

**Name:** Diana Hawari  
**Organization:** Dysart Unified School District  
**Title:** Chief Information Officer

**Briefly describe your professional background and experience in education technology**

I have been in the IT Department of a public school district for almost 24 years. I have a Bachelors degree in Computer Information Systems. In my early years, I have worked at every position in the IT department from campus tech to network administrator. I quickly moved into IT Leadership and have been happily here for 20 years. I have also been a Governing Board member, a parent and a community member. I am an advocate for public schools and proud of what Dysart has accomplished.

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

Of course, Cybersecurity is critical. There are so many aspects to Cybersecurity but the key is awareness and training. You can have the best firewall and end-point protection but if one employee 'unlocks that door' ...I hate to even think of it. Another area to focus is mitigation...once you do have an incident...how do you remedy the problem and get your district back up and running quickly. All of this is training and awareness. Along the lines of Cybersecurity,...it is costly. I would like to see CoSN work with the FCC to add funding for Cybersecurity support via the ERate program. This would enable many school districts to acquire these expensive, annually invoiced licenses needed to keep networks and data secure. Firewalls are already ERate-able, why not Phishing campaign software and Vulnerability scanning services, etc.?

**Please explain how your diverse background, personal and professional, will help impact the CoSN Board.**

I am a Hispanic woman that started in the IT Industry, in Arizona, in the 90s. I have seen many changes in the Industry...many positive changes. My experiences today are more positive than they were back then. I have worked in very diverse school districts...diverse in student population as well as staff. Dysart has areas of affluence as well as areas where free and reduced percentages are 100%. I live and breathe equity. It is all about equity. I know that diversity is important to CoSN and I bring my experiences both negative and positive to this discussion.

**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 worked in the IT Department at Dysart while I was in college. I think I was making \$8/hr back then (the 90s). I received my BS degree and was told that I would get a raise. I was offered \$11 /hr and was very unhappy. My supervisor at the time told me that if I was unhappy, I should do something about it. He told me there was an open seat on the Governing Board and if I was serious about wanting to see change, I should run. Well I did! I campaigned and was elected in 2000. Of course, this meant quitting my job but it was worth it. I was on the Dysart Governing Board for 6 years (while working at a neighboring school district). During my tenure on the board (2001-2006) we made many changes. Dysart grew from 1 elem, 1 middle and 1 HS to 20 elementary and 4 HS. Network Infrastructure was implemented and salaries were increased. We also establish Board Governance with the help of ASBA. As a board, we worked very closely with ASBA to establish norms and approve policy that assisted in bringing Dysart out of the dark ages.

**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?**

I am an advocate for CoSN in the West. I talk about CoSN at every opportunity and am currently working with AzTEA (AZ affiliate of ISTE), as a board member, to create a Chapter in Arizona. I am one of the only two CETLs in AZ and encourage, at every opportunity, other districts to jump on board. Again as a Hispanic women in the industry, if feel I give other minority groups confidence and feelings of perseverance to keep growing. I am known as a leader in student data privacy and asked to present at local conferences constantly. I also get "you are the CoSN lady" as I am constantly encouraging other districts to join and take advantage of all the CoSN resources available. I am recognized at many local events by others that have seen me speak and contact me for assistance.

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

I have been a member of CoSN for many years. I attend every annual CoSN Conference (I have presented at a few as well). I have hosted a CoSN Cybersecurity conference at Dysart. I am one of two CETLs in Arizona. I currently sit on the AzTEA Board and am working with the AzTEA chapter to incorporate a CoSN state chapter for Arizona. I try to never miss a workshop held by Melissa Tebbenkamp on Data Privacy.