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Professional Background:
I am currently the Director of Technology and Innovation at King School and oversee both the Education Technology (ET) and Information Technology (IT) teams. In this role, I actively support teaching and learning by ensuring the needs of the classroom are at the forefront of all decisions. I have been developing and managing technology systems for over 20 years for the financial industry, public schools (19 years), and municipalities. I have a master’s degree in computer science as well as doctorates in computer science and education administration. For over 10 years I have taught information technology as an adjunct professor at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

What are the two most important priorities for CoSN to focus on in the next three years?
CoSN already provides many valuable programs and information to the school districts throughout the country. I would suggest continuing to expand on initiatives around student data privacy and technology equity. Student data privacy is a large undertaking that school districts are only now beginning to understand and deal with. Expanding the availability of the Trusted Learning Environment program—potentially through partnerships with the State chapters to provide specific programming—is needed at all levels and school districts. Technology equity remains an unspoken struggle throughout the United States. Districts currently experience only what is directly around them. A continued focus in this area to support those districts in need of technology advancements, as well as bring understanding to the districts that are already flush with technology that there are additional struggles occurring throughout the country, is important. This can come from not only continued support of advocacy initiatives but also through developing new programs or partnerships. For example, partnering with the Foundation Center to help districts find additional support for technology initiatives.

Describe your relevant experience in providing leadership to nonprofit organizations (e.g. service on boards, events, fundraising), with particular emphasis on any experience working with state or national education and/or ed tech associations
I am the Executive Director (Co-chairman) and one of the founding members of the Connecticut Education Technology Leaders (CTETL) Association. Through this organization, I lead a team of education technology professionals in the development of programs to support other technology professionals with the goal of ensuring that classroom technology integration is successful throughout the State (additional details on this role are included in another question below). In addition to this role, I am also a current member of the Connecticut Education Network governance committee for Engagement & Development. The goal of this council is to provide leadership and insight into the development and delivery of technical, professional, and leadership training. Beyond the world of education technology, I am also using my knowledge as a volunteer and advisor to an adaptive ski school in Vermont.
CoSN has identified diversity as a priority for both the CTO profession and the CoSN organization. As a CoSN Board nominee, how would you help to broaden diversity and/or what experience have you had in evaluating or managing organizational diversity?

Diversity is commonly placed in three buckets: 1) demographic diversity (gender, race, sexual orientation), 2) experiential diversity (abilities), and 3) cognitive diversity (points of view). I have always considered myself blind to these types of traits. I began my education technology career in a school district that was 98% Hispanic and 86% of the residents were on the free and reduced lunch programs. This experience helped to enhance my views of equality in both my management style as well as my hiring practices. I also feel that experiential and cognitive diversity in an organization is essential and part of adapting hiring practices. To be a true leader and champion education technology requires the leader to be surrounded by people who bring various backgrounds and points of view to any conversation. I have always looked to offer positions in that fashion in my current and past positions. Additionally, as a professor at a two-year college that supported low-income and first-generation college students, it afforded me an opportunity to work with a diverse population of students. I believe that moving our profession forward requires the development of diverse education technology leaders that represent the various points of view. One way of doing that is to increase the training and experiences around diversity as part of the CETL program. For example, supporting acceptance and respect of different ethnic and cultural differences, understanding of gender equality and generation gaps, as well as an understanding of physical and mental disabilities to ensure employment for all.

Describe your past involvement in CoSN and/or our state chapters

As Executive Director over the past 4 years, I have spearheaded a team of education technology professionals developing programs to support other technology professionals to ensure classroom technology integration is successful throughout the State. In the State of Connecticut, we have facilitated 2 cohorts of education technology leaders pursuing the Certified Education Technology Leader program are currently working with a cohort of districts pursuing the Trusted Learning Environment in addition to a yearly conference and other themed events. Connecticut is a small state with more independent schools than we have public school districts. Having identified this the CTETL board recently voted to amend our by-laws to include a board position to represent the independent schools. We are hoping that this will encourage and improve the engagement of these schools in our events and membership in the organization. Over the past 4 years, we have made various changes and adjustments to how we do business to ensure that CTETL is able to support all school districts. For example, one of our board members is the Executive Director for the Commission on Education Technology. This ensures that we have a solid voice in our State government. We also look to seek sponsors exclusively from Connecticut to directly support the Connecticut Governors' goal of supporting technology business in Connecticut. Additionally, we have partnered with the Connecticut Association of School Superintendent to align with the member needs especially in developing our mentoring program.