We often think of “disruption” in the context of “interruption”, which has a negative connotation. Yet, disruptive forces can also spell opportunity, addressing repressed or emerging demands ignored by other providers within that industry.

In a marketplace evolving rapidly on many fronts, incumbents often focus on improving products and services for their most demanding (and perhaps most profitable) customers. While that mean exceeding needs in some segments, it can also mean simultaneously ignoring needs in others, ones that could turn out to be just as successful.

It is important to choose your battles wisely. Treating every fire as dangerous because someone calls it “disruptive” may lead you to discovering it is not possible to put them all out, wasting resources in the interim.

At the same time, you must also pay attention to any underlying “smoldering embers” within processes or customers you have come to rely heavily upon – perhaps even taking for granted. Left unmanaged, these embers can grow into bigger fires that threaten you and your business foundation.

Understanding the full context of “disruption” will help you target true threats and opportunities. The innovations we set out to create will be measured by how well anticipate, prepare and respond to the challenges and consequences of each “disruption” that we face.

This critical discussion should not be missed. Please join us in our fourth session within our 2021 series, where in our virtual format you will hear first-hand lessons-learned from top-tier leaders who have been successful in their revolutionary and disruptive journeys.

The “Digital Solutions Gallery™” series is a nationally acclaimed ongoing forum where senior leaders and their business peers come together in a comfortable setting to share their experiences and insights, as well as collectively and collaboratively attack common issues. Throughout 2021, this series will be conducting a ten-session series of informative programs on the theme of “Gateway To 2025”, wherein participants will gain a better appreciation of not only what is coming, but also a better appreciation of just how its associated value might be captured.

There is no cost to invited senior leaders. Sponsoring opportunities are available for invited technology product and service providers.

**Agenda:**

10:00am Opening Introduction

Mr. Bruce Barnes  
Program Co-Founder  
The Ohio State University  
and Co-Host For The Session
10:10 am Opening Presentation

Mr. Thornton May
*Internationally Acclaimed IT Futurist*
*Co-Host For The Session*

Thornton May is a futurist, educator and noted author. He is the Co-Founder of the Digital Solutions Gallery, as well as the Founder of the Digital Value Institute.

His extensive experience researching and consulting on the role and behaviors of “C” level executives in creating value with information technology has won him an unquestioned place on the short list of serious thinkers on this topic.

Thornton combines a scholar’s patience for empirical research, a stand-up comic’s capacity for pattern recognition and a second-to-none gift for storytelling to address the information technology management problems facing executives.

The editors at eWeek honored Thornton, including him on their list of Top “100 Most Influential People in IT”. The editors at Fast Company labeled him ‘one of the top 50 brains in business.

10:30am Keynote Presentations

Mr. John Barker
*President and CEO*
*The Ohio Restaurant Association*

For over five years John has served as President and CEO of Ohio’s premier business trade association in support of restaurant, foodservice and hospitality leaders, operators and professionals. For now over 100 years, his organization provides consulting expertise, as well as a growing list of products, services and thought leadership opportunities for members who operate at all levels in an industry with 23,500+ Ohio locations employing 585,000+ people and generating over $24B in sales and tax revenue for the state.

Prior to his current role, for nearly two decades John was a senior corporate officer within the Wendy’s organization, serving over time as the as SVP of Corporate Affairs, the company’s Chief Communications Officer, as well as its VP of Investor Relations.

In addition to now serving on multiple Boards of Trustees, John is an adjunct professor at The Ohio State University, where he also obtained his MBA.
Mr. Charles W. Ash, Esq.

*Chief Information Officer*

*The Ohio Department of Transportation*

Mr. Ash is visionary technology executive with over two decades of industry experience, known for consistently delivering new ways to resolve issues and get the most out of technological solutions and personnel.

In his role as Chief Information Officer for the Ohio Department of Transportation, an agency founded over 100 years ago and charged with developing and maintaining all state/federal roadways (with exception of the Ohio Turnpike) with annual revenues of $2.8 billion, he has full accountability for serving more than 5,000 users across facilities in 88 counties. For the past decade, Mr. Ash has been successfully driving technological advancement not only within this large agency, but also across all state agencies through his active role as a part of the Ohio CIO’s leadership cabinet.

Prior to his current state agency role, Mr. Ash served as the Chief Information Officer for the City of Delaware (OH).

As a licensed attorney, Mr. Ash also previously founded an Information Technology (IT) software development and consulting firm for non-profit and governmental organizations, with a legal practice specializing in computer, intellectual property, and commercial law.

Ms. Jodie Bare

*Chief Innovation Officer*

*Columbus (OH) Regional Airport Authority*

Ms. Bare is charged with leading the active digital transformation for Columbus (OH) Regional Airport Authority (CRAA) and driving leading the active digital transformation for Columbus (OH) Regional Airport Authority (CRAA) and driving innovation throughout the organization. She is tasked with breaking norms and pushing the current boundaries regarding how CRAA does its work and serves its passengers. In accordance with that Ms. Bare leads CRAA’s technology initiatives related to improved enterprise solution creation and leveraging data to drive results.

Prior to her current role, Ms. Bare served as the Director of Data & Innovation for the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, and also as the Deputy Program Manager for Technology for the City of Columbus (OH) award-winning Smart City Initiative.

Preceding those roles, Ms. Bare has also served in such roles as Chief Operating Officer, VP of Operations and Planning, and VP of Marketing and Customer Support for various companies in the high tech industry.
11:20am  Session Summary of Key Points/Action Items/Next Steps

Mr. Dave Cherry
*Program Co-Producer*
*The Ohio State University*
*And Co-Host For The Session*

11:30am  Adjournment