As evolving political, economic, societal, and technological factors continue to affect all industry sectors, the associated workforce skills required within those sectors is evolving as well. In addition to current disruptions from pandemic-induced lockdowns and economic contraction, the advancing company adoption of new technological capabilities is also actively working to transform tasks, jobs and skills.

The most recent Future Of Jobs Report, published by the World Economic Forum, estimated that a whopping 40% of workforce core skills will have changed by 2025. It further predicted that by 2025, the time spent on current “at work” tasks performed by humans and machines will be equal.

The delivery of new technologies always creates new jobs. Yet from the dawn of time, while every innovation may have eliminated one job, but it also created a few more — people just needed the right skills to take advantage of that opportunity. This continues to be the case today, and this is why up-skilling initiatives are gaining significant importance concerning the future of organizational viability.

Understanding the full context of “disruption” will help you target both 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 fifth 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. Gary Erickson
*Founder*
*Executive Search Partners*

Mr. Erickson is the Founder of Executive Search Partners (Southfield MI), which has been recognized by Forbes as a Top 100 Recruiting Firm in North America.

Subsequent to his current role, Mr. Erickson was the co-founder and Chief Operating Officer for the Great Lakes Technology Group, where he was responsible for all aspects of GLTG’s operation.

Mr. Erickson’s career has deep roots in the technology arena. Prior to those previous endeavors, Mr. Erickson was the Chief Information Officer for R. L. Polk & Company, a provider of business and marketing information to the automotive industry, insurance companies, and related businesses. While in that position, Mr. Erickson led an IT organization of 1,200 people with an operating budget of $65MM.

Mr. Erickson held prior IT roles at Vickers Engineering, Hoover Universal and the Ford Motor Company.

Mr. Erickson holds multiple degrees from Dartmouth University in Computer Science and Computer Engineering, as well as Masters degrees from both Dartmouth and the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan.
Mr. Alberto Ruocco  
*Chief Information Officer*  
*West Monroe Partners*

Mr. Ruocco is a top tier IT leader who has been a highly recognized visionary executive on the national scene for many years.

He is currently the Chief Information Officer for West Monroe Partners, a national management and technology consulting firm headquartered in Chicago, where he oversees all facets of the firm’s IT operations. Prior to his current role at West Monroe, he also served as a Senior Executive Partner at Gartner.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Ruocco was the Vice President and Chief Information Officer at American Electric Power, a leading U.S. electric utility provider, where he served in that capacity for six years.

Mr. Ruocco also had a prior Chief Information Officer role for Kerry Americas, a $1.4B subsidiary of Kerry Group plc, a $5.5B international food ingredients enterprise.

His prior consultive roles in a CIO advisory capacity have been with Deloitte Consulting and The Revere Group.

He is a graduate of Yale University, and hold a Masters degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Mr. Michael Hughes  
*Managing Director and Operations Excellence Practice Lead*  
*West Monroe Partners*

Mr. Hughes has nearly 30 years of solid overall experience in the senior level consulting arena, having spent the past seven years at West Monroe.

Prior to his current role, he held a Senior Vice President position at NTT Data Americas (subsequently acquired by The Revere Group) for nearly seventeen years. He has also served as a Senior Change Management Consultant for Accenture.

During his tenure at West Monroe, Michael played a pivotal role in the creation of the very comprehensive report, *The Upskilling Crisis*, whose findings will be shred in this session.

Michael has multiple degrees from Northern Illinois University (NIU), and he has served in faculty positions at both NIU and Elmhurst College.
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