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IT Council talks digital transformation

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“People who are looking at IT as something that happens in a silo will be failing.”

Those were the words of OP Skaakrud, director of operations technology innovation for FedEx, at the Innovate IT conference presented by the Greater Memphis IT Council held Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the Halloran Centre.

The day-long “innovation through digital transformation” event included speakers from a variety of fields, including logistics, health care and financial services.

Skaakrud was one of the panelists on a logistics breakout session that also included Jorge Lopez, vice president and distinguished analyst at **Gartner** Inc.; Stephanie Ivey, associate dean of the Herff College of Engineering at the University of Memphis; and Brian Rogers, EPICenter Logistics Accelerator lead. The panel was moderated by Joel Tracy, chief information officer of **IMC** Companies.

The logistics panel, which was titled “Digital Transformation in Logistics & Transportation,” touched on a variety of topics from data security to blockchain, but the bulk of the conversation centered on one subject: workforce development.

“We are all recognizing that there is a need to really shift the way we are doing things in academia, in part because — in working closely with industry — we find that they are recognizing there is a shift in what they need,” Ivey said.

Innovate IT conference keynote speakers:

Jorge Lopez, vice president and distinguished analyst, **Gartner**

Jamie Smith, senior vice president and chief information officer, **ServiceMaster Global**



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Jorge Lopez of Gartner giving keynote address at Greater Memphis IT Council