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NEWS

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Good News You Can Use

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White named State Cybersecurity Leader of the Year

Special to Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie native Jay White, the State of Mississippi's chief information security officer, was named State Cybersecurity Leader of the Year in 2020 StateScoop 50 Awards, which honor top leaders, projects in state IT.

White manages the state's cybersecurity program providing enterprise perimeter defense, cyber awareness, and policy development for governmental entities. He is directly responsible for implementing a robust centralized VPN solution and procuring a secure web gateway solution to improve the state's defensive posture. As part of the awareness program, White, who has held his current position for nine years, established a new web-based cyber training solution providing courses to more than 100 government entities with subscriptions of more than 40,000 participants at no cost to the agencies. He has more than 22 years total experience.

Presented for its seventh year, the StateScoop 50 awards honor the projects



Special to Pelahatchie News

Jay White, who manages the State of Mississippi's cybersecurity program, was recently named State Cybersecurity Leader of the Year.

and people driving state government technology and cybersecurity. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the awards were presented virtually for the first time. In previous years, the awards ceremony and announcement coincided with the midyear conference of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers. Both the midyear and annual conference were moved to a

virtual format this year.

Starting in February, members of the state and local IT community nominated thousands of leaders and projects for the awards. From there, StateScoop narrowed the list to the 182 finalists who received the most nominations. Between March and June 2020, readers cast more than 2 million votes nationally between March and April to select the final

winners. Executive-level winners were honored Thursday at a virtual roundtable event, sponsored by Google Cloud and Duo Security, now part of Cisco Systems.

"It's an honor and delight to recognize the top 50 leaders in our community," said Goldy Kamali, founder and CEO of Scoop News Group, StateScoop's parent company. "Each of the leaders recognized has gone above and beyond for our community this year, in spite of unprecedented challenges at home and at work. These reader's choice awards honor the best leaders from across the state government community and acknowledge the important work they are doing to make government better each and every day."

The winners span more than a dozen states and eight private sector companies. Award winners for 2020 include executive-level elected officials like Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, as well as more junior up-and-coming leaders.

"We know that the work you do is about much more than servers
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Burchfield named RCSD Administrator of the Month



Special to Pelahatchie News

The Rankin County School District (RCSD) recognized Dr. Teague Burchfield, Pelahatchie High School principal, as Secondary Administrator of the Month for August. Dr. Burchfield has been principal for three years.

ERA names Homecoming maids



Special to Pelahatchie News

East Rankin Academy will celebrate Homecoming on Friday, October 16. The 2020 Homecoming presentation will be during half time of the game that begins at 7 p.m. against Leake Academy. Members of East Rankin's 2020 Homecoming court are: (l to r) front row: Olivia Hales, Lexie Gibson, Breanna Harrison and Emily Loe; and (l to r) back row: Abbey Kelley, Kate Betts, Anna Hutson and Abbie Hutson.

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