

Name: Sarah Radcliffe
Organization: School District of Altoon
Title: Director of Future Ready Learning

Briefly describe your professional background and experience in education technology

I have been the Chief Technology Officer for 6 years in 2 different districts in Wisconsin. I have led our Wisconsin CoSN chapter previously in the role of Chair and will hold that position again in 23/24.

Prior to becoming a CTO, I was a Technology Coordinator, working in the classroom with teachers to support implementing technology skills along with high quality instruction to bring our classrooms in line with the needs of the 21st century workforce.

My roles as CTO have also required me to oversee College and Career Readiness, which is an excellent pairing to IT leadership.

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

While there is still continued work to do in cybersecurity, WI has momentum in this area by creating a Critical Incident Response Team for cyber incidents in schools which give our schools access to experts in the field to come alongside school technology leaders for support in a critical incident. This is a model that would benefit the whole country.

Another priority for CoSN remains in digital equity. Equity involves more than access to devices. This is almost a given at this point. But, teaching computer science skills to students is critically important for future success as all careers require some technological knowledge for success. This is also critical to continue to grow successful computer scientists for careers in IT.

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

My strength is in strategic planning and vision. I can look at a problem from multiple angles and develop diverse potential solutions that can be scaled up or down to support a variety of organizations. This comes from leadership of a variety of groups and organizations in my years of experience. I have served in a variety of educational leadership roles which have included leading technology work, special education work, curriculum and instruction development, professional development programming

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 have served on a variety of organizations in my years, but most notably is our Wisconsin State Chapter of CoSN - WI Educational Technology Leaders (WETL) from 2018 to 2021 and again starting in 2022. I helped make progress in getting WETL to be known as the state-recognized organization for Technology Leaders, akin to state Superintendent and Business Officials organizations.

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 have a passion for supporting college and career readiness for students in my district and my region. This includes providing options, opportunities and exploration for a student to discover and understand how his or her passions and skills relate to a career. I have done this by ensuring that these opportunities are built in for students. We work to specifically engage underrepresented student populations to ensure that exploration of passions, opportunities and careers are evident to all students.

This idea can be applied to organizational diversity as well. In the meantime, in our region, I am supporting new technology leaders to imagine themselves in technology careers, which have traditionally been filled by white males.

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

In my years serving as the Chair of our state chapter, I brought a level of organization to the WETL board and its functions as well as increasing participation in the CTO Clinic and advocacy events and have begun collaborating with other state organizations in advocacy with local, state and federal governments to further educational technology issues.

I strengthened our strategic planning process and brought a level of accountability to the committees serving WETL by revamping the structure of our monthly meetings to allow committee work time and used a stoplighting technique to measure continued progress on goals and strategic action steps.

WETL lives only to serve the Tech Leaders of our fantastic state. Organization of these tactics to support emerging and new Tech Leaders is essential to building the strength of our team. I have 9 years of experience in organizing support and

professional development for district staff members that I have put to use in continuing the work of supporting new and emerging Technology leaders in WI.

I also implemented a monthly newsletter for our members with important information from CoSN and the state, support for technology leaders in districts, and information for development in key areas like cybersecurity, student data privacy, digital equity and interoperability.

I have a desire to improve access and equity in our state and in our country. As a CoSN Board of Directors member, I can bring the same skills to support accountability to the organization through strategic checkpoints and supports to ensure that we continue to make progress in our work for the responsibilities and committees I serve on.