

Criss was born in Chicago, Illinois where he attended both elementary and middle school. During high school he moved to Seattle to live with his father, who introduced him to computer programming. Criss traveled the country as a young man before choosing to attend the University of Montana in Missoula. He earned his bachelor degree with honors in the subject Biology from U of M. Criss did scientific field work across the west before being recruited to southern Oregon in 1995 for a position conducting surveys for the Bureau of Land Management. His immediate connection with the natural beauty and rural communities drew him to stay in the area, moving permanently to the area in 1996 with his soon to be wife Cheryl.

Although his training was in Biology, Criss soon found the technical skills he had learned maintaining the survey databases were in high demand in the region. He quickly became part of the Ashland technology community where he did advanced programming and architecture work for Plexis, Project A and Harry & David before starting a technology company with partners (now Vortex, Inc.) currently providing \$10M technology services to local businesses annually.

Looking to create a better balance between work and driven by a desire to give back to his community Criss divested from his company in 2004, maintaining an advisory position on the Board. He took a position with the City of Ashland that allowed him to balance his time between technical innovation and meaningful volunteer pursuits. On the volunteer side his work focused on helping returning veterans & disadvantaged children reach their full potential, his commitment to these issues ultimately put him in the position of leading the Ashland Elks into a period of unprecedented membership growth and financial security even as other regional clubs were declining. At the City he led major initiatives to integrate and streamline emergency, billing and financial systems that contributed \$1.3M in net new annual cash flows to the City.

Criss joined Asante as a Senior Applications Analyst in early 2012 where his first task was to create a single longitudinal record to reduce medical waste and coordinate care in the southern Oregon region. He technically led the creation of the second community based Health Information Exchange in the US, the first and now largest in Oregon. Criss transitioned into the ITS project management group in 2015 where he successfully led major technical initiatives around Asante's electronic healthcare record.

Criss returned to school in while working full time to earn his Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Oregon. He still works at Asante, now as the Program Manager of Population Health, a position that embodies his commitment to solving the tough economic and health problems of his community through business leadership. He lives in Jacksonville with his metal artist wife Cheryl who is the creator of the giant poppies outside of town. He is in his sixth year as a Jacksonville City Councilor, serves as liaison to the Parks Committee, enjoys wine tasting and long distance running with his labradoodle in whatever spare time he can find.