Louis McDonald, CETL
Director of Technology
Fauquier County Public Schools (VA)

**Professional Background:**
I have been the Director of Technology at Fauquier County Public Schools (Virginia) for the past 10 years. During that time my team has been able expand our wireless infrastructure, expand our broadband capacity, implement a 1:1 Chromebook for 5-12, introduce and manage the Google Workspace and Microsoft 365 ecosystems, and worked with our partners in Instruction and Student Services supporting their edtech requirements.

Prior to taking on this position, I was the CIO for Virginia's Center for Innovated Technology creating technology-based economic development strategies to accelerate innovation, imagination and the next generation of technology and technology companies. During that tenure, I was part of a team working with the Virginia DOE to design and develop the Virginia Longitudinal Data System in support of K12, higher ed, and workforce. As part of this effort, we assisted in the development of a data governance model supporting the LDS.

It was during this effort that exposed to the amount of data provided by education in support of state and federal initiatives. It was also clear that the various SIS products used by Virginia K12, and the demands of reporting were problematic with deliver and consumption of information by VDOE. The use of data standardization across edtech products would facilitate efficiencies in collection and reporting.

**What are the two most important priorities for CoSN to focus on in the next three years?**
During my time being a member of CoSN, I have had the privilege to work with a number of K12 technology leaders. These relationships have helped me understand the different technology verticals, and their importance to K12 leaders. Over the course of my tenure, I have landed on different areas of importance, and the last 18-20 months has created the need for adjustments.

For my school division, the need for reliable, affordable, and ubiquitous internet access outside the school walls is critical. We struggled, like many divisions, to support our virtual learners. Even though we are back in person, we still have a requirement to support virtual students. We also have seen an increase by students to go home and want to continue their learning now that they have a device. The struggle for many of our students is access to the internet.

Data standardization is the other priority. The plethora of tools has shown the necessity to provide cleaner integrations across disparate products. Divisions struggle with going with one vendor for core services versus best of breed. Both options have value, but best of breed does require a common nomenclature to provide an easy path between products for data consistency. Even with one vendor for core services (e.g. LMS, SIS, Assessments), digital resources that augment learning will want/need to exchange data.

**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**

During my time with the Center for Innovative Technology, I was project leader for the Commonwealth of Virginia's Information Technology Symposium (COVITS) that was organized by the Secretary of

Technology. In my capacity, I worked with the event coordinator to solicit sponsors, and work our arrangements for speakers, and in the case of sponsors, organize their speaking arrangements. I have also been involved with committees supporting the Virginia ISTE chapter (VSTE)

**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?**
In our school division we continue to review our how instructional staff diversity mirrors our student population diversity. We continue to evolve our strategy to work with the school leadership to encourage and work towards an instructional population that reflects our student population. Our goal is to provide a mentoring environment for students that aligns with our diversity needs.

I would hope CoSN would continue to look towards develop a diversity best practices that have been used by organizations to address the shortages in key areas. The CTO/CIO is a profession that has, in my opinion, seen a wide breadth of diversity in gender and race. The key is how to engage that diversity into an implementation strategy for K12 organizations.

**Describe your past involvement in CoSN and/or our state chapters**
I have been a board member of the Virginia CoSN chapter since its inception. I have also participated in the CoSN workgroups; Emerging Technologies, Privacy, and Digital Equity. I have found the  camaraderie with my peers in these workgroups valuable.