

BAZ ABOUELENEIN, D.M.

Chief Information Officer • CISO-Credentialed Executive • AI Governance & Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Eleven years in the CIO seat at a community college. Three as dual CIO/CISO at a private online university that was later acquired. Four more years advising presidents and CFOs at 50+ higher education institutions on the decisions that determine whether an ERP implementation succeeds or whether an AI governance policy holds up past the first complaint. That is the range of exposure this role requires. My credential stack is current: **AAIA (first cohort globally), CISSP, CISA, CRISC, CISM, PMP**, with executive education at Carnegie Mellon and MIT Sloan. Doctoral research examined transformational CIO leadership behaviors in community colleges specifically and academic institutions in general. Accreditation-cycle experience spans HLC and CAPTE requirements, data integrity documentation, and regulatory compliance (FERPA, HIPAA, GLBA, PCI-DSS) across multiple reaffirmation periods. My book *The AAIA Certification Guide* (Packt Publishing, 2026) is the first practitioner guide to the ISACA AI audit credential.

Career Highlights

- Deployed \$1.5M Colleague ERP at KCKCC during a period of 30% enrollment growth: on time, on budget, no service interruption
- Cut Grantham University's IT costs by 32%; eliminated \$400K+ in annual licensing and contracts without reducing service quality
- Generated approximately \$3M in new annual revenue at Collegis Education through a structured technology assessment framework and onboarding process
- Reduced AI platform decision cycles from 8 months to 90 days across 12 institutions; 9 governance frameworks deployed within 120 days
- Named one of 13 top higher education CIOs nationally by EdTech Magazine (2012); one of 100 top CIOs globally by Huffington Post (2013).
- Led KCKCC to a top-four national ranking in digital maturity among mid-sized community colleges. Twice. (Center for Digital Education, 2016 and 2017).

CORE COMPETENCIES

AI Governance & Policy | ERP Implementation & Recovery (Colleague, Banner, Jenzabar) | Cybersecurity & Risk (CISO) | Accreditation Compliance (HLC)
Digital Transformation & IT Modernization | Cloud Architecture (Azure, AWS) | Budget Control & Cost Reduction | FERPA / HIPAA / GLBA / PCI-DSS
Change Management & Adoption | Data Governance & Analytics Strategy | Vendor Management & Negotiation | Board & Cabinet Engagement |
EDUCAUSE Frameworks & Communities of Practice

Technologies: Microsoft Azure • AWS • Ellucian Colleague • Ellucian Banner • Jenzabar • Salesforce • Microsoft 365 / Purview

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent AI Governance Advisor & Fractional CIO/CISO

March 2026 – Present

Advising higher education institutions on AI governance frameworks and CISO-level risk programs. Completing *The AAIA Certification Guide* (Packt Publishing, forthcoming 2026), the first practitioner guide to the ISACA Advanced AI Auditor certification.

Campus CIO & Executive Advisor — Wisconsin Lutheran College & Polk State College

May 2024 – March 2026

Boldyn Networks Executive Advisory Services | Austin, TX (Remote)

Appointed Campus CIO for Wisconsin Lutheran College and Polk State College (13,000+ students), managing IT operations, infrastructure, vendor relationships, and staff performance. Concurrently led strategic advisory engagements for 12 institutions through Boldyn's Executive Advisory Services, including operational guidance for Simpson College and Centenary College and security risk assessments across the portfolio. Combined scope: 50,000+ students.

\$590K+ cost avoidance through vendor renegotiation | 90-day reduction in AI platform decision cycles | ERP cloud migration and recovery (Jenzabar, Banner) with business process realignment | 9 policy frameworks deployed

- Delivered AI readiness assessments for colleges and universities evaluating \$250K–\$1.2M platform investments. Findings advised presidents and CFOs on governance frameworks and vendor risk. Decision cycles dropped from 8 months to 90 days.
- Developed modular AI acceptable use policy framework adopted by nine colleges and universities within 120 days. The framework addressed FERPA compliance, shared governance, academic freedom, and operational risk across the full advisory portfolio.
- Directed Wisconsin Lutheran College's Jenzabar cloud migration and recovered Polk State College's stalled Banner ERP implementation, restoring project scope, timeline, and business process alignment across both institutions.
- Maintained 99.7% uptime across seven campus locations at Wisconsin Lutheran College and Polk State College. Coverage spanned IT staff management and development, infrastructure, vendor management, cybersecurity, ERP, and helpdesk delivery.

Director, Solutions Architecture & Strategic Advisory

March 2022 – April 2024

Collegis Education | Chicago, IL (Remote)

Advised 15+ higher education institutions on IT strategy, vendor selection, and technology architecture. Governed a \$35M portfolio of technology investments. Led project teams of 5–8.

\$3M annual revenue increase (approximate) | 30% shorter implementation cycles | 15+ institutions on scalable IT architecture

- Worked directly with the EVP for Business Development to redesign institutional evaluation and onboarding. A structured technology assessment framework drove approximately \$3M in new annual revenue.
- Designed scalable IT architectures across client institutions and introduced Agile delivery practices. Average deployment cycles dropped 30%.
- Owned technical architecture for integration projects spanning Banner, Colleague, Jenzabar, Salesforce, and custom development.
- Built data roadmaps for each institution that consolidated fragmented student data systems into unified analytics platforms. Institutional leaders could act on enrollment and retention data in hours, not weeks.

Independent Consultant & Executive Advisor

August 2021 – March 2022

Fractional CIO and executive advisor to regional higher education institutions during a structured transition. Evaluated and pursued senior executive opportunities across the higher education technology sector.

Vice President of Information Technology | CIO/CISO

April 2018 – July 2021

Grantham University | Lenexa, KS

Full IT and cybersecurity oversight for an online university serving 7,500+ students. Served on senior leadership team with dual CIO/CISO responsibilities. Full technology stack transitioned to University of Arkansas System.

32% total IT cost reduction | \$400K+ licensing waste eliminated | Zero-downtime 7,500-user remote transition

- Cut IT costs by 32% by building a vendor management strategy that drove platform consolidation, renegotiated contracts without reducing service quality, and replaced commercial tools with in-house alternatives. The result: \$400K+ in annual licensing and contract spend eliminated.
- Architected and executed full remote transition for approximately 7,500 users and 6,500 devices in under three weeks with no service interruption during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Moved infrastructure to Microsoft Azure, which eliminated on-premise maintenance overhead and fed directly into the broader cost reduction.
- Consolidated Banner ERP and several disconnected systems into a single platform. Integration failures dropped. Data redundancy was eliminated.
- Held dual CIO/CISO responsibilities: cybersecurity, regulatory compliance, IT risk, and policy management.

Chief Information Officer

August 2007 – April 2018

Kansas City Kansas Community College | Kansas City, KS

Senior leadership team. IT budget: \$2.3M. 5 senior-level direct reports, 29-member IS team. Also served as Computer Science Adjunct Professor, 2009–2014.

12x infrastructure expansion | 40% cost reduction | Institutional risk score: 4.1 → 0.6

- Led a \$1.5M Colleague ERP deployment that integrated all data systems, eliminated manual workarounds across departments, and ran cleanly through a period of 30% enrollment growth.
- Restructured the 29-member IT organization around ITIL service management principles: incident, change, problem, and release management. Established formal SLAs and KPI reporting across all functional units.

- Chaired the Data Governance Committee and built the institution-wide data standards that gave senior leadership a reliable, consistent view of enrollment, financial, and operational data.
- Reduced the institutional risk score from 4.1 to 0.6. Kept the phish-prone rate well below industry benchmarks through ongoing security training and governance.
- First Kansas community college to implement Cisco HyperFlex hyper-converged infrastructure, which delivered faster storage performance at lower cost than the previous setup.
- Cut transcript production time by 80%+ (10 days to 1–2 days); maintained FERPA, HIPAA, GLBA, and PCI-DSS compliance throughout.
- Represented administration in collective bargaining negotiations with the faculty union. Provided IT-specific guidance on technology provisions, acceptable use, and the operational impact of proposed contract language.

EARLIER CAREER

Director, Information Systems | Kansas City Kansas Community College | Kansas City, KS May 2005 – August 2007

Led 11-member Networking and Help Desk team; cut issue resolution time 39% through a new ITSM platform. Negotiated a 3-year vendor support agreement that covered a full hardware and software refresh without increasing total IT costs.

Director, Information Systems | Community Action Partnership | Saint Joseph, MO 2002 – 2005

Advised Board of Directors on technology strategy; built the organization's first eCommerce interface. Migrated administrative and financial systems, including ERP, to a secure platform.

Senior Systems Administrator | Integrated Solutions | Cairo, Egypt 1998 – 2002

Built infrastructure for a satellite-based Internet delivery platform serving enterprise clients across the region. Earlier: Sales Support Engineer, United Communications.

EDUCATION

Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Business Strategy | MIT Sloan School of Management

CIO Executive Education • CISO Executive Education | Carnegie Mellon University

Doctor of Management (D.M.) — Organizational Leadership, Information Systems & Technology emphasis | University of Phoenix

M.S., Computer Information Systems | University of Phoenix

B.S., Computer Systems | City University, Seattle, WA

Executive Leadership Institute | League of Innovation for Community College

CERTIFICATIONS & EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

AAIA Advanced Artificial Intelligence Auditor (ISACA) • CISA (ISACA) • CISSP (ISC²) • CISM (ISACA) • CRISC (ISACA) • PMP (PMI)

PUBLICATIONS

Abouelenein, B. (Forthcoming, 2026). *The AAIA Certification Guide*. Packt Publishing.

Abouelenein, B. [published as M. S. Abouelenein] (2012). CIOs Transformational Leadership Behaviors in Community Colleges: A Comparison-based Approach to Improving Job Satisfaction of Information Technology Workers.

Abouelenein, B., & Diala, I. S. [published as M. S. Abouelenein & I. S. Diala] (2012). CIOs' Transformational Leadership Behaviors in Community Colleges in Relation to Information Technology Workers. *International Journal of Marketing and Technology*, 2(12), 127–149.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Served as Board Treasurer, United Way of Wyandotte County;
- Elected President, Missouri Information Technology Professional Alliance
- Volunteer, United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)
- Served as the college president's designee at workforce development forums, fundraisers, and civic events, advancing institutional visibility with community and regional partners.