Heather Moshier
Executive Vice President of Information Technology
San Diego County Credit Union

Heather Moshier serves as the executive vice president of information technology for the $6 billion San Diego County Credit Union. Moshier’s 20-year tenure of information technology leadership has given SDCCU an outstanding market presence in innovation. Moshier received the 2010 IT Executive of the Year Award given by the San Diego Business Journal, the 2011 Credit Union Times Trailblazer Award – IT Executive of the Year, and was an honoree in the 2012 Top Tech Exec in the Nonprofit Company category.

Steve Romeo
Executive Technologist, Commercial Business Solutions
BREG Inc.

Steve Romeo’s experience ranges from internal technology leadership to commercializing innovative systems. He has been recognized as one of the first Oracle ACE directors, a San Diego Technology Executive of the Year, a ComputerWorld Premier 100 IT Leader, and a CIO 100 award winner. As an author, he published his first technology book in 2010 on technology leadership. He also contributes to the board of directors for the Cal State San Marcos MIS department.

Harold Tuck, MBA MPH
County of San Diego (Retired)

A Top Tech Exec Honoree in the Government category and the 2014 Top Tech Lifetime Achievement Honoree, Harold Tuck’s contributions to IT are numerous and significant. Credited with establishing what is believed to be the first Innovation Council in local government comprised of private sector executives and government employees, his 27-year career with the County of San Diego culminated with his role as the chief information officer, responsible for providing services to 17,000 County employees at more than 200 facilities.