



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **MDI hires Chief Information Officer, emphasizing commitment to innovative tech**

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.** – Dec. 18, 2024 – MDI, a Minneapolis-based plastic manufacturing company dedicated to creating job opportunities for individuals with disabilities, is pleased to announce the appointment of James Pierce as its first-ever Chief Information Officer (CIO). Pierce, a veteran in the IT field with over 30 years of experience, joins MDI’s leadership team to spearhead the company’s technological initiatives and support its mission of inclusive employment.

In his new role, Pierce will oversee all aspects of MDI’s IT operations, leading a team of professionals and collaborating with business leaders to implement cutting-edge technology solutions that advance the company’s goals. His hiring reflects MDI’s continued investment in tech to be more competitive and efficient for customers, and innovative with accommodations for employees.

Eric Black, president and CEO of MDI, expressed his enthusiasm about the new addition to the team: “James has a proven track record of strengthening organizational performance through digital transformation. His visionary, collaborative, results-driven approach will be a tremendous asset to MDI as we embrace innovation, digital evolution, and growth.”



*James Pierce*

Pierce brings a wealth of experience to MDI, having most recently served as the CIO at Salo – a professional staffing services firm based in Minneapolis, and agricultural conglomerate Cargill Inc., the country’s largest privately held company. He is inspired by Nelson Henderson’s quote, “The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” This quote aligns with Pierce’s passion for giving back to the community and leaving a positive impact for future generations. He is a city council member in Edina and serves on several nonprofit and for-profit boards across the state. A graduate of Tuskegee University with a degree in computer science, Pierce also holds an MBA from the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management.

“I’m very excited to join MDI and contribute to its mission of inclusive employment,” said Pierce. “Technology plays a crucial role in building secure and accessible workplaces. I look forward to using my experience to enhance MDI’s capabilities and support its commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities.”

**About MDI**

MDI is a trusted Minnesota manufacturer and nonprofit social enterprise with the mission to provide employment opportunities and services for people with disabilities. We create high-quality plastic containers to ship, pack and store products, and offer unparalleled product assembly and packaging services for organizations across the country, from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies. By offering an inclusive workplace that allows employees to build confidence, independence and purpose, MDI's work results in dedicated employees and satisfied customers. To learn more, visit [mdi.org](http://mdi.org).

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