Ohio Chief Information Officer Named State Up & Comer of the Year
National award recognizes state government technology leaders

COLUMBUS — Ervan D. Rodgers II, Ohio’s new chief information officer (CIO), was named a State Up & Comer of the Year by State News Group. The organization’s StateScoop Awards are presented each year to projects and leaders driving state government technology and cybersecurity.

“It’s great to see Ervan recognized nationally for what we already know here in Ohio,” said DAS Director Matt Damschroder. “He is an accomplished professional who is already taking steps to make government services more easily accessible for all Ohioans.” As State CIO, Rodgers oversees the DAS Office of Information Technology.

Award winners are chosen from among thousands of nominees throughout the nation. More than two million votes were cast to select the eventual winners. The announcement was made recently at the National Association of State Chief Information Officers’ (NASCIO) midyear conference in National Harbor, Maryland. NASCIO is a nonprofit association representing chief information officers and information technology executives and managers from the states, territories, and the District of Columbia.

Rodgers started as Ohio’s CIO in December. Prior to his appointment, Rodgers, who also serves as assistant director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS), served as CIO of the Ohio Attorney General’s Office from 2015 through 2018.

“I’m humbled and excited to receive this award,” Rodgers said. “It is a reflection of our commitment to leverage technology to better serve Ohioans and address issues impacting our state.”

Speaking at the NASCIO conference, Rodgers gave an overview of InnovateOhio, Gov. Mike DeWine’s initiative to modernize and digitally transform state services. Rodgers told the audience that DAS will implement the program, which is being overseen by Lt. Governor Jon Husted. InnovateOhio, he said, will simplify the customer experience by bringing multiple interactions with state government under one technological umbrella.

Originally from Lansing, Mich., Rodgers graduated from Spring Arbor University in Spring Arbor, Mich., where he earned a bachelor’s degree in organizational leadership. Rodgers is pursuing a master’s degree in computer science from Muskingum University and lives in Westerville, Ohio.