MINNESOTA'S™

tekNe 2021

AWARDS

MINNESOTA'S ™ 2021 tekne AWARDS

WELCOME TO THE 2021 TEKNE AWARDS!

We are thrilled you have joined us as we honor and celebrate the people and companies driving technology innovation in the State of Minnesota. The Minnesota Technology Association is proud to present the 24th annual Tekne Awards as we shine a light on the new and exciting ways technology developed by Minnesota companies is reshaping our community and the world.

Whether you're part of a team up for a Tekne Award or attending to support and honor their achievements, it takes all of us pulling together to build the more robust, vibrant, and inclusive tech ecosystem to which we aspire, and MnTech is proud to be your partner in this important work. In closing, I want to thank our event sponsors, judges, and all who nominated companies for award consideration this year. We are grateful for your dedicated service and generous support.

Congratulations again to all 2021 Tekne Award finalists and enjoy today's program!

IN PARTNERSHIP,

JEFF TOLLEFSON
President & CEO

EVENT AGENDA

VIRTUAL ARRIVAL	PRE-SHOW	3:45 PM

#TekneAwards | LinkedIn | Instagram | Facebook | Twitter

WELCOME	4:00 PM

JEFF TOLLEFSON, MnTech
JADE DENSON, MnTech

BUSINESS ENABLEMENT THRU TECHNOLOGY	4:05 PM

INTRODUCTION | Jade Denson, MnTech

AI & MACHINE LEARNING

PRESENTER | Rakhi Purohit, Thomson Reuters
FINALISTS | Certifi, Digital River, Itasca Consulting Group

DATA ANALYTICS

PRESENTER | Jake Krings, Target Corporation
FINALISTS | Calabrio, Minnesota IT Services, Seagate Technology

DATA SECURITY

PRESENTER | Sarah Engstrom, CHS Inc.
FINALISTS | Arctic Wolf, ProcessBolt, RedTeam Security

DIGITAL MARKETING

PRESENTER | Amy Fisher, Padilla
FINALISTS | Avtex, The Stable, Tunheim Partners

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

PRESENTER | Wolfgang Lewis, Comcast Business
FINALISTS | INGCO International, Minnesota Department of Transportation, WSB, Xcel Energy

EVENT AGENDA

EDGE COMPUTING & IOT

PRESENTER | Cy Morton, Robins Kaplan
FINALISTS | EMC, Lab651

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT   4:25 PM

PRESENTER | Jeff Tollefson, MnTech
RECIPIENT | Joy Lindsay, StarTec Investments

2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS   4:30 PM

PRESENTER | Anne Coffey, Entegris
RECIPIENTS | See inside

INNOVATION IN MINNESOTA'S LEADING INDUSTRIES   4:35 PM

INTRODUCTION | Sridhar Koneru, Winnebago Industries

FINANCIAL SERVICES TECHNOLOGY

PRESENTER | Ritu Sharma, Securian Financial Group
FINALISTS | GenEQTY, Silicon Prairie Portal & Exchange,
SPARK, Total Expert

HEALTHCARE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

PRESENTER | Julie Durham, UnitedHealthcare
FINALISTS | Flywheel, Prime Therapeutics

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY & DEVICES

PRESENTER | Cris Ross, Mayo Clinic
FINALISTS | Fistula Solution Corporation, Minnetronix Medical, VivaQuant

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES

PRESENTER | Robin Brown, Cargill
FINALISTS | Nucleic Sensing Systems, Renew Power Systems, University of
Minnesota - Solar Vehicle Project

EVENT AGENDA

RISING STAR AWARD   4:45 PM

PRESENTER | Jackie Spiess, MnTech
RECIPIENTS | Revealed on November 17

PUBLIC SERVICE HONOREES   4:50 PM

PRESENTER | Douglas Carnival, McGrann Shea Carnival Straughn &
Lamb, Chartered
RECIPIENTS | See inside

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT   4:55 PM

PRESENTER | Jeff Tollefson, MnTech
RECIPIENT | Mike McNamara, Target Corporation

VIBRANT TECH ECOSYSTEM   5:00 PM

INTRODUCTION | Jade Denson, MnTech

TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

PRESENTER | Ahmed Maaraba & Team, Digineer
FINALISTS | HGA & Kindeva, Large Venue Tech Collective, University of
Minnesota & Launch Minnesota

TECH TALENT

PRESENTER | Demetrus Hayes, AT&T
FINALISTS | Black Tech Talent, Minnesota Computers for Schools, Science
from Scientists

TECH FOR GOOD

PRESENTER | Rebecca Martin, Total Expert
FINALISTS | NCXT, Ramsey County, Spark-Y: Youth Action Labs, Target
Corporation

TEKNE AWARDS ENCORE   5:15 PM

2021 TEKNE CELEBRATION CONCLUDES   5:20 PM

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(Target)   **TWIN CITIES BUSINESS**

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HOW WELL GETS DONE

HIGH TECH,
HOME GROWN.

The 2021 Tekne Award finalists inspire us with innovative technologies that improve the future and lifestyles of people in Minnesota and world wide. Thomson Reuters salutes the finalists and thanks the Minnesota High Tech Association for illuminating their achievements.

Learn more at **tr.com**
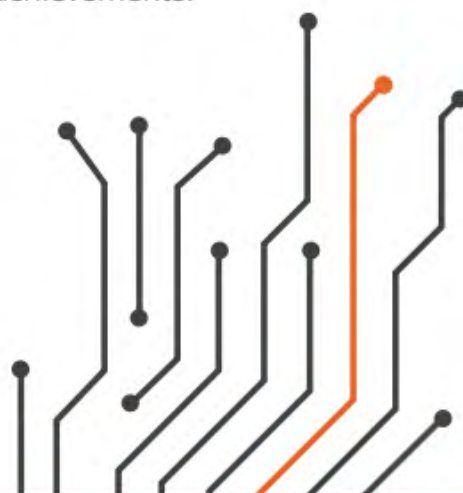
THOMSON REUTERS®

AI & MACHINE LEARNING FINALISTS

BUSINESS ENABLEMENT THRU TECHNOLOGY

Certifi
achieve perfect balance™

Certifi is an InsurTech company focused on software and services for benefit financials. William™, Certifi's SaaS platform, automates benefits billing and payments to improve accuracy and efficiency in complex, multi-product, multi-supplier financial transactions. William™'s unique design, called, Perfect Balance™, eliminates errors and rework. Perfect Balance™ couples transaction sets to deliver an accounting-style structure. Those transaction sets – receivables and payables – stay open until all expected items on both sides of a billing transaction occur. Automated adjustments happen on both sides of the transaction, improving accuracy and limiting manual reconciliation.

To date, Certifi has processed more than $5 billion in premiums. managed more than 3400 unique plan types and connected to more than 200 carriers.

Digital River®

Digital River simplifies global commerce expansion to help companies of all sizes grow their revenue. Its flexible APIs combine payments, tax, fraud, and compliance into a single integrated solution, empowering brands to sell anything to anyone, anywhere in the world.

To solve for involuntary churn and other issues that prevent auto renewing subscriptions from succeeding, Digital River developed a suite of tools to optimize the renewal process. The machine learning (ML) capabilities of its Smart Automatic Renewal Services look at the individual attributes of each renewing subscription to determine the best time to submit an authorization request and payment processor to be used.

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AWARDS

BUSINESS ENABLEMENT THRU TECHNOLOGY

AI & MACHINE LEARNING FINALISTS

ITASCA™
Consulting Group, Inc.

Itasca is a global, employee-owned, engineering consulting and software firm. Its consultants solve complex problems in the fields of mining, civil, environmental, energy, and materials engineering.

Wind farm construction requires large cranes to lift and move massive wind turbine structures over 300 feet tall and exceeding 160 tons. Itasca has optimized the wind farm construction process by reducing the time needed for crane stability evaluation to just minutes from weeks. Python scripts automate the traditional bearing capacity process. An artificial neural network (ANN) provides near real-time predictions of soil bearing capacity for crane walk planning with over 99% accuracy. It is available as a web-based tool and used in the field.

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digineer
turn results on

PROUD SUPPORTERS OF MINNESOTA TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S TEKNE RECIPIENTS!

DATA ANALYTICS FINALISTS

CALABRIO™

Calabrio's innovative, easily scalable workforce engagement management technology helps customer service departments quickly transform contact center operations and reach new heights of customer retention.

Calabrio's Enterprise Customer Experience Intelligence (CXI) solution launched in April 2021, taking the interaction and operational analytics captured via the Calabrio ONE platform and extending targeted, valuable insights from the contact center out to the functional areas that need them.

Enterprise CXI provides comprehensive out-the-box dashboards focused on key areas of the business. Through the help of technologies like AI and machine learning, Calabrio ensures that every department benefits from the insights that reside in 100% of calls made between a company and a brand.

MINNESOTA IT SERVICES

Minnesota IT Services (MNIT), is the Information Technology agency for Minnesota's executive branch, providing enterprise and local IT services to over 70 agencies, boards, councils, and commissions to deliver secure, reliable technology solutions to improve the lives of all Minnesotans.

On January 12, 2021, Minnesota launched the COVID-19 vaccine dashboard on the state's COVID-19 response website to detail the progress of COVID-19 vaccine allocation, distribution, and administration across Minnesota. The dashboard, produced by MNIT and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), provides a visual and user-friendly way to view key vaccination data including information on the number of doses allocated to Minnesota, shipped to Minnesota providers, and administered to Minnesotans.

BUSINESS ENABLEMENT THRU TECHNOLOGY

DATA ANALYTICS FINALISTS

BUSINESS ENABLEMENT THRU TECHNOLOGY

SEAGATE

Seagate Technology is a leader in data storage infrastructure solutions, enabling the creation, storage and sharing of digital content everywhere. A global technology leader, the company has shipped over three billion terabytes of data capacity in its precision-engineered solutions.

Seagate's smart data analytics platform allows engineers to quickly develop and deploy new machine learning models. The platform supports fundamental understanding of recording head physics, design and process optimization, and more efficient decision making.

The smart data analytics platform includes a data pipeline that automatically processes large volumes of time-series and image data and presents summaries on a web-based portal that also hosts tools for exploring and analyzing the data.

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work somewhere you ♥

TARGET. Proud to support the Minnesota Technology Association and our state's tech community.

BUSINESS ENABLEMENT THRU TECHNOLOGY

DATA SECURITY FINALISTS

ARCTIC WOLF

Arctic Wolf® is the market leader in security operations, pioneering the first cloud-native security operations platform to end cyber risk. Leading the industry with threat telemetry from endpoint, network, and cloud sources, the Arctic Wolf® Platform, supported by the original Concierge Security® team, is the last line of defense for thousands of organizations worldwide.

It centralizes all telemetry in its cloud-native security analytics platform for storage, enrichment, correlation, analysis, and investigation – ingesting more than 100 billion events per day.

The Arctic Wolf Platform and Concierge Security experts make it fast and easy for organizations of any size to stand up world-class security operations that continually guard against attacks in an efficient and sustainable way.

ProcessBolt™

ProcessBolt is a privately held late-stage start-up offering a SaaS platform to automate the risk assessment of an enterprise's vendor network, the continuous monitoring of a vendor network and an AI-driven deep natural language processing solution for responding to assessments and RFP's.

The core platform fully automates the process of assessing the supply chain for cyber risk and regulatory compliance, and it continuously monitors all internet facing attack surfaces of critical vendors. It utilizes proprietary AI-driven deep NLP to allow users to query large documents for answers. ProcessBolt also has a patent-pending AI-driven deep NLP solution that auto-populates responses to security questionnaires and RFPs based on past responses to similar questionnaires and RFPs

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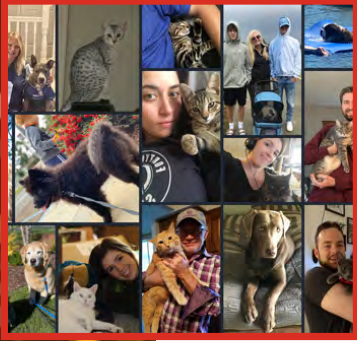
DATA SECURITY FINALISTS

RedTeam Security™
THREAT PREVENTION EXPERTS

RedTeam Security has been leading the penetration testing industry with focused offensive security services since 2008. From comprehensive manual network testing to social engineering engagements, its teams employ services designed to provide comprehensive and well-rounded testing so clients can better understand their risk and improve their security posture.

RedTeam Security's pen testers designed a forward-thinking service offering called Advanced Adversary Simulation (AAS). The key feature of an AAS is the ability to carefully craft an engagement and blend existing and next-level exploits to mirror real-life attacks. RedTeam Security spends weeks occupying the mind of an attacker and amasses a slew of data. Organizations can then use this information to better defend against a real-world attacker.

THANK YOU 2021 TEKNE GOLD SPONSOR

We see you, Minnovators.

Thanks to associations like MnTech and the companies honored with Tekne Awards, Minnovators are shining a light on the Midwestern tech landscape. Congratulations to all the honorees.

padilla
transform with purpose

DIGITAL MARKETING FINALISTS

BUSINESS ENABLEMENT THRU TECHNOLOGY

Avtex is a full-service Customer Experience (CX) consulting and technology solutions provider focused on helping organizations build meaningful connections with their customers, members, and constituents.

Chipotle turned to Avtex to build a CX and technology solution that would capture and analyze more comprehensive customer information and insights to empower a more meaningful and personalized CX with their brand across multiple channels. The solution Avtex built for Chipotle allows them to engage with 20 million Chipotle Rewards customers through strong digital strategies, including segmentation, predictive modeling, personalization, and creative optimization. As a result, Chipotle knows its customers' engagement levels by channel and content and can now deliver best actionable messages.

The Stable is a fully integrated commerce agency that helps consumer brands activate and sell products across all channels of commerce. The agency creates value for clients leveraging a full suite of omnichannel capabilities including retail representation, eCommerce services, media campaigns & optimization, brand/product development and insights.

Hyphen is The Stable's full-stack, mobile-first platform. It enables advertisers to plan, target, execute and optimize integrated omnichannel media strategies that drive retailer sales across all fulfillment channels. Hyphen minimizes clicks for shoppers and maximizes conversion for brands through dynamic retailer integrations providing real-time product data, inventory, price, and store-level access. When an item is unavailable, Hyphen's patented technology automatically redirects shoppers to a predetermined alternate.

Tunheim is a certified woman-owned business specializing in communication and marketing strategies. Its core services are PR, digital marketing, public affairs, corporate communications, and management consulting.

Tunheim's client, The Minnesota Homeownership Center, helps homeowners avoid foreclosure, navigate forbearance, and make decisions about their homes through its resources and network. Tunheim identified audiences most in need of foreclosure prevention services at a critical point in the pandemic. Tunheim curated content and messaging to resonate with these audiences including landing pages, digital ads, and a video. Through social, radio, streaming and Google ads, Tunheim was able to reach 10% of Minnesotans, targeted at those most in need of help. Materials were delivered in English, Spanish, Hmong and Somali.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FINALISTS

INGCO
GO GLOBAL ▶▶▶

INGCO International is an award-winning language service provider offering translation, interpretation, and localization services in over 200 languages. It helps organizations engage with their multilingual community through industry-leading language services.

INGCO's Hybrid Translation Management Solution combines an industry-leading Translation Management System and human translators. The solution is designed to increase translation speed, accuracy, and consistency, as well as offering cost savings for content strings that have been translated before. Each translation is completed by an experienced human translator, who works symbiotically with the technology to maintain consistent terms and deliver translations in a fraction of the time. This solution also speeds up turnaround time to deliver vitally important messages.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) oversees transportation by all modes including land, water, air, rail, walking and bicycling in Minnesota to ensure that Minnesota's multimodal transportation system maximizes the health of people, the environment, and our economy.

Nearly 400 Digital Message Signs (DMS) are deployed across the state, displaying real-time information to warn motorists of incidents, roadwork, or congestion downstream. To make winter road weather alerts most effective, MnDOT and its partners developed a software interface system that acquires weather alerts from the National Weather Service system, translates them into text messages, selects the appropriate DMS location, and posts the alert message until it expires. This new module was introduced in January 2021.

BUSINESS ENABLEMENT THRU TECHNOLOGY

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FINALISTS

BUSINESS ENABLEMENT THRU TECHNOLOGY

wsb

WSB is a design and consulting firm specializing in engineering, community planning, environmental, and construction services.

WSB was contracted to provide the final design for a highway project in Elk River, which included converting four at-grade traffic intersections into interchanges and modified highway access. The design needed to be iterative and flexible, with real time quantities to stay on budget. WSB delivered the first set of fully digital paperless design plans to MnDOT in August 2021. Historically, the Architecture Engineering Construction (AEC) industry has been paper-heavy with many DOTs across the nation still requiring traditional plans. The transition to paperless is impacting the entire AEC industry, including DOTs, general contractors, and civil engineers.

Xcel Energy®

Xcel Energy provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses. Xcel Energy is a trailblazer in energy innovation with a vision to provide 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050.

Xcel Energy's Advanced Grid Intelligence and Security (AGIS) program includes a new smart meter, enhanced communications, and an advanced energy management system. Smart meters provide remote visibility into energy outages and control of the grid. The new technologies allow Xcel to automate fault locations and restore energy flow, reducing the duration of energy outages. Customers have visibility to 15-minute interval data through portal services versus simply a monthly aggregated bill. Enhanced choices allow customers to control their personal energy usage and keep bills low.

EDGE COMPUTING & IOT FINALISTS

BUSINESS ENABLEMENT THRU TECHNOLOGY

EMC — LEADING THE FUTURE OF LIGHTING + TECHNOLOGY

EMC provides leading-edge LED Lighting + Technology conversion systems and service solutions to a broad range of multinational retail, commercial, industrial, and specialized customers. Since 2003, the company has used its total project management approach, EnergyMAXX®, to successfully implement thousands of lighting upgrade projects, saving clients across industries billions of kilowatt-hours of energy.

EMC's Emergency Light Test (ELT) System enhances building safety by making emergency lighting smarter and more efficient to maintain. It improves compliance and reduces costs by converting existing emergency lights and exit signs into intelligent, wireless devices that automate code-required testing and streamline maintenance. Facility managers can put away ladders and manual test processes, realizing immediate cost savings and lowering compliance burdens.
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LAB651

Lab651 is a leader in building and deploying Edge Computing and IoT technology. It provides cost-effective, best-in-class services to help companies add sensors, connectivity, and intelligence with embedded and mobile applications to their products and equipment.

Lab651 assisted Kenmore by redesigning their entire mobile application to provide a better experience for their customers, and in turn, collecting that data and dissecting it to be easily understood by their team. By providing data insights and visualization, the team at Kenmore could now truly understand how their customers were using their appliances, what features they used most, how the appliances were performing in the field, and keep the appliances performing their best with consumable reminders.

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JOY LINDSAY

Joy Lindsay has been an active member of the Minnesota venture capital community since 1998. She is CEO and co-founder of StarTec Investments, LLC, a private venture capital firm focused on investing in high-tech companies based in the Minnesota. Joy is particularly passionate about supporting women entrepreneurs and women in technology. She is a managing partner of the Sofia Fund, one of the first funds nationally to target investments in women-led, high growth companies.

StarTec's investment portfolio includes numerous successful exits of technology-based companies including XIOtech (acquired 2000), Gentra Systems (acquired 2006), WindLogics, Inc (acquired 2006), Apprise Technologies (acquired 2007), Magnum Technologies (acquired 2007), GovDelivery, Inc. (acquired 2009), Iconoculture (acquired 2010), Compellent Technologies (NYSE: CML, acquired by Dell 2011), Field Solutions (acquired 2015), Halo Innovations, Inc., (acquired 2016), Magnet 360 (acquired 2016), Flipgrid (acquired 2018), Rebiotix (acquired 2018) as well as current investments in Pramata, Kidizen, LiquidCool, Structural, Lucy, Niron Magnetics and Apruve. She has taken an active role in StarTec's portfolio and routinely served as a board director or board observer.

Joy has held multiple leadership roles to support technology start-ups and entrepreneurs in Minnesota. She is a member of the Advisory Board at the Holmes Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Minnesota and a judge for the Minnesota Cup business plan competition. She is a former board member and past chair of the Minnesota Technology Association, has served as Secretary and Vice-President of the Minnesota Venture Capital Association, and was an advisor to the Office of Technology Commercialization at the University of Minnesota. Joy served on the state of Minnesota's Science and Technology Advisory Commission and was appointed by former Governor Pawlenty to the 21st Century Tax Reform Commission. She was a member of the Twin Cities Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Past awards and recognition include "40 Minnesotans on the Move" by Finance and Commerce magazine, one of "200 Minnesotans You Should Know" by Twin Cities Business magazine, and "The (Real) Power 50" by Minnesota Business magazine. In 2016, Joy was an inductee to the "Titans of Technology Hall of Fame" by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal.

Prior to founding StarTec, Joy was a Senior Vice President in the Westlaw division of West Publishing (now Thomson Reuters). She started her career at West as a software engineer, and held numerous leadership positions in IT, customer support, account management and sales. She has a B.A. in mathematics from Carleton College and an M.B.A. from the University of Minnesota.

FINANCIAL SERVICES TECHNOLOGY FINALISTS

INNOVATION IN MINNESOTA'S LEADING INDUSTRIES

GenEQTY

GenEQTY is a financial technology company developing a smarter digital banking solution to help small businesses and solopreneurs improve financial performance, manage business health, and get faster access to funding through one central data-driven business hub.

GenEQTY's business platform uses AI and predictive technology to automate banking, accounting, and lending for the benefit of small-to-medium businesses. GenEQTY aggregates banking and accounting data to reveal a proprietary real-time health score, key financial ratios, and tips to make it easier for a busy business owner to manage their company at a glance. This platform helps businesses make informed decisions, spend less time with spreadsheets, and get relevant funding options based on real-time data.

Silicon Prairie is a fintech powered investment bank and funding portal platform offering public and private capital formation at scale. It helps entrepreneurs turn their social capital into financial capital. Its vertically integrated stack offers a true one-stop-shop, from crowdfunding seed stage capital needs to going public with a REG-A "mini-IPO."

Silicon Prairie is the first Investment Bank and Transfer Agent in Minnesota to register an Alternative Trading System (ATS) with the SEC and FINRA to offer companies who raise capital on its platform and their investors access to a secondary market. The SPPX Trading Portal facilitates a friction free and non-disruptive liquidation of individual shareholders without forcing a recapitalization of the entire company.

FINANCIAL SERVICES TECHNOLOGY FINALISTS

INNOVATION IN MINNESOTA'S LEADING INDUSTRIES

SPARK
Loan Origination Simplified

SPARK is a transformational loan origination platform that makes small business lending easier. It's a cloud-based platform that securely digitizes lending, from lead capture to closing and all points between, for dozens of banks and credit unions. SPARK clients have originated over $9 billion in aggregate loan activity.

As a Public Benefit Corporation, SPARK works to provide greater access to responsibly priced capital that creates pathways to prosperity for small business owners. Through its network of for-profit and mission-based lenders, SPARK focuses on digitizing lending processes, automating data and information collection and fundamentally transforming how small business ecosystems operate.

In the past 17 months, SPARK's customers came together to originate over 75,000 PPP loans.

TotalExpert

Total Expert is the leading fintech software company with the first enterprise-grade customer engagement and retention platform purpose-built for modern financial institutions including mortgage lenders, banks, and credit unions. The Total Experience Platform enables customer-facing teams to work together seamlessly in delivering campaigns relevant to each unique customer based on their stage in life.

Total Expert combines data, compliance, marketing, and sales solutions into one unified platform—built together from the ground up—to eliminate departmental silos and give a coordinated, consistent end-to-end customer experience, from lead to customer for life. The Total Experience Platform turns customer insights into actions to increase loyalty and drive growth for banks, lenders, credit unions, and other financial services firms.

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2021
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HEALTHCARE INFORMATION SYSTEMS FINALISTS

INNOVATION IN MINNESOTA'S LEADING INDUSTRIES

Flyvvheel

Flywheel is the revolutionary research data management and analytics platform that helps leading medical researchers be more productive and delivers unprecedented levels of connectedness. It is powering healthcare innovation by accelerating collaboration, enabling machine learning, and streamlining the massive task of medical data aggregation and management. Flywheel is transforming the way biomedical and imaging data are managed, analyzed, and shared at leading life sciences, clinical, and academic institutions globally.

Flywheel solutions automatically catalogue and capture any data from any source. Data is automatically de-identified, classified, and made searchable in a central place. It is then processed, checked for quality, and organized so it is reusable. Using historical data along with new data is especially helpful for AI and machine learning.

PRIME THERAPEUTICS®

Prime Therapeutics is leading the market in total drug management solutions that put people first.

Real Time Benefit Check (RTBC) provides prescribers with more accurate, member-specific benefit information at the point of prescribing, allowing them to select the most cost-effective drug for the member's specific condition while improving provider and pharmacist efficiency.

Real Time Benefit Check works through the ePrescribe function of a health care provider's EMR system. The solution shows more than just a drug's price. Populated with an individual member's benefit data, the tool will alert prescribers when a chosen drug might add steps, time, and cost to the prescription filling process. Making prescription decisions transparent from the start ensures personalized service for patient satisfaction.

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2021
AWARDS

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY & DEVICES FINALISTS

INNOVATION IN MINNESOTA'S LEADING INDUSTRIES

FISTULA SOLUTION

Fistula Solution develops life changing innovations for patients with complex abdominal wounds. Fistula is now developing a new post-surgical ostomy incision therapy called Limpet to transform the ostomy care market. It integrates vacuum wound therapy technology with ostomy care solutions.

Over 100,000 patients of all ages undergo ostomy surgery in the US annually. Up to 70% endure some form of complication post-op. The Limpet is a post-surgical incision management device that prevents complications and infections. The novel sealing system enables the Limpet to be worn up to 10 times longer than competing products, prevents leaks, and adheres to wet, weeping, and injured skin, a common failure point of standard ostomy pouches.

MINNETRONIX® MEDICAL
Accelerating Breakthroughs

Celebrating 25 years as a technology and operations partner to medical device companies, Minnetronix Medical provides design, development, and manufacturing of RF energy, fluid and gas management, optical, stimulation, and wearable devices.

In 2020, Minnetronix received FDA clearance for its first fully developed product, an innovative neurosurgical access system called the MindsEye™ Expandable Port. MindsEye is the first minimally invasive, expandable port designed for use in the treatment of stroke, cancer, and other conditions. The device's dynamic retraction creates a custom-sized channel allowing surgeons to reach target areas deep within the brain.

The platform provides additional applications and complementary product opportunities in the neuro market and beyond.

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MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY & DEVICES FINALISTS

INNOVATION IN MINNESOTA'S LEADING INDUSTRIES

VivaQuant™
Quantifying vital signs. Accurately.

.VivaQuant is a digital health company providing remote cardiac arrhythmia monitoring services to cardiology clinics using a highly differentiated wearable device (the RX-1 mini) and cloud-based portals. The unique nature of the system is exemplified by the fact that since launching the product in October 2020, VivaQuant has placed about 1200 devices in 50 clinics with basically one sales rep.

A key factor in the rapid market uptake of its services to clinics is the unique nature of its RX-1 mini wearable device. It is the smallest one-piece mobile cardiac telemetry device on the market and includes powerful embedded signal processing technology that provides physicians with high-clarity ECGs and accurate arrhythmia reporting for efficient and fast diagnosis.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES FINALISTS

INNOVATION IN MINNESOTA'S LEADING INDUSTRIES

NS² — Nucleic Sensing Systems

Nucleic Sensing Systems (NS2) develops and implements innovative equipment and solutions that provide insight into critical biological activity. As a general benefit corporation, NS2 focuses on improving lives for people and providing critical data on the biological status of the planet.

The Tracker is the first field-deployed, continuous-flow, autonomous sampling, web-connected, biological detection machine geospatially placing a sample in time and place. It can autonomously analyze and detect the presence of environmental DNA (eDNA), RNA, or biological molecules of concern in the field or on-site. The Tracker requires no proprietary, refrigerated, or physical consumables of any kind, is solar-powered, and battery-operated. The Tracker acts as a "biological smoke alarm" on the presence of pathogens or other harmful organisms.

RPSi

RPSi's hardware and software innovations offer next-generation solutions to help power the electrical grid of the future and enable the delivery of sustainable and reliable electricity to anyone, anywhere.

RPSi's inverter technology is based on non-linear design and functions like a neural network. This allows distributed and non-distributed power systems to be connected and communicate in a manner that increases overall power resiliency by virtually eliminating single point of failure risk within any power supply network. Networks also have a natural defense against software-focused cyber-attacks.

Using RPSi's technology, renewable energy resources can be stacked at any site or installation to accelerate the adoption of carbon-free energy resources at scale while increasing network stability and reliability.

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SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES FINALISTS
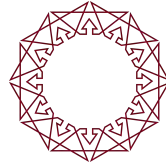
The University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project (UMNSVP) is a UMN student group that was founded by a group of ambitious undergraduate students in 1990. By 1993, its first solar car, Aurora I, was built. The team has built 14 vehicles in total. It is one of the most decorated teams in America, having raced in over 31 different solar challenges on 3 different continents.

The team's latest car, the 4-seat solar-powered electric Freya, competed in the 2021 American Solar Challenge, placing 2nd in the Multi-Occupant vehicle category, winning the Formula Sun Grand Prix track race in the Multi-Occupant vehicle category, and having the highest practicality score.

INNOVATION IN MINNESOTA'S LEADING INDUSTRIES

THANK YOU 2021 TEKNE SILVER SPONSORS

RISING STARS OF 2021

Congratulations, 2021 Rising Stars!

This year, five Rising Stars were chosen based on their significant professional achievements and the promise of what they may accomplish in the future within the tech community. These Rising Star Award recipients are up and coming technology professionals, leaders, and innovators who are less than ten years into their respective careers. Not only are they making waves in their own companies, but they're also creating an impact within the broader tech ecosystem and community.

Congratulations,
2021 Public Service Awardees!

The 2021 Tekne Award for Public Service was created to honor individuals who have provided outstanding service to advance technology, innovation, business, and education in Minnesota. This award is a well-deserved recognition for the leading role these recipients have played in advancing technology and innovation within state government.

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDEES

REP. ROB ECKLUND

District 03A

SEN. JOHN R. JASINSKI

District 24
Assistant Majority Leader

REP. MOHAMUD NOOR

District 60B

REP. CARLIE KOTYZA-WITTHUHN

District 48B

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MINNESOTA'S 2021
tekne
AWARDS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

MIKE MCNAMARA

Mike McNamara is Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer for Target and a member of its executive leadership team.

He is responsible for the strategic direction and management of the enterprise technology systems that elevate the shopping experience for Target's guests and team members.

Mike also leads Target's technology roadmap and enterprise data analytics and business intelligence strategy.

Prior to joining Target in 2015, Mike spent more than 17 years at European-based retailer Tesco, most recently as the Chief Information Officer.

Mike is a member of the Board of Directors for Hawaiian Airlines and Genesys Works - Twin Cities, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing pathways to career success for high school students in underserved communities through skills training, meaningful work experience and impactful relationships. Mike has a Bachelor of Engineering degree from University College Dublin.

TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP FINALISTS

HGA & Kindeva DRUG DELIVERY

HGA is a national interdisciplinary design firm headquartered in Minneapolis and committed to making a positive impact for clients through research-based solutions.

Kindeva, a recent 3M spinoff, provides unique technologies and quality services, from formulation and product development to commercial manufacturing, including inhalation drug delivery, microstructure transdermal systems and connected drug delivery.

By combining its expertise in engineering, architecture, and branding, HGA helped Kindeva create a world-class R&D headquarters for more than 175 scientists, marketers, and support staff, with more than 1,000 pieces of sophisticated scientific equipment to its credit. The headquarters includes a high-security controlled warehouse, stability chambers, ISO-7 clean room process development labs, and a clinical manufacturing suite.

LargeVenue TechCollective

The Large Venue Tech Collective (LVTC) is a partnership of technology leaders who represent marquee brands in the Minnesota Sports and Entertainment industry -and recently expanded to include technology leaders from museums, hospital systems, casinos, airports, and the State of Minnesota.

LVTC partners meet regularly to compare operations, evaluate technology solutions, and drive innovation on systems including large scale converged networks, digital event ticketing technologies, point of sale solutions, game presentation solutions, broadcast technologies, sensor-based human performance evaluation systems, mobile participation apps, neutral cellular and large-scale Wi-Fi systems, data collection and more.

The partnership works as a trusted brainstorming mindshare, openly revealing successes and failures, sharing knowledge, sparking ideas for common benefit, and locating paths to unique innovation.

VIBRANT TECH ECOSYSTEM

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TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP FINALISTS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®
Crookston Duluth Morris Rochester Twin Cities

&

LAUNCH MINNESOTA

University of Minnesota Technology Commercialization transfers University research to new and existing companies for the development of new products and services that benefit the public good and foster economic growth.

Launch Minnesota, an initiative of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, aims to elevate Minnesota as a national leader in innovation by creating, connecting, and coordinating resources with collaborating organizations to grow startups, bolster the economy, and create jobs.

The University of Minnesota and Launch Minnesota have partnered to offer a multifaceted array of education, resources, and individual advising to support technology entrepreneurs across the state, increase success among early-stage companies, and build Minnesota's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

VIBRANT TECH ECOSYSTEM

mntech.

ANNUAL CIO PANEL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

PANELISTS

Shaun Braun
SVP, Digital Transformation, 3M

Ben Davis
EVP, Information Technology, Cambria

Kim Skanson
President, Cargill Business Services, Cargill

Amy Porwoll
SVP, CIO, CentraCare

Mike Mathews
SVP, CIO, Deluxe

Sue Knudson
SVP, Chief Health Engagement & Informatics Officer HealthPartners

Kathy Persian
EVP and CIO, Schwan's Company

TECH TALENT FINALISTS

VIBRANT TECH ECOSYSTEM

Black Tech Talent aims to increase the representation of Black technologists in both corporate careers and entrepreneurship by curating a pipeline of job opportunities, education, community, and culturally specific content.

Black Tech Talent specializes in the hiring, engagement, and retention of Black employees. Since its launch in July 2020, their community has grown to 4000+ members globally, partnered with over 30 corporate partners, and in June hosted its inaugural Black Tech Talent Summit with attendance from all over the world. Black Tech Talent products include a job board, podcast BTT Discussions, and annual summit. This fall, they'll release an employer matching app that will give employers and candidates a streamlined way to connect and show mutual interest.

Minnesota Computers for Schools creates digital equity for students of all ages in Minnesota by partnering with schools and educational organizations to provide technology access, engaging STEM programming, and IT workforce training in underserved communities.

Its free CORE: IT Certification Training program removes barriers so anyone can learn basic digital literacy skills and begin a career in IT. Classes start with basic digital literacy and advance to network administration, providing students a laddered curriculum that can end with a job in IT. The curriculum includes industry-recognized Cisco and CompTIA certifications. To best reach students in underserved areas, Minnesota Computers for Schools partners with local nonprofits to host classes at their organization.

TECH TALENT FINALISTS

SCIENCE FROM SCIENTISTS

Science from Scientists is a nonprofit working to expand and diversify the population of Minnesota students who develop strong STEM Identity and pursue higher level STEM learning and STEM careers. It sends real scientists into schools to teach and inspire every student, with hands-on STEM lessons designed to bring out the STEM lover and budding scientist in every student.

During the 2020-21 school year, Science from Scientists outfitted scientists for remote interactive teaching, to continue providing schools and students with live, interactive scientist-led STEM learning experiences. Group activities and shared materials were adapted to individual activities and cost-effective individual STEM lesson activity kits that could be used wherever students were learning.

VIBRANT TECH ECOSYSTEM

TECH FOR GOOD FINALISTS

VIBRANT TECH ECOSYSTEM

NCXT
Our Best World

NCXT developed a data-driven, human-centered management consulting and design practice to help leaders find the right way to do the right thing and create Our Best World ™.

Over the past year, restaurants have had issues in navigating an increasingly changing world, particularly with the pandemic and the social unrest of 2020.

To tackle these problems, NCXT provided operational support to restaurants across Saint Paul thru its "Visit Saint Paul Resiliency Program." The solutions, in the form of digital transformation, digital marketing, digital ordering, and digital delivery services have been pivotal in getting restaurants back on track. In this work, NCXT has held dear to its five core values: human-centered, global worldview, future-oriented, real, and operational excellence.

RAMSEY COUNTY
Workforce Solutions

In response to COVID-19, Ramsey County launched the TechPak initiative. This initiative brought computers, internet, and digital literacy training into the homes of over 2000 COVID-19 impacted residents through its partnership with Tech Dump, PCs For People, Literacy Minnesota, and the Saint Paul Public Library.

Each TechPak (backpack) contained a refurbished laptop, prepaid hotspot, and headphones. TechPaks also included resource materials in multiple languages, with information on workforce resources, food and basic needs, housing support, and up to date public health guidance related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most participants worked closely with a Digital Literacy Navigator on the required digital literacy classes to support workforce training, job referrals and other employment resources.

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MINNESOTA'S ™
tekne 2021
AWARDS

TECH FOR GOOD FINALISTS

VIBRANT TECH ECOSYSTEM

Spark-Y uses STEM-based experiential programming to teach entrepreneurship and sustainability. Its school partnerships, Urban Agriculture Lab, and annual internship programs help drive youth empowerment as they learn about and work to solve real world environmental problems.

The three-year Minneapolis Youth Engagement Project at Holland Basin began this spring. It provides exclusive opportunities to Edison High youth and the surrounding community through environmental education, outreach initiatives, and employment. Participants learn about native plant habitats, water quality, and stormwater management.

As a co-leader of the Northside STEM District, Spark-Y also helped its partners design/implement the Mobile Innovation Lab -- a double decker bus engaging students directly with coding, 3D printers, drones, and more.

Target is a general merchandise retailer. Target tech, its 4000+ global in-house technology team, commits to making Target America's easiest, safest, and most joyful place to shop.

In 2020, a team of cross-functional volunteers from across the tech enterprise launched Target Tech4Good (TT4G) to help Twin Cities' populations hardest hit by pandemic and systemic challenges. Target tech software engineers were paired with small businesses in need of technology help--especially small businesses owned by Black, Indigenous and People-of-color (BIPOC) and female entrepreneurs.

The pro-bono work was custom-tailored to each company, with deliverables ranging from website re-platform, user research, user interface design to marketing and communication. TT4G scales up approximately 20 community projects per year.

ABOUT THE TEKNE AWARD

Minnesota-based artist Robert Delutri is the creator of the distinctive Tekne award sculptures. For more than 20 years, he has been commissioned to create these awards by the Minnesota Technology Association. Delutri explains that "The award symbolizes the ever-evolving and dynamic process of technology where, indeed, there is no end to what we can learn, know, discover, create or innovate." Each Tekne sculpture reflects the unique characteristics of shape, color, bubbles, swirls, and density formed by molten, hand-fractured glass and mounted on a bold steel base.

Delutri's Art and Aesthetic Constructs have evolved as a function of his Delutri StudioLabs™ Theoretical Aesthetic Research™ "…where the Problem and the Solution become interchangeable as the Fulcrum and the Lever, the Force and Inertia… in coming to terms with who 'We' are… and are 'Becoming'.

Robert Delutri has been working as an Artist in the Midwest for more than 50 years and is an Ex-Marine and Vietnam Veteran with a BA in Art and History, and Graduate Work in Instructional Systems, whose professional experience also includes working at the University of Minnesota and the private sector in management, teaching and training. He has taught courses on aesthetics and creative problem solving at the University of Minnesota's Student Center and the Minnetonka Center for the Arts and provided a unique Educational Venue espousing the links between Art, Science and Creative Problem Solving at the MHTA's (now MN TECH) Wonders of Technology – 1996 - 2006.

Delutri's Art and Theoretical Aesthetic Research™ are currently represented by the Dow Art Gallery in St. Paul.

MAYA ANDERSON | XCEL ENERGY
SUSAN AUER | BREMER BANK
ANDY BERANEK | DATABRICKS
MIKE BOLLINGER | LIVEFRONT
LAUREL CHU | SPS COMMERCE
SHAWN CURTI | THREEBRIDGE SOLUTIONS
JOSH CUTLER | OPTUM
TAMMY DICKINSON | CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS
RYAN DOUGLAS | DIGITAL RIVER
DAVE FABRY | STARKEY HEARING TECHNOLOGIES
JIM GRAHAM | PRIME THERAPEUTICS
JUSTIN GRAMMENS | LAB651
JENNIFER HAUSCHILDT | UPONOR
MATS HEIMDAHL | UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CASEY HELBLING | SOFTWARE FOR GOOD
STEFFEN HOVARD | MEDICAL ALLEY ASSOCIATION
ZACH HUGHES | CHS INC.
MIKE JOHNSON | UMN - TECHNOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
MATT JOHNSON | SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY
BRIAN KATLACK | HUNTINGTON BANK
MEAGHAN KIRK | C.H. ROBINSON
MEGHAN KOBER | U.S. BANK
JEREMY LEMBECK | LAND O'LAKES INC.
ANDREW LIND | SURESCRIPTS
KATI LONGSDORF | FAIRVIEW HEALTH SERVICES
GAGAN MAHAJAN | TARGET CORPORATION
MATT MEHRKENS | VIANT TECHNOLOGY
BHABANI MISRA | UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS
TAMI MORTON | HUNTINGTON BANK
ROSIE NESTINGEN | BEST BUY
LAURI PETERSEN | GREAT RIVER ENERGY
RACHEL POLSON | BAKER TILLY US, LLP
MATT PRESTEGAARD | BE THE MATCH
VIJAY RAMANATHAN | CODE42
JASMINE RUKIM | MONICAT DATA
PAT RYAN | SSPECTRUM
LISA SCHLOSSER | TECHNOVATION[MN]
RITU SHARMA | SECURIAN FINANCIAL
SCOTT SINGER | CYBERNINES
SHAWN SWEARINGEN | FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
MIKE THYKEN | CARINGBRIDGE
NATE TOWER | PERRILL
JASON TSCHETTER | MORTENSON
KATHY WASHENBERGER | DELUXE
ANDREA WILSON VASQUEZ | CODE SAVVY, CSFORALL-MN
CHEE WONG | BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD
WARREN YOUNG | TARGET CORPORATION

2021 TEKNE JUDGES

2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Minnesota Technology Foundation and Board of Directors have selected these nine students as the recipients of the 2021 MnTech Foundation Scholarships! Donations to the MnTech Foundation can be made using the QR code on this page.

Congratulations, 2021 Scholarship Recipients!

Hodan Ahmed *
Augsburg College
Computer Science

Kody Bertram
College of St. Scholastica
Cybersecurity, Virtualization & Networking

Ivan Miranda
Metropolitan State University
Computer Science

Lucas Reece
U of MN - Twin Cities
Computer Science

Noah Stanis
U of MN - Twin Cities
Biomedical Engineering

Genevieve Tester
University of St. Thomas
Civil Engineering

*Funding generously provided by AT&T

2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Sam Wang
U of MN - Twin Cities
Chemical Engineering

Yibeltal Wattero *
U of MN - Twin Cities
Computer Science

Ying Zhou **
St. Olaf College
Computer Science & Mathematics

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Congratulations, 2021 Scholarship Recipients!

*Funding generously provided by AT&T
**Funding generously provided by WLiT

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MINNESOTA'S 2021 tekNe AWARDS

The Minnesota Technology Foundation fuels innovation in our state by providing resources for building a workforce educated in science, technology, engineering and math.

Through fundraising events and donations from the local technology community, the Foundation supports MnTech's goal to make Minnesota one of the country's top five technology states. The Foundation invests 100 percent of donations into programs and outreach efforts to develop the state's STEM workforce.

DONATE TO THE MNTECH FOUNDATION

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DOUG CARNIVAL - SECRETARY | MCGRANN SHEA CARNIVAL STRAUGHN & LAMB, CHARTERED

RACHEL POLSON - TREASURER | BAKER TILLY

KEVIN HANSEN | WEST MONROE PARTNERS

JENNIFER HAUSCHILDT | UPONOR

DAN MALONEY | THUNDERHEAD ONE, INC.

CHER MANOWSKI | EXPRESS IMAGE DIGITAL

VARDA NAUEN | GENESIS10

BRENDAN NOLAN | EAGLE CREEK SOFTWARE SERVICES

MINNESOTA TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION