



## Carlos Pignataro

Program Director, AI Executives Council  
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Carlos Pignataro is the Program Director for the AI Executives Council. He is Principal at Blue Fern Consulting. Drawing from his experience as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) and Head of Sustainability Technology and Data, he brings multidisciplinary expertise in both technology and sustainability.

He also holds the roles of [Mentor in Residence](#) (MIR) with Duke University New Ventures, [adjunct faculty](#) at NC State University, and serves as [Board chair](#) at Code the Dream and [Board member](#) at the NC Council for Entrepreneurial Development (CED). Carlos has built a 25+ year career driven by a passion and curiosity for innovation, strategic thinking, and tech-for-good, and brings his experience and expertise in growing technology businesses.

Carlos has held various [technology and executive roles](#) at Cisco and worked for a more diverse and inclusive workforce. Most recently, he was Head of Technology and Data for Cisco's Engineering Sustainability, embedding sustainability into the engineering roadmap, as well as leveraging the portfolio to drive sustainability outcomes. He previously held roles of Distinguished Engineer and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for the multi-billion-dollar Services Global Service Provider and Customer Experience businesses, and was the lead architect for [techno-conservation](#).

An engaging speaker, Carlos keynotes about sustainability, technology, and innovation. He also leads standardization of environmental sustainability technologies at the IETF and [IEEE](#), and is a [champion](#) at the Green Software Foundation.

Carlos is Fast Company's [Innovative Leader of the Year](#) (2021), a [Fellow](#) at the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), a two-time HITEC 100 (the one hundred most influential

Hispanic leaders in technology) awardee ([2021](#) and [2023](#)), Stevie's [Tech Innovator of the Year](#) and Information Technology Executive of the Year, Senior Fellow at The Conference Board (TCB), co-founder of the International Society of Service Innovation Professionals, and recipient of several of industry awards including the IEEE Communications Society Industrial Innovation Award 2019. He is also co-author of more than [50 Internet RFCs](#), four books, multiple [publications](#), and co-inventor of over 300 patents issued with the USPTO.