

# **William "Bill" Rials**

**Associate Director, Professor of Practice, Information Technology at Tulane University**

New Orleans, LA, US

Bill is a nationally recognized subject matter expert on information technology.

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## **Biography**

Dr. William (Bill) Rials is the Associate Director and Professor of Practice of the Tulane University School of Professional Advancement Information Technology Program, where he focuses on continually delivering and updating the program curriculum based on innovative and emerging technologies. In addition to the responsibilities of running the program, Dr. Rials is also a Professor of Practice and a Distinguished Faculty Member where he teaches innovative technology undergraduate and graduate classes. Dr. Rials is a nationally recognized subject matter expert on information technology. He has had a career as an IT executive with broad experience delivering value to government, academic, and business partners through the innovative use of technology. He has served as the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) for a law enforcement agency, and during this tenure, he was appointed the local government cybersecurity liaison for the MS-ISAC and U.S. Department of Homeland security efforts for government cybersecurity safety. During this role, he was selected as a committee member to develop national cyber exercise guidelines for the National Center for Internet Security, resulting in him helping to conduct a nationwide cybersecurity exercise involving 12 state government, four federal agencies, and private sector infrastructure organizations in the MS-ISAC headquarters in Albany, NY. In 2006, he was appointed as Director of Technology and Chief Information Officer (CIO) for local government operations ranging from law enforcement, court systems, tax collections, land records, voter registrations, and other government functions. During this tenure, he implemented innovative technology solutions that not only improved efficiency but also reduced the budget. Dr. Rials was a pioneer in technology virtualization where he implemented virtualization in every piece of the legacy infrastructure. These efforts led him to be credited with first public safety agency in the nation to successfully implement a full virtual desktop deployment in an entire fleet of 100+ emergency vehicles.

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## **Affiliations**

National Association of State Technology Directors, National Association of Chief Information Officers

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## **Education**

**Jackson State University**

PhD Higher Education Administration/Public Policy

**Missouri State University**

Master's Degree Computer and Information Systems

**Belhaven University**

B.S. Business Administration and Management

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## **Accomplishments**

**Distinguished Faculty Member - 2016**

Awarded in 2016 from Tulane University.

**StateScoop Top50**

Named one of the nation's top 50 IT professionals in state government.

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