

Robert H. Samson

In April 2017, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo appointed Robert H. Samson to the position of New York State Chief Information Officer at the New York State Office of Information Technology Services.

Mr. Samson had a rewarding 36-year career with IBM until August 2009 when he retired. While at IBM, he served in various leadership positions where he led teams focused on helping governments transform using innovative approaches and technologies. His most recent positions at IBM included serving as the Vice President of the Worldwide Systems and Technology Group, and the General Manager of IBM's Global Public Sector where he was responsible for IBM's business with governments, education, healthcare and life sciences industries.



Since 2011, Mr. Samson has served as a member of the Governor's Spending and Government Efficiency (SAGE) Commission. As a member of the Sage Commission, Bob along with his SAGE colleagues developed recommendations for modernizing and right-sizing New York State government to improve performance, increase accountability and save taxpayer money. As part of the Commission's final recommendations to the Governor, the Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) was created in 2012 to transform IT services, make state government work smarter for its citizens, and make the state more accessible for businesses through the use of technology.

Mr. Samson received a lifetime achievement award from Government VAR magazine in recognition of his contributions in working with governments around the world. He is passionate on the topic of leadership and mentoring and developing competent inspiring leaders. Mr. Samson delivered a keynote speech at the National Defense University "Challenges and Opportunities, the Power of Values that Change the World." The speech also appeared in Vital Speeches of the Day.

Recently, Mr. Samson was recognized by State Scoop as State Executive of the Year for leading state government into a new technology landscape with innovative ideas and by inspiring others to get on board.

Mr. Samson is a founding member of the New York State Mentoring Program and continues to serve on the Advisory Council with Founder and Chair Mrs. Matilda Raffa Cuomo. In addition, he serves as a member of the SUNY Center for Technology in Government Advisory Board. He is a graduate of SUNY Plattsburgh and completed the Program for Management Development at Harvard Business School.