



**CEO**

INSIDE DALLAS BUSINESS



THE

# INNOVATORS

Meet the 51 changemakers who are disrupting  
business in North Texas—and beyond.

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# The Golden Age of Innovation

story by **CHRISTINE PEREZ**

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Meet the changemakers who are disrupting business in Dallas-Fort Worth—and beyond.

**INNOVATIONS IMPROVE LIFE AS WE KNOW IT. THEY MAKE THINGS** easier, better, faster, and cheaper. They solve problems, cure ills, reduce inequities, and drive economic growth. Thankfully, with its rich talent base, access to funding, and business-friendly culture, there's no better place to innovate than Dallas-Fort Worth. The region's rich legacy in the arena dates back to the 1950s, when Jack Kilby invented the integrated circuit at Texas Instruments. Since then, and accelerating in recent years, North Texas has just strengthened its reputation as an innovation hub. To help recognize successes, *D CEO* teamed up with our colleagues at Dallas Innovates in 2020 to launch The Innovation Awards. We expanded the program this year, honoring 51 companies and individuals in a variety of industries. Winners will be revealed at an event in late January. Read on, and be inspired.





## INNOVATION IN TALENT AND DIVERSITY

One of the greatest economic development tools North Texas has is access to a deep base of employees. This category recognizes companies that cultivate talent in North Texas and help employers enhance their D&I efforts.



### KANARYS

Co-founded by Mandy Price, CEO, and Star Carter, COO, Kanarys has changed how diversity, inclusion, and equity are measured and how corporate efforts are implemented. "Innovation means creating unique systems in order to open up new possibilities in an industry-changing it for the better," Price says. "It's bringing together ideas that will improve our society."



### NPOWER TEXAS

A nonprofit that provides free tech education for military veterans and their families in underserved communities, NPower Texas operates with the deep support of AT&T. "Innovation is all about response," says Russ Medina, executive director of NPower Texas and U.S. Army (ret). "The incredible potential for veterans is what drives our work."



### WORK SHIELD

Dallas-based Work Shield offers an unbiased solution for reporting, investigating, and resolving workplace harassment and discrimination. It helps empower employees, lower risk, and preserve corporate culture. "We constantly encourage our team to use their ingenuity to adapt our solution to the continuously changing workplace and cultural landscape," says Founder and CEO Jared Pope.

## INNOVATION IN TECHNOLOGY

### WHAT HAS YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE?

*"The future is bright for CrateBind to continue working with major players in technology and promising startups that are capitalizing on the challenges and opportunities coming out of 2020."*

**JOHN HARLAN**  
CrateBind

*"Genetic therapeutics. It's possible that in my children's lifetimes, we'll see most cancers eliminated, heart disease and diabetes minimized, and gene-driven, heritable diseases eradicated."*

**AARON FULLEN**  
K2View

*"How dating cultures around the world are beginning to understand the power of online dating. Every culture is different, and building innovative products to meet those needs excites our team."*

**ANDY CHEN**  
Match Group

*"Creating a legacy for my family to be proud of, and to inspire young girls to know that they can do it someday, too. There is room for us all to make a difference—we just need to put in the work."*

**EVELYN TORRES-GOMEZ**  
Solaris Technologies Services

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