Chad Stevens, PhD Chief Strategy Officer Parentsquare

#### **Professional Background:**

I am currently the Chief Strategy Officer at ParentSquare. Prior to ParentSquare, I led K-12 Education at Amazon Web Services building their initial K-12 business and was Chief Education Strategist for CDW-G leading a team of former educators focused on maximizing customer "return on education." At AWS, our team architected the program to reach more Educational Service Agencies and launched the global data egress waiver for K-12. In 2019 I led the relationship for AWS with Code.org and the Hour of Code. In my role at CDW-G, I helped launch Collaboration Nation, an awards program that recognized the nation's finest examples of collaboration in K-12 educational technology, and the K-12 Connected Heat Map, which showed the current classroom connectivity state by state. I also co-founded #ConnectIT, a thought leadership blog on education technology. Before joining CDW-G, I worked at Dell as a senior consultant focused on IT transformation and strategy for K-20 institutions across North America. Much of my public sector career was spent with the Clear Creek Independent School District (Texas). CCISD serves about 40,000 students in suburban Houston and encompasses the Johnson Space Center. I am a former teacher of the year at Ed White Elementary in Seabrook, Texas, and had a 14-year career as a Classroom Teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Director of Instructional Technology and Chief Technology Officer. My work was featured in The Principal's Guide to Curriculum Leadership, and I regularly speak at educational technology conferences. I maintain Superintendent Certification in Texas.

### What are the two most important priorities for CoSN to focus on in the next three years?

I was part of the team that developed the current strategic plan for CoSN. While I think all three drivers are critical, I would focus on driving innovation and fostering equity, diversity, and inclusion. Developing the next generation of school technology leaders and growing our current leaders is paramount to not only the success of CoSN but to the success of our nation's schools. The current focus on learning outcomes for educational technology, bolstered by the need for remote learning, will lead to the need for even more complex solutions. Helping schools be up on the latest innovations and being leaders in that area will mean better student outcomes. Schools as a collective community have had more investment than ever in school technology and CoSN's role in the effective use of those dollars is critical. At the same time, it is important that access to this technology is equitable. CoSN must continue to play a role in ensuring equitable access to technology, while at the same time promoting diversity in the field to best represent the audiences whom education technology serves. I dive deeper into diversity in the more detailed question below.

# 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'm currently the Chairman of the Board of the Indian Prairie Educational Foundation. In addition to my role as director, I have served on the Executive Committee and past chair of the Governance Committee. IPEF has focused philanthropic initiatives related to STEM, Teacher Innovation Grants, At-Risk and Fine Arts. During my time on the board, we have raised \$2.6 million for local schools. Last year I served on the Washington State Remote Learning Taskforce with the Technology Alliance. They are active in driving private/public projects to support K-12 education. The taskforce was charged with exploring the problems arising in public K-12 education from the current COVID-19 pandemic and envisioning a

system that is better prepared for the next major disruption, whether in the next year or the next decade. In 2013 and 2014 I volunteered in the Dell Social Innovation Challenge where we identified and supported promising young social innovators who dedicated themselves to solving the world's most pressing problems with their transformative ideas. In the past I led the Tech Leader Strand at all Future Ready Schools State Institutes nationwide. In terms of other state and national organizations, in the past decade I have participated in 100's of education and technology events on multiple levels. This includes targeted events like Chicago Public Schools GooglePalooza, Privacy and Security panels at Great City Schools and roundtables at SETDA's Emerging Technology Forum on cloud technologies. In addition, In the past I served on the SETDA Private Sector Advisory Board.

## 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?

First, I would point to the work that has been done during my current tenure as a starting point on diversity, equity, and inclusion. During my time on the board, we have made substantial effort in updating our statement on DEI in April of 2021. This included book studies that I actively participated in and even field trips to try and immerse ourselves as a board in different cultures. The strategic plan that began in my first year has three key directions: Personalize Member Learning, Drive Innovation and Fostering Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. We have made a targeted effort to become an organization that encourages actionable change. My work on the next gen leaders committee will be grounded in building a diverse and inclusive group of future leaders for CoSN. As a board member for the Indian Prairie Educational Foundation diversity has been a focus as our school's demographics have changed. Using data, we have moved into programs that serve more at-risk underserved populations. In addition, my work at AWS in collaboration with code.org was instrumental in bringing computer science to underserved populations. As a board member I think you must look at the baseline data and set goals to be more inclusive. In addition, being open to new ideas is critical. While I think at CoSN we have built a firm foundation we need to build on what we have accomplished.

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

I am currently a member of the CoSN Board of Directors. I am also serving on the board's executive committee in addition to the awards and next generation task force committee. I have been involved in the Driving K-12 Innovation Global Advisory Board since 2018. This board of K-12 leaders, practitioners, and change makers engaged in discourse about the major themes driving, hindering, and enabling teaching and learning innovation at schools. In the past I have been a part of the SEND and SEND: Cloud Advisory groups, the nominating and by-laws committee and the cybersecurity advisory team. Dating back to 2007, when I became a CTO, I was active in CoSN and the Texas CTO Council. The Texas CTO Council was the first CoSN chapter and it is gratifying to look back on the foundation that was built during that time. In 2009, I began volunteering on the CoSN Green Computing Initiative. This led to my participation in my first National CoSN Conference in 2009 as a presenter. In April 2015, I began volunteering on the Emerging Technologies Committee as a Corporate Member Liaison. In addition to these volunteer activities, I have participated in a number of state CoSN events.