



Michael E. Bartell, chief information officer at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in Washington, D.C., has been named chief information officer (CIO) for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He will begin work in his new position in December 2009.

Bartell has more than 34 years of broad experience and leadership positions with familiar institutions in Washington, D.C. He is also chief privacy officer for FDIC and director of FDIC's Division of Information Technology (IT). He was the CIO and associate executive director of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission from 1995 to 2002. From 1987 to 1995 he directed the IT program for the U.S. Senate. From 1982 to 1987 he served in several roles at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, including special assistant to the Departmental CIO. He began his federal career with the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

In 2006, on behalf of the FDIC, the Federal Reserve Board and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Bartell accepted a CIO 100 Award from *CIO Magazine*, which annually recognizes the top technology achievements in the country. The award was in recognition of the successful development and implementation of a new common data standard and filing system used by banks for reporting their quarterly financials. Later that year, in recognition for his longstanding federal leadership in IT, he received the Leadership Award for Service Excellence from the Association for Federal Resources Management (AFFIRM). AFFIRM is a public-private partnership organization that promotes information management leadership, government-industry partnership and technology innovation across government.

ORNL's CIO position resides in the Computing and Computational Sciences Directorate managed by Associate Laboratory Director Jeff Nichols. Bartell will also report to Thom Mason, Laboratory Director, in matters relating to policy.

"As CIO, Mike will be responsible for planning and executing a coordinated IT strategy that ensures cost-effective, state-of-the-art computing and networking capabilities for ORNL from the desktop to high-performance applications," Nichols said "We are pleased to have a new CIO who has done an outstanding job leading IT programs for federal institutions of great importance to the American people."

When asked why he chose to relocate from Northern Virginia to East Tennessee, Bartell replied, "I see the ORNL CIO position as a terrific opportunity for me to make a real contribution. ORNL is a great organization with an extremely important and growing mission. To be able to contribute and play a role in some of the very important work being conducted at ORNL is exciting. And, the East Tennessee area is truly one of the most beautiful areas in the country. After working in the Washington area for so many years, moving to East Tennessee will be a wonderful change of pace for me and my family."

Concerning the skill set that he brings to ORNL, he said, “I have been blessed with many great opportunities over the past several years that have given me experience in successfully leading some very large and complex IT programs. It’s very rewarding to see your efforts play a clear role in the overall success of an organization’s mission and how IT can work as a true partner with the business to help innovate and achieve its goals. While a strong understanding of technology is always important, people are the core of any successful program. I think I have gained a great deal of experience in building relationships with business stakeholders as well as with the IT folks. Those relationships are key to building trust and transparency, creating a business-IT strategy aligned to the right priorities and producing results in the areas that can help the most.”

Once he becomes familiar with the way IT at ORNL is structured and currently focused, the programs and projects on the Laboratory’s plate, Bartell said, “I want to explore how we can make IT a strategic partner and be much more collaborative with the research areas in being innovative and proactive in using IT strategically, while still improving day-to-day IT services. One of my first objectives will be to spend time with the OCIO and ITSD staff to get a good sense of today’s ORNL IT environment and also spend time with the associate laboratory directors, division directors and others to find out what the directorates are trying to accomplish and how IT can be a bridge to help them get there.”

Bartell has a favorable view of Microsoft SharePoint, which is being used at ORNL to host websites that access shared workspaces, information stores and documents. “Sharepoint is a great tool and anchor product for Microsoft software products,” he said. “While it is a good tool for document storage and information access, I would like to see Sharepoint used to enable greater collaboration. Sharepoint can be a very effective tool to increase teamwork and communication, and promote better information sharing.”

He will also oversee computer security. Information security as applied to computers and networks has two objectives: Protect sensitive and valuable information and property from theft, corruption, and natural disaster, and permit the information and property to remain accessible to its intended users so they can be fully productive.

As an outreach activity, Bartell said he is interested in facilitating enhanced cooperation between ORNL and the University of Tennessee (UT) in the areas of IT and advanced supercomputing. He also said that he would like to become actively involved in any internship programs to give bright upcoming IT graduates an opportunity to work with the ORNL IT folks. There would be great learning opportunities for both of us.

Bartell has a B.S. degree in business and finance from Mount Saint Mary’s College in Emmitsburg, Md. He has taken graduate classes in information systems and IT at American University and George Washington University.

Bartell and his wife Susan have three grown children.

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