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Professional Background:

Over four decades in public education, I have had the honor of serving as a Chief Transformation and Technology Officer, Superintendent, Associate Superintendent, Principal and, most importantly, Teacher. My current role is serving as Assistant Executive Director for AASA, the Superintendents Association. I have been a fierce champion of extending learning beyond the school day and increasing engagement during the school day, by providing youth with technology-enabled learning. Through technology, scholars can be curious anytime they want, building opportunities beyond schoolhouse walls. I have served in leadership roles in urban, suburban, and rural school systems as well as at the state level in the Carolinas and know that educational technology can be a force multiplier when coupled with strong teaching.

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

a) Building Understanding: CoSN needs to continue to be the national voice advocating for technology enabled learning. Soon, questions will naturally be posed about how school districts chose to spend their federal funds and a need to understand impact of the influx of resources. CoSN is a powerful voice in growing understanding of the difference strategic investments can make when appropriately used to extend student learning.

b) Professional Learning: CoSN is a valuable resource for technology leaders in growing their knowledge, skills, and dispositions in service of school systems and children. As well, CoSN serves to translate the complex world of educational technology for school system leaders. School system leaders cannot know all the nuances and implications of employing technology at scale; providing tech leaders with the tools to explain and grow understanding is an essential service. Continuing to grow CETL certification is important and so is supporting technology leaders as they learn and grow with professional learning opportunities.

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

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to serve on numerous boards and commissions. As a current CoSN board member who hopes to continue to serve CoSN, I have also served for many years on the National Dropout Prevention Center Board, have chaired my state chapter of ASCD, served on national ASCD board in many roles, including President. I co-founded North Carolina CoSN. I served as our district's liaison to Digital Promise as a League of Innovative Schools district. I co-founded and chaired Leadership Oconee County, served as an officer in Leadership Columbia. I co-founded and chaired SC- AASA's Instructional Leaders Roundtable. I currently interface with state education directors in my role as Assistant Executive Director of AASA, the Superintendents Association. In my current role, I initiated a reciprocal partnership between CoSN and AASA and between ISTE and AASA. I serve on CoSN's Driving K-12 Innovation committee.

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?

My career as a public school educator has been in service of children, in particular children of color and low income youth. We know that if any children are marginalized, opportunity gaps will persist and widen. I am a graduate of the Richard Riley Institute for Diversity at Furman University and have championed a diversity, equity, and inclusion agenda in every leadership role I have had. In 2020, I launched an AASA weekly webinar series entitled, Leading for Equity, which highlighted Superintendents and their teams who are addressing policies, practices and protocols that limit access for children of color and low income youth. The weekly series, provided for 13 months, drew thousands of educators who wanted to learn from district leaders who are championing learning for ALL children. I am deeply committed to building a diverse leadership pipeline for school systems. In my current role at AASA, I support Aspiring Superintendent Academy programs and Women's Leadership programs in particular. In 2019, we designed and launched an Aspiring Superintendent Academy- for Female Leaders and in 2020, launched an Aspiring Superintendent Academy-for Latina/o Leaders.

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

When I served as a senior assistant for our state department of education, one of my areas of responsibility was technology services for all the school districts so I knew how to lead educational technology teams. When I was named Chief Transformation and Technology Officer for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, after retiring as a Superintendent, I sought CoSN out to deepen my knowledge of leading technical teams. I found CoSN's professional learning programs very helpful, and completed my CETL certification. I co-founded a state chapter of CoSN in North Carolina and still serve on its board. With knowledge honed from CoSN, I was able to forge an ambitious 1:1 program for our school district's 150,000 learners and staff. It was a joy to be named Charlotte's CTO of the Year a few years ago. In my current role, I forge collaborations with Superintendents and their teams so that CoSN leaders can present information and grow understanding. This year, I am completing my first term on CoSN's board of directors and would be honored to continue supporting the growth and outreach of the Consortium for School Networking.