Professional Background:
I have had the privilege to serve in K12 education technology for over 25 years serving in four different LEAs. I often share that my first school district, after serving in the Air Force, was like basic military training all over again. Meaning, it provided me all the essential knowledge and tools that continues to serve me well today. It was the perfect introduction; the school district had a student population of approximately 2,000 students and had seven schools. It was in this role I was afforded the opportunity to not only lead the district’s technology department, I was also provided the opportunity to actively contribute to all areas that are essential for K12 organizations. This experience provided me a firm foundational understanding of the instructional and operational functions of a LEA while simultaneously shaping my vision for educational technology. It was in this role that I came to understand how vital technology is to the success of our students. Since my first LEA, I have served in three urban school districts. It has been a great journey and I would truly welcome the opportunity to serve on the COSN board to contribute to the success of students and teachers at the national level.

What are the two most important priorities for CoSN to focus on in the next three years?
It has been documented there are certain needs that must be met prior to our students actively engaging in their learning experiences. Examples of those needs are food, rest and safety. However, I would suggest that before our students can reach their full potential there are two additional areas that should be consider and are golden opportunities for CoSN to focus on:

• Equality
• Biases

Diligent efforts have been made across the nation to address equality; however, the definition varies. One key example would be 1-to-1 and Bring BYOD initiatives that many have made a priority. However, equity does not necessarily equate to equality for our students. The mere fact that every student have access to a device does not automatically place all students on the same instructional playing field.

Secondly, bringing awareness to the many biases (implicit and explicit) that ultimately find their way into our classrooms would be extremely beneficial. It would be a powerful to bring awareness on a national level that gender, race, ethnicity or zip codes does not pre-determine the capabilities of our students.

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

Over the years, I have had the honor of serving numerous nonprofit organizations. My roles have varied on each of them and the positions have ranged from chair, president, presenter, member and at times in an advisory capacity.

Regardless as the role or organization, I have found that in any organization that the benefits were mutual. Collaborating with colleagues, learning from others, and having the ability to have true dialogues with others with similar visions have truly served me well. It is because of these opportunities
that I have been extremely fortunate to be able to utilize to build technology organizations that have received state, local and national recognition for their efforts. As recently as 2019, my SAISD Team was recognized by the Texas CTO Council as ‘Team-of-the-Year.’

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?

The leadership of the organization is reflective of the organization itself; it is the mirror in which it sees itself (as well as others). A diversified staff brings inherent energy to the organization that fuels the team to support and promotes collaboration; which in-turn fuels teamwork; that ultimately allows the organization to successfully achieve its mission. It is the responsibility of the organization to make a difference in their space; plus ... it is the right thing to do. With that being said, I would like to response to this question with a personal experience of making a difference and bringing awareness where you are. A very good friend of mine and I were attending a reception which was sponsored as a component of a national training event. After an hour or so on the night of this event I posed a question to my colleague and it was an extremely simple question. I asked him ... Look around and tell me what you see? Immediately based on his background and his experiences he immediately stated ... a bunch of professionals that are having a good time. I smiled and responded to with another question ... How many people do you see in this room of over 200 individuals that look like me? I immediately added “... I am the only one. Do you think it is strange that we are attending a national event representing students of all backgrounds and yet 99.9% percent of the room represents only one group of such a vast population of students?” My colleague’s response had nothing to do with who he was as a person; but it was simply based on his past experiences. This was simply an awareness opportunity; you have to start by bringing awareness from where you are.

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

Over the years, I have been an active participant in both the state and national chapters of CoSN. I have had the pleasure of being an attendee and contributor at CoSN events. The collaboration, content and professional sessions has been extremely valuable in my efforts of identifying and implementing the necessary tools for our student population. CoSN has also proven to be a valuable component in my professional development portfolio which has allowed me to collaborate and access resources from colleagues across the nation. Understanding the value that CoSN has provided to me professionally, I make the annual attendance of the conferences a part of my team’s professional development and growth plan. Over the years, the relationships, information and collateral that I gained from my involvement has provided the tools necessary to support and expedite a number of key strategic initiatives and has proven to be extremely valuable. It is my intention to continually share the value and knowledge gained from CoSN with colleagues across the nation.