

## CISO EXECUTIVE NETWORK ADVISORY COUNCIL

### **NAME**

Joshua Beeman

### **POSITION AND COMPANY**

CISO, University of Pennsylvania

### **EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS**

BA and MA degrees in Archaeology from UCLA and the University of Pennsylvania, respectively. CISSP



### **EXPERIENCE IN INFORMATION SECURITY**

8 years at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to that, work as a cybersecurity contractor for federal agencies in Washington, DC and at Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico. I have served on Amazon Web Services' Customer Advisory Board, and numerous EDUCAUSE committees, including co-chair of the EDUCAUSE Higher Education Information Security Council (HEISC) Governance, Risk and Compliance working group and the EDUCAUSE Policy Advisory Committee.

### **INFORMATION SECURITY GOVERNING PHILOSOPHY**

At Penn, it's critical the information security program serve the mission by striking the right balance between control and freedom. And because of the rapidly nature of attacks and security technologies, we have to constantly re-evaluate our position to see if it's too lenient or too intrusive. We spend a lot of time on getting incremental wins and establishing effective communication and trust in order to be successful.

### **MOST IMPORTANT PROJECT OR PROGRAM**

Penn has just completed a 2.5 year overhaul of our information security program. Next up: improved network segmentation.

### **WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO INFORMATION SECURITY?**

Technological curiosity and a strong sense of justice. Decades ago, an attacker compromised a system that I was responsible for and tried to use it as a launching point to gain access to a U.S. government server. When I learned about the compromise, I was desperate to know how the whole thing worked (vulnerabilities, exploits, defensive measures, detection). And I wanted to use that knowledge to stop bad guys.

### **BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED AND WHO PROVIDED IT**

When I was offered my first promotion to IT management I had serious doubts. I had gotten into IT because I loved being hands-on, and now it seemed the 'right' career move would take me away from all that, and have me overseeing people, not writing code. I went to my CIO, Jim O'Donnell to ask his advice. He encouraged me to see the long game, and not to let one job or position define me and my career. His advice: "Be a manager. And then find something that suits your technical desires. You don't have to be one or the other forever. Go back and forth."

### **WHY DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE CISO EXECUTIVE NETWORK?**

The CISO Executive Network has helped expand and strengthen my network with regional and national peers. At the same time, it's provided a valuable forum for information sharing about the best solutions to common problems that we all face. Bill Sieglein runs a tight ship, keeping the discussions on track and ensuring that every meeting results in time well-spent.