



Emeka Igwilo

Chief Data Officer and Vice President, Operations Support

Emeka Igwilo was named Chief Data Officer in August 2020 in addition to his previous role as vice president of operations support for Southern Company Gas - a subsidiary of Southern Company, an energy holding company based out of Atlanta GA.

As part of his CDO role, he leads the Enterprise Decision Support and Data Governance organization (EDGE), the ongoing Enterprise Asset Management Program (MATRiX), the GIS and Asset Data organization, and the Business Operations Technology Services (BOTS) organization. All these functions support the entire enterprise.

As part of his Operations Support role, he is additionally responsible for leading the enterprise functions of leak survey management, asset protection, and legacy cross-bores program. More recently, he is leading the effort to design, implement and deploy the emissions measurement strategy across the entire distribution value chain to support the enterprise Net Zero goals. These efforts support 4.3 million customers in the multiple states served by utilities and operations of Southern Company Gas, a national leader in the energy sector.

Igwilo joined Southern Company Gas in 1999 and has had progressive leadership roles in technology, compliance, resource management, field operations, data and analytics, supply chain and GIS. In total, he has more than 24 years of diversified leadership, project management and technical expertise.

A steadfast believer in inclusive leadership focused on building collaborative high-performing teams, he champions the leadership style that emphasizes the importance of “how” results are achieved. Igwilo has led multiple enterprise-level transformative initiatives. These include successful implementation an enterprise asset management solution, an enterprise data and analytics platform, a framework for utilizing Artificial Intelligence for operations risk, advanced leak detection technology, and multiple other transformative initiatives.

Igwilo earned his Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from DeVry University and an executive MBA from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He also completed the McKinsey Black Executive Leadership Program.

Igwilo also serves as the Executive Sponsor for the enERGy ERG for both the Illinois and Virginia chapters, and is also the Executive Sponsor for the Nicor, Chicago United - Corporate Inclusion Institute. He is a graduate of Leadership Columbia County and on the board of the YMCA of Metro Chicago.

Igwilo lives with his wife and three children in Atlanta and Los Angeles.