



## **Brian Rieksts Receives 2023 Goodpaster Award for Excellence in Research**

**ALEXANDRIA, VA (April 2024)** – Brian Rieksts, Research Staff Member in the Cost Analysis and Research Division at IDA, received the 2023 Goodpaster Award for Excellence in Research.

The award is named for retired U.S. Army Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster, IDA’s President from 1983 to 1985. Each year, the award is presented in recognition of research excellence, exceptional analytical achievement and intellectual leadership.

“Brian has clearly exceeded this high threshold and is most deserving of this recognition,” said IDA President Norty Schwartz. “For nearly 20 years, he has been an outstanding analyst, influential project leader and wonderful colleague. Brian is multitalented and has demonstrated analytical excellence on a wide range of IDA projects. Perhaps most notably, he has been instrumental to the success of the series of high-profile, high-impact analyses for the Department of Veterans Affairs.”

Shortly after joining IDA, Brian became involved with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as the lead analyst of IDA’s impactful State Variance Study of VA Disability Compensation claims. On this project, Brian analyzed millions of records in an early application of big data analytics at IDA.

Most recently, Brian skillfully led a team that produced an influential and comprehensive life-cycle cost estimate for the VA’s Electronic Health Record Modernization program. He personally briefed the IDA findings to the VA deputy secretary and was called to testify in person at a congressional hearing. Initially projected to be a \$16.1 billion program, IDA’s more comprehensive, independent life-cycle estimate showed the true life-cycle cost was expected to be about \$50 billion. Brian’s work had an immediate impact and completely changed the narrative on the expected cost of this high-profile program.

“It is a tremendous honor to be part of the team that did the work to achieve this award for an organization with such a rich history of research,” said Brian.

Brian earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Kutztown University in 1999. He earned a doctorate in industrial engineering and operations research from Pennsylvania State University in 2004.

IDA is a nonprofit corporation that operates three federally funded research and development centers in the public interest. IDA answers the most challenging U.S. security and science policy questions with objective analysis leveraging extraordinary scientific, technical and analytic expertise.

