

# Damian Clarke, Ph.D.

## Senior IT Expert & Chief Information Officer

Executive Business and Technology Leader, innovative and commercially-astute, with diverse experience across FT 500, B2B, B2C, higher education, and non-profit sectors.

Pioneers strategic and transformational initiatives, driving process improvement and technology solutions for customer and user focused IT-enabled change programs. Certified Prosci Change Management Practitioner, able to pragmatically apply best practice methods, frameworks, and tools. Highly adept at driving change and people management projects, aligning employees, processes, and systems with vision and stakeholder needs. Champions integration of new technologies, early adopter of cloud-based, machine learning, AI, DevOps, and automated solutions. Facilitates communication at all levels, optimizing working practices by creating inclusive programs and ensuring staff and client collaboration. Successful track record of analyzing data and compiling complex reports, with expert knowledge of developing grant proposals.

## Areas of Expertise

- Business Development & Business Transformation
- Budget Management & Financial Control, P&L
- IT Operations Management & IT Service Delivery
- Regulatory Compliance & KPI Determination
- Customer Relationship Management (CRM)
- Grant Writing, Data Analytics & Document Specifications
- Stakeholder Management & 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Engagement
- Business Analysis, Business Continuity, Risk Management
- Cloud-Enabled Solutions, New Application Development
- Communication, Inclusion, and Access Initiatives
- Network Security, Mobile, and IoT Technologies
- Data Center Migrations, Helpdesk Management, PaaS
- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) & Implementation
- Cross-Functional Team Leadership & Management

## Accomplishments

- Achieved \$250k+ savings proceeding re-architecture of all existing data center, wireline, and wireless networks.
- Embedded agile methodologies to support implementation of single-integrated collaboration tool, subsequently acting as basis for unified, university-wide business function hub.
- Contributed to development of numerous grant proposals and reports for foundations, corporations, and government agencies, attaining funding from National Science Foundation (NSF) and Microsoft.

## Career Experience

Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, AL

2018 – Present

Chief Information Officer (CIO)

Spearheading coordination of senior IT professionals, overseeing optimization of IT infrastructure. Devising and developing comprehensive roadmap promoting business continuity, improvements in operational proficiency, cost reductions, and revenue generation. Driving enhancement of communication systems, adopting innovative technologies to enable implementation of internal reporting, video conferencing, telecommunications, and various ERP/CRM applications. Evaluating and deploying organization-wide business and security structure, mitigating potential risks and confirming compliance with Group, state, and national regulatory requirements. Endorsing continuous provision of educational and professional development opportunities, hosting and attending workshops, reviewing relevant publications, establishing wider networks and societies, and incorporating pioneering business practices. Acting as educational leader and dissertation committee member during delivery of computer science graduate courses and thesis development sessions.

- Improved uptime and efficiency of operational infrastructure by implementing 100GB single-mode fiber optic backbone and deploying hybridized expanded bandwidth network and HCI data center solution.

- Eliminated recurring technology failures impacting overall system downtime, resolving connectivity bottlenecks, archiving redundant ISPs, and organizing installation of fiber optics and copper cables across all applicable sites.
- Managed effective introduction of shared services and monetization of platform (PaaS), architecting design of new hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) with cloud back-up and disaster recovery capabilities.
- Ensured delivery and integration of networking, data center, O365, disaster recovery, and IT help desk applications.

**South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC**

**2006 – 2018**

Chief Information Officer (CIO)

2016 – 2018

Architected complete redesign of under-funded IT environment, decommissioning unnecessary hardware equipment and software to streamline infrastructure and enable business growth. Spearheaded comprehensive staff development and communication initiative, restructuring information technology staff processes, mentoring employees, and developing performance metrics. Oversaw definition and delivery of key financial and budgetary controls, forecasting requirements, preparing annual budget, arranging expenditures, assessing variances, and escalating issues when required. Drove enforcement of regulatory and policy compliance across information technology function, ensuring alignment with strategic and business objectives.

- Enhanced uptime of operational infrastructure, analyzing systems to identify recurrent issues affecting downtime.
- Devised and implemented measures to preserve core assets, identifying trends informing development of disaster recovery and backup procedures for information security and control structures.

Computer Science Faculty Member (*Various Roles*)

2006 – 2016

Developed and evaluated multi-faceted and cross-functional student engagement initiatives, utilizing innovative educational tools to support design of college-level computer science courses. Oversaw structuring and delivery of full course syllabi, aligning with wider College policies, and subsequently undertaking grading of numerous examinations and research projects. Managed and completed key administrative duties, including maintaining accurate records of student grades and attendance. Provided exceptional guidance to students to enable optimization of learning experience and entry into competitive global marketplace post-graduation.

- Created pioneering Game Programming course, ensuring compliance with prescribed curriculum of Mathematics and Computer Science department.
- Successfully devised various research grants, enabling growth and visibility of computer science research programs.
- Acted as departmental and college committee member, serving as academic mentor for computer science students.

## Additional Experience

Aon Hewitt, DevOp Analyst, Norwalk, CT

2001 – 2004

## Education

**Ph.D., Computer Science**

The University of Miami, Miami FL, 2015

**MS, Computer Science**

George Washington University, District of Columbia, 2005

**BS, Mathematics & Computer Science**

South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC, 2000

## Certifications

Prosci, Change Management Practitioner Certification, 2019

Graduate Courses, University of Notre Dame, IN

## Affiliations

Minority Serving Cyber-Infrastructure Consortium (MS-CC), Co-Founder, 2016 – Present

American Connection Project Broadband Coalition, Member, 2020 - Present

Alabama Higher Education CIO Council, Chair, 2019 – 2021

NSF-Funded National Trusted Cyberinfrastructure Advisory Committee, Member, 2020 - Present

Alabama A&M University, Accreditation Committee, Member, 2018 - present

Alabama A&M University, Information Technology Advisory Committee, Founder, 2018 - present

Alabama A&M University, Emergency Preparedness Committee, Member, 2018 - present

Alabama A&M University, Game Management Day Committee, Member, 2018 - present